

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 17 No. 36

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, September 16, 2021

Art comes alive this weekend • The politics of youth • The Fantasy returns



LEFT OR RIGHT - Or somewhere in between? The four candidates representing Pickering-Uxbridge are eager to become the riding's next Member of Parliament. Canada's 44th federal election will happen Monday, Sept. 20. Residents are encouraged to check their voter card to discover where their polling station is. To learn more about the candidates who are running, watch the full All Candidates Forum, which was held last week, on YouTube at 'Cosmos Uxbridge'.

Photo by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Candidates face one another down during forum

by Roger Varley

With only a handful of people in attendance at the arena, the four candidates standing for election in Pickering-Uxbridge riding made their pitches to a viewing audience last Wednesday at an all candidates forum, coordinated and presented by the *Uxbridge Cosmos*.

The meeting was live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook and over 130 people tuned in at some point during the two-hour event. Several hundred more have watched the recording since.

During the candidates' opening statements, PPC candidate Corneliu Chisu said the he feels the most important issue is freedom of the individual, which he claimed is "under siege" by other parties who want to force Canadians to have COVID-19 vaccinations. Eileen Higdon of the NDP said immediate action is needed on climate change, noting the previous night's

heavy rainstorm was part of a new normal. Liberal Jennifer O'Connell said there are lots of issues to deal with "but we have to get through the pandemic first," and Conservative Jacob Mantle pointed to the "big and small things" he had accomplished as a member of Uxbridge council.

The major issue that dominated the evening was the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccinations. After moderator Ted Barris asked candidates whether they thought everybody should have to be vaccinated, Higdon noted that it had been difficult to bring in No Smoking legislation, but it finally came about, despite objections from many. Mantle said he didn't believe vaccinations should be mandatory but there should be a program to educate people about the benefits of vaccination. O'Connell, while eschewing forced vaccinations, said no-one has the right to infect others. She defended the Liberal government's mandate that all fed-

erally regulated employees must be vaccinated and claimed Conservatives are pandering to conspiracy theorists. Chisu said vaccination passports infringe on the rights of people who choose not to be vaccinated.

"You're creating a two-tier citizenry," he said. "Vaccination passports don't stop you getting the virus."

With three of the candidates having municipal council experience, a question was posed about how the federal government could help first-time buyers and low-income people obtain affordable housing, while making it profitable for developers to build higher-density and smaller homes. Higdon said the NDP would work with various partners to have more subsidized and low-rent housing built. Mantle said he and his friends can't afford to buy a house "and that dream is getting pushed further and further out of reach." He said the Conservative party has

...continued on page 6

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for September, 2021

Monday, September 20
COMMITTEE MEETING, 10:00 a.m.
PUBLIC MEETING – ZBA 2021-08
OLAND, 7:00 p.m.
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 21
BIA BOARD, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, September 27
COUNCIL MEETING, 10:00 a.m.
CLIMATE ADAPTATION &
TRANSITION COMMITTEE, 6:00 p.m.

Proclamations for the Month

National Hunger Action Month
Big Brothers Big Sisters Month
Big Brothers Big Sisters Day – September 18
Franco-Ontarian Day - September 25
National Truth and Reconciliation Day –
September 30

Closures

- The trails near the pond on the West side of the Countryside Preserve will be temporarily closed to allow maintenance work on the dam to the end of September. All other trails remain open.
- Closure of the Toronto Street sidewalk adjacent to the Uxbridge Public Library will be in effect from August 23 through to mid-October for clock tower restoration work.
- Victoria Street will be closed each Sunday (7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) from Brock St. W. to King St. W., from May to October due to the Farmer's Market.



Uxbridge at a Glance

The Corporation of The Township of Uxbridge
51 Toronto Street South, P.O. Box 190
Uxbridge L9P 1T1
905-852-9181 info@uxbridge.ca

TIME TO ENROLL IN THE 2022 PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT (PAP) MONTHLY TAX PLAN

Now is the time to enroll in our Monthly or Installment Pre-Authorized Payment Plan for the 2022 taxation year.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible, your property must be fully assessed, and your tax account must be up to date (no arrears).

How to apply

Pre-Authorized Payment Forms (pdf) are available on the Township website at www.uxbridge.ca/taxes or at the Tax counter of the Municipal Office (51 Toronto St. S), Uxbridge L9P 1T1

Return the completed PAP Form and Void Cheque or Bank form to the Township of Uxbridge Tax Department in person, via the drop-box in the front parking lot, by mail or via email to tax@uxbridge.ca.

The deadline to submit your Application is NOVEMBER 30, 2021.

Please direct phone inquiries to the Tax Department at 905-852-9181 Ext. 211 or 216.

Employment Opportunities

Details of all current positions are available at www.uxbridge.ca/careers

Development Services – Director
Closes September 20, 2021

Fire Department - Assistant Fire Chief,
1-year Contract
Closes September 23, 2021

Public Works Department – Winter
Maintenance, Contract
Closes October 8, 2021

We are an equal opportunity employer in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC). The Township of Uxbridge will provide accommodations throughout the recruitment and selection and/or assessment process to applicants with disabilities and/or needs related to the OHRC. Personal information provided is collected under the authority of The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to www.uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders

U21-29 Tree Removal
Closes September 28 at 2:00 p.m.

All bids must be received by the Township by the deadline stated, either electronically via the Township's website or in-person (by appointment only) at the Township Office located at 51 Toronto St. South. Public tender openings are not happening currently however bid results will be posted at uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders in a timely manner.



FROM THE TAX OFFICE Property Tax due date is September 28, 2021

Tax Payments Options:

- At Township Municipal Office with cash, cheque or debit. Credit cards and e-transfers are not accepted for tax payments.
- In an after-hours Drop Box located in the Municipal Office front parking lot. – DO NOT DEPOSIT CASH Post-dated cheques are accepted.
- By Mail - Payments must reach the Municipal Office by the due date.
- Through Internet or Telephone Banking.
- At most Financial Institutions.

Penalty/Interest Charges:

For non-payment of a tax levy on or before the respective due dates of each installment, a penalty of 1.25% shall be imposed on the first day of each calendar month and thereafter in which the default continues. Failure to receive a Tax Bill does not excuse the taxpayer from responsibility for payment of taxes nor liability of any penalty or interest due to late payments.

The penalty/interest charges cannot be waived or reduced by the Tax Department or Council for any reason.

PLEASE RETAIN YOUR 2021 FINAL TAX BILL FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES.

If a reprinted tax bill, receipt or Statement of Account is required for any year's taxes, a fee of \$15.00 will apply.

If you did not receive your 2021 Final Tax Bill, please contact the Tax Department at 905-852-9181 or tax@uxbridge.ca

NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR A ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

This Notice is to inform you that the Township of Uxbridge has received a Zoning By-Law Amendment application which has been deemed complete in accordance with the requirements of Sections 34 of the Planning Act. The Planning Committee of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge will hold a statutory public meeting to make available adequate information to the public regarding, and to consider, a proposed Township Zoning By-Law Amendment pursuant to Sections 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, submitted by Oland Holdings Inc.

PURPOSE OF PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT:

- The purpose of this application is to amend the Zoning By-Law to rezone 102 Prouse Road to add soil remediation processing as a permitted use.
- The subject site is designated "Countryside Area" with special policy 1.9.4.3 iii Industrial in the Township Official Plan and currently zoned "Holding Aggregate Processing Exception No. 7 ((H) M5-7)" and "Holding Aggregate Processing Exception No. 8 ((H) M5-8)". A Site Plan Development Agreement with the Township will be required prior to removing the holding provisions on the zoning.
- The subject site is designated as "Countryside Area" within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

LOCATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY:

The subject site has the municipal addresses of 102 Prouse Road and is legally described as PT LTS 16 & 17 CON 1, PTS 1, 3, & 4 PL 40R22895 in the Township of Uxbridge, Region of Durham, T/W EASE OVER PT RDAL BTN LTS 15 & 16 CON 1 Uxbridge, PT 1 PL 40R23312 AS IN DR370684.

FILE NO.: Zoning By-Law Amendment 2021-08 (ZBA 2021-08)

APPLICANT: Oland Holdings Inc.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Additional information is available on the Township of Uxbridge website at www.uxbridge.ca.

Due to COVID restrictions, physical attendance is not permitted at this public meeting; it will be held electronically and will be livestreamed for public viewing at 7:00 p.m. The meeting date and time is as follows:

MEETING DATE: Monday, September 20, 2021

TIME: Public Meeting 7:00 p.m.



Township of Uxbridge documents are available in alternate formats upon request.
Please fill out the Request for Alternate Formats Form at uxbridge.ca/accessibility

email: accessibility@uxbridge.ca
phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209

TOWN HALL

by Roger Varley
Notes from the Sept. 13
Council Meeting

Proposed apartment building to be lowered

At a public planning meeting held Monday night, Evendale Developments told councillors the proposed apartment building at Brock and Herrema will be four storeys tall, not six storeys.

Scott Waterhouse, representing the developer, said that, based on comments and concerns expressed at a planning meeting earlier this year, the developer has reduced the height to four storeys from six and the number of units to 59 from 86. In addition, access to the building's parking will be from Herrema Boulevard, not Low Boulevard as originally proposed.

Waterhouse said that, apart from the height and the access point, the layout of the building will generally be the same as the original proposal.

The units in the building will be condominiums, with the target market being empty-nesters and first-time home buyers. However, developer David Sud said he could not say how much the units will sell for, adding the price will depend on the market at the time.

The units in the building would range from one-bedroom with a den to three bedrooms. Waterhouse said the average size of units would be about 900 square feet.

When asked about accessibility,

Waterhouse said the design includes accessible parking spaces, but details of accessibility inside the building will be provided later. With the revised plan, there would be 94 parking spaces, with 33 spaces outdoors and the rest underground. There would be about 15 spaces allocated for visitors.

Bike clinic okayed for Quaker Common

Suzanne Kershaw of the Uxbridge Active Transportation Committee received the okay from council Monday to hold a bike maintenance clinic on Quaker Common at the end of the month.

The clinic, aimed at youngsters from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8, is scheduled to take place at the south end of the common on Sept. 28 from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

In a letter, Kershaw said volunteers from the committee will teach youngsters how to check their helmets and do tire, brakes and chain checks on their own bikes. She said the event will follow all necessary COVID-19 protocols.

The Fantasy returns

The Optimist Club of Uxbridge received permission from council to once again hold its Fantasy of Lights in Elgin Park.

In a letter to council, the Optimists said the Fantasy was included last year in a *Reader's Digest* list of the top 10 drive-through light displays in Canada. The event was limited to drive-through last year because of COVID-19 protocols which restricted pedestrian traffic through the park. The Optimists

said that, despite that change and the fact that last year's event was cut short by 10 days because of COVID-19, it was the best year yet for the event.

"The good news is the increase in money we raised benefitted many more youth in our community, including 10 extra scholarships at the high school," the letter said.

It noted that, given the increase in vehicular traffic, the event cannot go back to pedestrian traffic due to the limitations on parking.

The Fantasy is scheduled to run from Dec. 4 to Jan. 1.



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REVITALIZATION TEAM TO START "STREETERS"

Between Sept. 18 and Sept. 25, the Township of Uxbridge Downtown Revitalization Committee will be conducting surveys on Brock Str. between Victoria St. and Main St. The surveys are very short, seeking insight about why people are coming into the downtown, where they are from (by postal code) and what they would like to see downtown. The interviews, or "streeters", will be conducted with residents and visitors alike.

The team says the goal is to capture information about the types of businesses, events, services or amenities that draw people to the downtown, where people who visit the downtown are from, and what those people would like to see implemented in the future. Volunteers conducting the surveys on behalf of the Downtown Revitalization Project Committee will be masked and following COVID protocols.

Residents and visitors who see a survey team while in the downtown core are invited to "stop and say hello and share your opinions with the team."

For more information about the surveys or the project, please visit www.uxbridge.ca/myuxbridgedowntown



LATE ENTRY, for Uxbridge Studio Tour
Potter, painter Sandra Reiner
celebrating 30 years on the tour
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new gallery space, same location
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Bottle Drive

McHappy Day is September 22nd!
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Ronald McDonald House Charities,
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Charity, Precious Minds, and Big
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Durham

Drop off at Uxbridge McDonald's!
Saturday, September 4th
Saturday, September 11th
Saturday, September 18th

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Our two cents

Were we too hopeful?

"Hope is necessary in every condition. The miseries of poverty, sickness, of captivity, would, without this comfort, be insupportable." Samuel Johnson

Adults everywhere, no matter their age, often find themselves still longing to hear their mother say: "It's okay, everything is going to be all right."

It was that kind of reassurance, vague though it might be, that Roger Varley was looking for when he posed a question to the four candidates in attendance at last week's all candidates meeting at the Uxbridge arena. Instead of asking the usual questions one hears at such meetings, he opted for something a little different. Noting that the 18-month-long coronavirus pandemic has left many Canadians feeling angry, frustrated, dispirited and depressed, he asked the candidates to give constituents, and himself, a message of hope. He said he supposed he was looking for a gentle pat on the shoulder, a reassuring hug. He said he was disappointed.

Only Conservative Jacob Mantle came close, saying: "We will get through this." The others merely talked about the importance of vaccinations and how their leaders are best positioned to govern the country. Varley wanted someone to say something like "we're beating this thing, the end is not far off," even if it meant they had to lie. Sometimes, when someone needs some nurturing, a little lie can be more helpful than the truth.

During the Second World War, it was songs of hope offered by Dame Vera Lynn, it was Winston Churchill's "we will never surrender" speech, that helped kept spirits up and enabled the people to survive those dark days. They didn't make promises, but there was promise in their words.

History teaches us that all the dark periods, be it bubonic plague, world wars, totalitarian regimes or devastating depressions, eventually come to a close. This current crisis also will also come to an end one day. But it helps us to weather the storm a great deal when we receive some words of comfort and hope. How many parents have cuddled a frightened or injured child and uttered the soothing words: "It's okay, dear, it's okay."? And how many of us still need those soothing words, even though we are adults?

But we didn't receive that reassurance. It was, obviously, political business as usual. And we gain no reassurance as we read the news every day. While the political parties prance around the country in an election held during a pandemic, mass anti-vax rallies are planned this week for hospital locations across the country. This at the same time that the Alberta Health Service is teetering on the brink of total collapse because of COVID-19. Hardly a hopeful sign that we're making progress.

Hope is good, but it requires two things to work: resilience and fortitude. However, too many times in the past 18 months have we been offered hope only to have it snatched away again. We went through strict lockdowns, then the provincial government came up with messages of hope by easing restrictions slightly, only to reinstate the restrictions. Do that too many times and people stop believing the messages. They lose resilience and fortitude - and hope.

All through this campaign, the various parties have been trumpeting about how they can deal with COVID-19 better than their opponents. But this shouldn't be a political issue. This affects every Canadian in every part of this vast land. So, if the political parties really are concerned about Canadians' health, why don't they get together in some form of all-party committee, consult with recognized and independent medical experts, exchange ideas and come up with a co-ordinated plan to end this vile disease. They can worry about who gets the credit later.

Let us end by offering an attempt at a message of hope. As the leaves begin to turn colour and fall, we are reminded that the cruel winds of winter are on their way. But if we all make sure we stay warm and avoid falls on icy sidewalks, we will all welcome the sweet breath of Spring once again.



Letters to the Editor

Re: All candidates forum, Wed., Sept. 8

The people who make the decisions are never voted in to office. The politicians who are voted in to office will not make the decisions. That is how politics work.

The federal debate [last week] showed us that none of the old parties should be given the power to rule over us this time around. Trudeau fired his justice minister because she stood up for justice. O'Toole fired the only common sense person from the PC party and as we see now, he is a mirror image of Trudeau, maybe worse. Mandatory vaccines, lockdowns, masks forever, no more free will. Carbon tax with all parties except one, the PPC.

Huge anti-vax demonstrations are never shown by the mainstream media. Maxime Bernier was not allowed to participate in the national debates "because he didn't meet the criteria." He is the only leader to stand against mandatory vaccination, lockdowns, masks for children, etc.

We the people have to clean house in Ottawa. The past 20 months should be a good indicator who to vote for.

Many thanks to the *Cosmos* for arranging our local debate for our candidates. There definitely was one clear winner, but not from our old familiar parties as in the past.

Remember when you vote, gov-

ernments and politicians only have the money that they can get from your taxes. The bigger the promises, the more taxes we will have to pay. We are ordered by our politicians to work virtually, cut down on carbons by not driving, etc. Why can't they do the same, instead of flying from province to province in big airplanes trying to get votes? So much for carbon and climate change for them. Rules we have to follow are not for them. According to our politicians, you, who drives your small car to work, are responsible for climate change, so we need to put a carbon tax on you.

Experience has shown us that it is not always best to vote for the candidate with the biggest promises and who puts up the most signs.

Check out the candidates, inform yourself, nothing is more important.

**Al Yetman
Uxbridge**

Thank you, Lisha, Ted, Roger, and all the *Cosmos* crew, and kudos to the local candidates as well for presenting the virtual debate from the Uxbridge Arena last week. It was a refreshingly informative and civil evening.

**Bruce and Elaine Brandon
Uxbridge**

Re: Zombies on parade, Sept. 9

So, viruses are neither dead nor alive. By many, they are considered

to be not alive. Likewise for zombies.

We are currently under siege by zombies, and it is completely avoidable, simply by taking the vaccine. There are two obvious reasons to get the vaccine, though some are still unclear so I will illustrate this for you.

First, you don't want zombies sniffing around looking for you. Secondly, whilst in pursuit of you, you don't want the zombies to cause any collateral damage to others in your circle. You hear it all the time: "I could take it if the zombie only got me." "My natural immunity could fight it off." "I'd only be a bit of zombie." "You wouldn't even tell the difference." "Pshaw, It's nothing, it's just like a small aneurysm."

Wouldn't it be terrible if, sitting there at the breakfast table, little Suzie had gone zombie because of you? She's not as tough as you. She just seems a little tired. Off to school she heads, to spawn a class room full of aspiring zombies, and when she returns you see the yellowing skin and dull eyes. All her limbs fall off and you think, "oh that's not so bad, I've seen worse. At least her head didn't explode." Then her head explodes.

Don't be a zombie, get the vaccine.

**Colin Murphy
Uxbridge**

Your Universe

The Uxbridge Cosmos

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9,500 copies of The Cosmos are published each Thursday in the Township of Uxbridge: 8,800 delivered by mail, 700 available in stores and boxes.

CORRECTION

Last week, the *Cosmos* published an article entitled "How and where to vote in Uxbridge". This article instructed readers to vote at two specific polling stations, as this was the information that the *Cosmos* found available on the Elections Canada website prior to press time Tuesday evening.

Those voting should refer to their Voter Information Card prior to heading to the polling station that is specific to their postal code. More information can be found at elections.ca

The *Cosmos* apologizes for any confusion this may have caused.



...I'm just sayin'

column by Justyne Edgell

A Gen Z cusper during an election

I was asked this week to write a bit about what it's like to be a Gen Z during an election, and I felt like I needed to do some research to formulate what my opinion and experience would be. Maybe it's just me, although my perception of others around my age is that most of us are in a similar boat, but I don't feel totally invested in elections. That said, I think this year it may be a little different as we see digital platforms take over.

Firstly, let me define what a Gen Z is. Those born between 1997 and 2012 (I'm a '97, that's why I say cusper) are considered Gen Z-ers. Some characteristics of those in this category are that we are the first generation to be "digital-natives," meaning we grew up in a world that used technology in our everyday lives, from the beginning. Diversity is also a norm for us. For most of our lives we have learned the importance of, and grown up hyper-sensitive to, inclusion and diversity.

We are financially minded as well. Many of us have seen our families take hard recession hits and we think wisely about spending and saving our money. And owning a house one day appears to be only a dream.

Additionally, we are quite an emotionally sensitive generation. Mental health is a large and open topic in our lives and we take factors that affect our mental health very seriously.

Finally, Gen Zs are considered the most politically progressive generation. According to The Annie E. Casey Foundation's study on generation Z's, most generations ahead of us tended to lean more to the left; however, we are leading away from those views, being highly concerned about LGBTQ2+ rights, being progressive about social issues and issues of diversity, climate change related to human activity, and it's generally thought that we feel the government should play a greater role in solving these types of problems.

I think in the last couple of elections we have been in a pretty unique position. We have seen that certain parties have taken to the social landscape much stronger than others, and I feel that those who are trying to be very modern online are also tapping into the issues I mentioned above. The parties seem to be leaning into this new "audience" and catching them where they are. (Which, as a marketing nerd, I think is a pretty great tactic.)

This could be both beneficial and detrimental. In some cases, I think voters will really

resonate with this online voice, and feel as though that candidate is more "up on the times." On the other hand, is it somewhat unprofessional to have your possible political leader dancing the trends on the internet? Is it just a ploy to get followers? I mean followers in the sense of an online audience, but I guess obtaining real followers IS actually the goal.

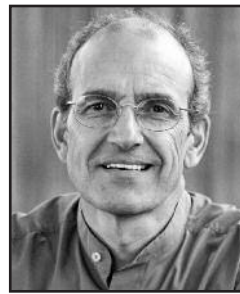
Another thing that I find muffles the information is all the dramatic finger pointing, accusing, outwardly bullying and degrading of one another. I understand that they're trying to prove they're the better candidate, but it seems like high school to me. I end up thinking they're all full of nonsense, but watching the "arguing" is almost as riveting as a good episode of "The Bachelor!"

The internet has a fabulous way of telling stories, whether they're real or fake. I know there are lots of people who feed into the "fake news," but I think us Gen Z's, for the most part, have a way of weeding through that. I went to school for media, and I consider myself a rather tekkie person, so perhaps I'm just biased in that. Maybe that also leads me to take everything with a grain of salt, making me struggle to believe anything I see.

I have grown up in a world where adults always say that political leaders "just say what they want you to hear, it's all lies, they take your tax dollars and spend it on whatever they want, they don't actually care about anyone but themselves." Perhaps this has subconsciously tainted my views of anything political.

I do think that, as I get older, and particularly with my position currently writing for the newspaper, I am more interested in the general goings-on in society, and I feel like, for this election (maybe because it has more drama to it), I am more engaged. Maybe because it is reaching those social platforms where I spend a lot of my time online. I also think there's a lot of emotion in this one, for many people, not only us sensitive Gen Z-ers. Our world has faced some pretty drastic changes and realizations in the last few years. From the COVID pandemic to the Black Live Matter movement and the Me Too movement, I think a lot of these topics will be important to those of us on the younger end of the polls this voting season.

Now, I must finish this up, as I'm heading over to the polling station, where I hope that my tiny, tiny, TINY piece of the collective voting puzzle will have an impact on the fu-



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

The heart. Not the quick hit

It is arguably the most difficult issue Canadians have had to face since Confederation. It has divided Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada since initial European contact. And it came into sharpest focus this spring when hundreds of unmarked graves of Indigenous children were discovered around several former residential schools. But when the issue of "Reconciliation with First Nations" was introduced last Thursday night during the Leaders' Debate – after some introductory remarks from the five leaders, one of them, Justin Trudeau, got this curt instruction from the moderator.

"You have five seconds, Mr. Trudeau," said Shachi Kurl, the moderator. "Five seconds, sir." "We have lots more to do," Trudeau said. "And we are going to do it."

With that, Kurl, president of the Angus Reid Institute, moved the two-hour televised debate onto the evening's fourth of five themes – affordability. The others included leadership and accountability, climate change and COVID recovery. I'm not a debating expert – although as a citizen of this community, I think I've moderated just about every election debate held in Uxbridge since 1988 – I felt unsatisfied as a viewer and offended as a journalist. That was not a debate. Worse, it did not allow any of the leaders – Erin O'Toole, Jagmeet Singh, Yves-Francois Blanchet, Annamie Paul, or Trudeau – the time or space required to give Canadians ample response.

The creators of the Leaders' Debate – the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN), CBC, CTV and Global TV – went to a lot of trouble to assemble the leaders of the five parties at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Que. They delivered the broadcast in a dozen languages. They brought in four journalists to deliver the questions. All seemed right with the design. Then, they gave the moderator absolute power over everything. The result included this ridiculous introduction from moderator Kurl: "Mr. Singh, you are popular and you inspire many Canadians. Your platform is full of big promises," she said. "But when it comes to how you'll pay for it all, there's not a lot of detail. Given this, how can Canadians know you're really ready to lead?"

NDP leader Singh had 45 seconds to respond. And a couple of seconds beyond his time, Kurl stopped him in mid-sentence. She treated every leader equally ridiculously, stopping him or her at the three-quarters of a minute mark and making sure there was little or no debate, complaining repeatedly, "We're

beyond our time." The Leaders' Debate organizers were after the quick hit, not the heart of the issues. If I may, the discussion that *this* newspaper sponsored and invited me to moderate, last Wednesday night at the arena, came a good deal closer to delivering the heart.

For example, on the issue of medically assisted death, we received a cogent question on the issue from a *Cosmos* reader. I read it aloud. I gave each of the four candidates – Jacob Mantle, Jennifer O'Connell, Eileen Higdon, and Corneliu Chisu – about two minutes each to offer a personal philosophy as well as his/her party's position. As moderator, I then tried to bring the issue of conscience rights of medical practitioners in medically assisted death to our own experience in Uxbridge. That allowed each candidate to speak tangibly about the realities of our own community. There was no time limit, no interruption to move on to another topic.

I think what's fallen through the cracks this election is context. Every moment of the campaign, we in the media (and the political parties themselves) have set up the candidates to score or fall prey to "Gotcha moments," those interviewing or debating formats designed to entrap candidates into making mistakes. We haven't seen or heard enough experiential analysis of the issues, such as you find in a current affairs program and radio or TV. Former CBC Journal producer Don Young put it this way: "Imagine you were assigned to cover D-Day," he wrote recently on Facebook. "A news reporter would be in an aircraft above the armada of ships describing as accurately as he/she could what they saw."

"A current-affairs piece, however, would place the reporter and crew in the belly of the landing craft approaching the beach; bouncing from wave to wave, planes low overhead, bullets zinging off the armoured plating. It would be as if the viewer was embedded with the invasion troops."

"There's a voracious hunger today for storytelling with substance, and that's what current affairs provides," he said.

I agree wholeheartedly. We need the stories behind the issues, the stories of Indigenous people's needs, not just facts and figures. We need a better sense of their path to reconciliation, not ours, so that constituents understand the needs and rights of First Nations and therefore make better choices on such a vital issue come election day.

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Forum addresses hot topics, from page 1

committed to building one million homes in three years by allocating 15 per cent of all federally-owned lands in the country to housing and making it easier for municipalities to build high-density housing near to transit hubs. Chisu claimed part of

the housing problem is caused by "foreign" buyers who use real estate investments for money laundering. O'Connell said the Liberals would introduce a tax-free home savings account, and that they also have a plan for a rent-to-own program. She noted there is no definition in Canada for affordable housing.

The next issue discussed was the controversial topic of abortion and

medical assistance in death (MAID). The candidates were asked what their personal stances were on the subject. Chisu said freedom of choice is paramount and people have the right to decide what to do with their bodies.

"There is no place for the government to tell them what to do," he said.

However, he went on to say the medical profession is bound by oath

to save lives, so it is up to the medical profession to decide if they want to participate.

Higdon said she was in favour of allowing MAID, and that abortion should be available to every woman who wants it. O'Connell said she would "fight 'til the day I die" for women to have the right to make decisions about their own bodies. As for MAID, she said it is a compas-

sionate issue and although some doctors might not want to participate in medically-assisted death, they should be required to refer people to other doctors.

Mantle was blunt.

"I'm pro-life and I do not support expanding medical assistance in dying beyond the guard rails established by the courts," he said. "We need to balance the rights of medical professionals and those seeking medical procedures." He added that he would vote on any proposed legislation dealing with the issue based on

his pro-life beliefs.

On climate change, the candidates were asked if they would support "a just and fair" phase-out of fossil fuels. Chisu said there should be more emphasis on nuclear energy. He said there would be a "natural phase-out" of fossil fuels, but it shouldn't happen now because of oil and gas's importance to the economy. Higdon said there should be more investment in renewable energy, electric vehicles and lower emissions but that this would require an electrical grid across the country.

O'Connell said the Liberals support the phase-out of fossil fuels but there has to be a transition, and workers in the oil and gas sector must not be left behind. Mantle said he doesn't think it is realistic to phase out fossil fuels in the near or medium term, noting that a large part of the western economy is based on fossil fuels.

Given the limited time for the meeting, there were other questions posed by *Cosmos* readers that were not addressed, such as Indigenous peoples issues and racism. As has been the case with all the candidate meetings hosted by the *Cosmos*, this meeting remained civil throughout. Indeed, O'Connell said during the meeting that she did not view her opponents as enemies and, at one point, Mantle thanked O'Connell for giving him "straight" answer to a question he asked her.

Video of the meeting is still available on YouTube, on the *Cosmos's* channel "Cosmos Uxbridge".



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For those of you who don't know, this is our second attempt at writing this heartfelt letter of thanks.

In July of 2017, Cole Steele was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia right after his high school graduation, at the age of 18. He underwent a bone marrow/stem cell transplant in November of that same year. Unfortunately, in February 2019, his leukemia returned. He underwent more severe and intense treatments and had another, the last he is eligible for, bone marrow/stem cell transplant in July.

We are happy to say that it has been over two years and Cole is doing very well. Working and saving for his post-secondary education, beginning Sept. 2022!

Thank you to everyone who showed their love and kindness in varying ways. We would like to thank, in no particular order: All of the nurses, doctors and specialists, the coordinators, art therapists and music therapists at Princess Margaret Hospital. We were so fortunate to live close to one of the leading cancer hospitals in the world.

The Princess Margaret Lodge for a clean affordable place to call home during our several months of treatment and rehabilitation.

Deanna Broome and Tamara Stimpson for creating and managing the GoFundMe

page and all of the generous donors as well as private donors.

Uxbridge Rotary Youth Committee and Cyndie Jacobs Blood Services Canada. An immense thank you to Cole's stem cell donor for being aware of the program, for registering and for taking the time out of their life to prepare for and follow through with donating, TWICE!

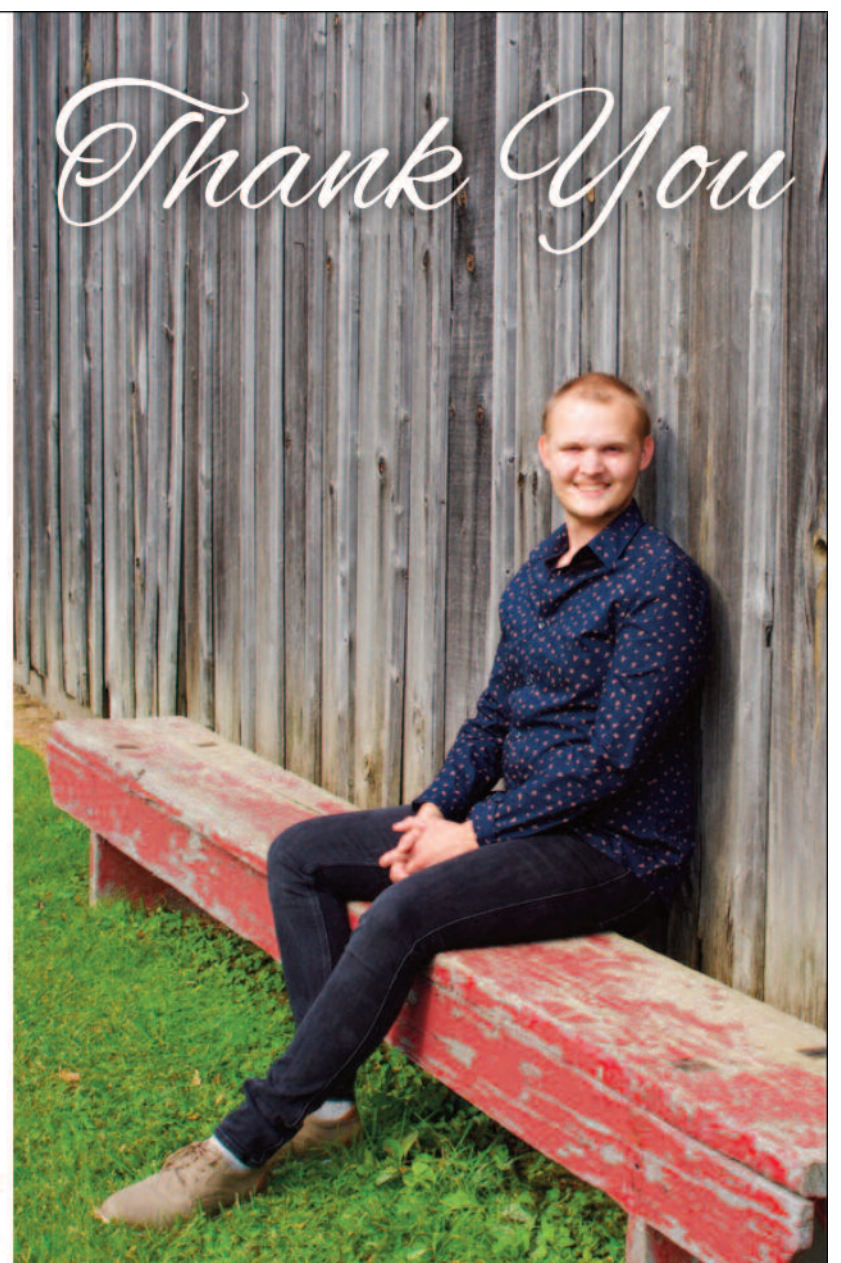
The Gorgons, especially Chris Smith, Christy Moores and Sandi Lavery.

Trish Celentano and family, Mac Martin and family, Melanie Breach and Connor Lynch, Dori Harper and family, Angie Smith, Kim Lamoureux, Amanda De Boer Ladwig and Steve, Sarah Goulburne and Tori Mathews, Derek Cochrane-Beggs and House of Haunt, Michelle Charlton. Our family, Wendy Smith, Dave Smith, Leah Tassielli, and Hunter Steele. Cole's friends who stayed by him, helping to keep him going by giving him something to look forward to, even on his worst days.

All of the emotional support given through social media.

Sorry if we missed anyone, with the outpouring of kindness we tried to remember everyone.

*With immense gratitude,
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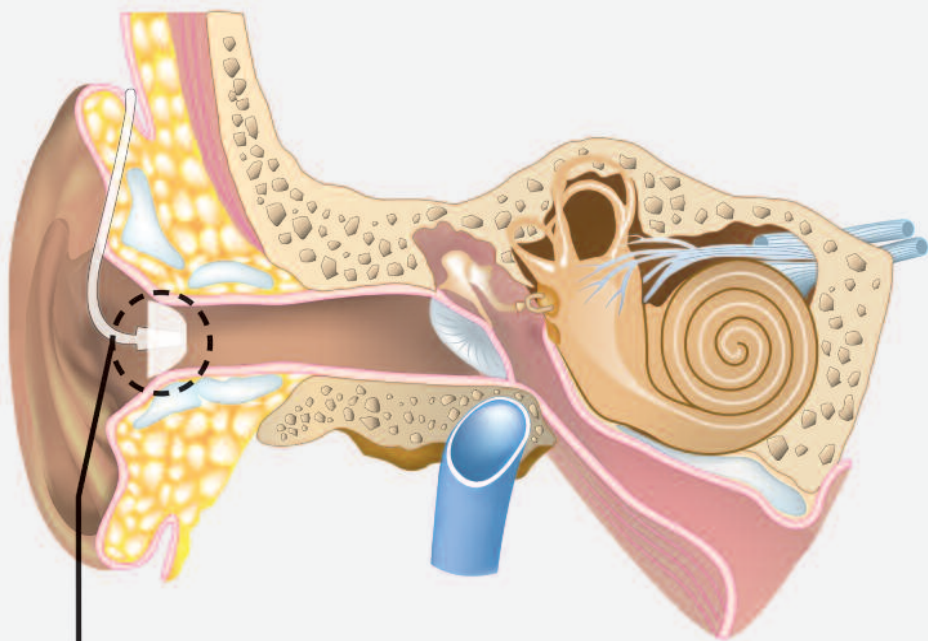
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Fair goes ahead without spectators

by Roger Varley

Cows, horses, sheep, goats - the animals outnumbered the humans at Uxbridge's Fall Fair in Elgin Park on the weekend as the abbreviated version of the annual event went ahead without any members of the general public allowed on the site.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, only exhibitors and volunteers were allowed on the grounds. There was no midway, no tractor pull, no demolition derby. But that did not mean the fair was not a success, said president Bev Latva. If the exhibitors and volunteers had a good time, that would equal success, she said. She also noted that, from a financial perspective, "we'll be fine," thanks to sponsors, grants and Ontario Agriculture Association funding.

Asked why the fair went ahead despite all the restrictions, Latva said the fair board did not want to send any more negative messages to the public.

"People are dragged down," she said.

It was also important to preserve the agricultural component of the fair, she said, and for the livestock exhibitors who use the event to qualify for other shows.

"There's a lot of networking and it gives them a chance to look at other breeding stock," Latva said.

The homecraft component of the fair was held virtually, with some of the entries being displayed in some stores such as The Bridge Social, although entries were down this year because of the virtual nature.

Dave Walker, head of the Uxbridge Horsemen's Association, said entries were also down for the horse shows, which included schooling shows, a gymkhana on Saturday and a Western extravaganza on Sunday. He said the shows were "extremely important" for younger riders competing, but also to provide continuity for the fall fair "to save it from extinction."

Martha Henshaw, beef club leader with 4H, was of the same mind. She explained that 4H members begin working with the animals in the spring "and this show is for all the marbles."

"If there's no fair, there's no credits for their projects and all their work has been for nothing," she said.

Latva said everyone on the grounds was screened and subject to contact tracing. She said the fair board worked extensively with Durham Health on its COVID-19 safety plan and had no problems.

Henshaw had the last word on that subject: "I vaccinate all my cattle," she said. "Why wouldn't I vaccinate myself?"

For photos of the fair, visit thecosmos.ca

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Studio Tour brings art to life in more ways than one

by Justyne Edgell

This weekend's studio tour promises to be a little different this year. Not because of COVID precautions, but because it features art that is both inanimate and quite alive.


Artist and Uxbridge Studio Tour chair, Colin Whitebread, says that this year they are back with all the traditional sites open.

"We have no appointments this year, unlike last year, when you needed to book a time," says Whitebread, who also notes that certain locations will have capacity limits. "A lot of us have outside guests as well, so visitors will be encouraged to walk about the gardens as they wait for their turn inside the studio."

This year there are 23 sites and 52 artists on the tour, along with special live performances by local aerialist Diana Lopez and her team. The performance "Otros Rostros" is an award-winning "multidisciplinary project that brings together contemporary Indigenous dance, aerial dance, mask work, storytelling and installation art." The performance will take place rigged up in the trees of Elgin Park. To get a close glimpse at this unique tour addition you need to book a viewing time through the Uxbridge Studio Tour website.

"I also want to say a big thank you to the township for being so accommodating with the new installation in Elgin Park, ."says Whitebread.

For more information on the 2021 Uxbridge Studio Tour and a map of the locations, visit uxbridgestudio-tour.com



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- Across**

 - 1 Saudi neighbor
 - 5 Grafton's "___ for Lawless"
 - 8 Award for TV commercials
 - 12 Sitar music
 - 13 Make a play....
 - 14 Texas ___'em
 - 15 Casino employee
 - 17 Legally authorized
 - 18 Humorous parodies
 - 20 Stir up
 - 23 Mounted
 - 26 Brain wave
 - 27 Small generator
 - 29 Plaything
 - 30 Might be able
 - 31 Cool
 - 33 Retaliation
 - 35 Mountain table
 - 36 Elicit
 - 37 Capital of Argentina
 - 38 Establish
 - 41 Fringe over the forehead
 - 44 Frequent Papal name
 - 48 Small bovid
 - 49 40 thieves leader, Baba
 - 50 European river
 - 51 One of Henry VIII's six
 - 52 "Shoo!"
 - 53 Wine choice
- Down**

 - 2 Deface
 - 3 Time long past
 - 4 Sartre novel
 - 5 Reposed
 - 6 Decorated, as a cake
 - 7 Battle
 - 8 Stainless
 - 9 Throw gently
 - 10 In poor health
 - 11 Keats' forte
 - 16 Ink dispenser
 - 19 Duck's home
 - 20 Jocularly
 - 21 Be gaga over
 - 22 Excited, with "up"
 - 24 Catchall category
 - 25 Clamor
 - 27 Drawstring tote
 - 28 Summer month, for short
 - 30 Part of the intestines
 - 32 Father figures
 - 34 Coarse
 - 35 Babysitter
 - 37 Amaze
 - 39 Kosher-style store
 - 40 "Put a lid ___!"
 - 41 Bread roll
 - 42 Collector's suffix
 - 43 Not for love __ money
 - 45 Worker issues int'ernational agency
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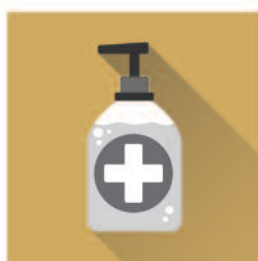
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Hand sanitizer stations



Clear physical distancing markers



Only one poll worker per desk behind a plexiglass barrier

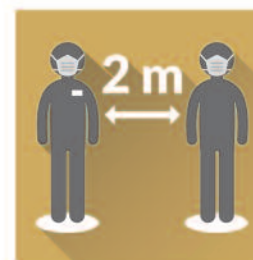
When you go to vote, don't forget:



Wear a mask



We will provide you with a single-use pencil to mark your ballot, or you can bring your own pen or pencil



Practice physical distancing by staying at least two metres away from voters and poll workers

If you think you have COVID-19, follow your local health authority's guidelines and stay home.



Stay safe. Vote safe.

Visit elections.ca for the official information on voting and the health and safety measures in place

1-800-463-6868 / elections.ca / TTY 1-800-361-8935





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www.JacobMantle.ca

CANADA'S RECOVERY PLAN

- 1. SECURE JOBS**
by recovering the 1 million jobs lost during the pandemic within one year.
- 2. SECURE ACCOUNTABILITY**
by enacting a new Anti-Corruption law to clean up the mess in Ottawa.
- 3. SECURE MENTAL HEALTH**
through our Canada Mental Health Action Plan.
- 4. SECURE THE COUNTRY**
by creating a strategic stockpile of essential products and building the capacity to manufacture vaccines at home.
- 5. SECURE OUR ECONOMY**
by balancing the budget over the next decade.

Conservatives will implement
CANADA'S RECOVERY PLAN to
SECURE THE FUTURE for rural communities.



Dear Uxbridge,

A little over ten years ago, an inexperienced local kid asked for your trust and for your vote. In what seems like a lifetime ago, you gave me the benefit of the doubt by electing me to be your local Councillor. I was honoured to serve.

We did some great things together: we planted trees, built a skate park and kept the budget under control. I loved serving our community and I want to do so again. Once again, I am asking for your trust and your vote.

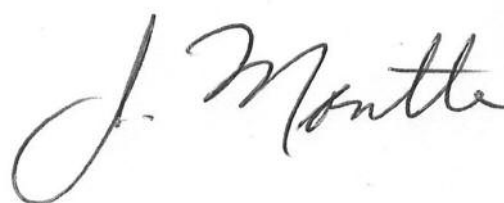
This is a critical election. Your vote will decide how we move beyond the pandemic to secure Canada's recovery for everyone.

Over the last month, I've heard concerns over out-of-control housing costs and whether the next generation will be able to afford to live in our town. I've heard frustration over how, in 2021, parts of Uxbridge are still without high-speed internet and adequate cell phone coverage. These are serious issues that require

the advocacy of a representative who both understands the needs of our community and is committed to its success.

I am honoured to see my name on the ballot in my hometown during Canada's 44th federal election. If you elect to put your trust in that same local kid from a decade ago, I promise to always champion the needs of our community and put the interests of Uxbridge and Pickering first.

Together, we can secure the future.



Jacob Mantle
 Uxbridge, Ontario
 Conservative Party Candidate for
 Pickering-Uxbridge