

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 17 No. 37

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Closing a road isn't open and shut • Uxbridge the Good • Rescuing furry friends



FLYING HIGH IN THE TREES - Members of the Otros Rostros project performed amongst the trees as part of this year's Uxbridge Studio Tour, which took place last weekend. The performance, according to the tour's website, brought together contemporary Indigenous dance, aerial dance, mask work, storytelling and installation art while examining "natural geometry as the source for connection between material, form, landscape and ritual." Local artist Diana Lopez Soto choreographed the project.

Photo by John Cavers

Pickering-Uxbridge remains red despite lower numbers

by Roger Varley

Liberal incumbent Jennifer O'Connell has been returned to office by the voters in the Pickering-Uxbridge riding, although with a lower approval rating than in past elections.

O'Connell garnered 25,204 votes, or 47 per cent of the votes cast, while her closest rival, Jacob Mantle of the Conservatives, pulled in 19,636 votes, or 36 per cent. The other two candidates in the riding trailed far behind. Eileen Higdon of the NDP received 7,060 votes or 13 per cent, and Corneliu Chisu, representing the People's Party of Canada, had 2,232 votes or four per cent.

For O'Connell, it was her third federal election win. However, she fell short of the 51 per cent of the vote she received in 2019 and her vote count was down by almost 7,000 votes. Going the opposite direction, Mantle improved his party's showing. In 2019, then Conservative candidate Cyma Musarat pulled in 18,462 votes or 29.1 per cent. Although they failed to sway too many voters, Higdon and Chisu, who both ran in 2019, also improved their results. Higdon went to 13 per cent, up from 11.9 per cent, and Chisu doubled his percentage to four.

O'Connell, who spent Tuesday winding down from the campaign by retrieving election signs,

said she was happy the voters in the riding had returned her to office.

"I'm kind of excited to be back to work," she said, saying it likely will be a couple of weeks before the new Parliament is sworn in.

Asked about her lowered vote count, O'Connell hedged, saying she didn't want to comment on the numbers because there are still votes to be counted. As for the campaign in the riding, she said her only disappointment was the number of election signs that were vandalized during the election period.

"That's not how our democracy works," she said. "But (all the candidates) did their best."

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for September, 2021

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
Franco-Ontarian Day - September 25
National Truth and Reconciliation Day –
September 30

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.

Employment Opportunities

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

Fire Department - Assistant Fire Chief,
1-year Contract

Closes September 23, 2021

Public Works Department – Winter
Maintenance, Contract

Closes October 8, 2021

Development Services – Director
Closes October 11, 2021

Spare Crossing Guards
No closing date

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.



Uxbridge at a Glance

The Corporation of The Township of Uxbridge
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FROM THE TAX DEPARTMENT

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

What are the Benefits?

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Who is eligible?

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How to apply

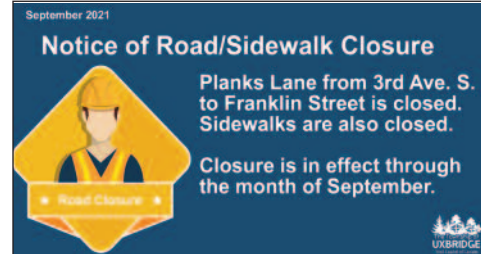
Pre-Authorized Payment Forms (pdf) are available on the Township website at www.uxbridge.ca/en/living-here/property-taxes.aspx or at the Tax Department (51 Toronto St S).

Return the completed PAP Form and Void Cheque or Bank form to the Township of Uxbridge Tax Department:

- person at the Municipal Office (51 Toronto St S) during regular business hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday or use the after-hours drop-box in the front parking lot or
- By Mail to the Township of Uxbridge PO Box 190, 51 Toronto St S. Uxbridge ON L9P 1T1 or
- By 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.



Closures

- Cemetery Road at 75 Cemetery is closed due to utility work, from September 20 - 27, 2021. Homes above #75 are accessible from the south entrance of Cemetery, while home below #75 may be accessed from the north entrance of Cemetery Road.
- 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.



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

**JK – Grade 8 • After School Drop-in
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Tuesday, September 28th 3:15 – 4:45pm
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(behind Quaker Village & St. Joseph schools)**

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CLIMATE ADAPTATION & TRANSITION COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL Survey

What can we do as a community to tackle the impacts of climate change?
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<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6FNM2BP>

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SEPTEMBER 30TH

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

Road closure requests present challenges to council

by Roger Varley

Two local organizations - the York Durham Heritage Railway and the Uxbridge Farmers' Market - are asking council for permission to close roads in the coming months.

In a letter to council, YDHR asked that it be allowed to close Railway Street for two weekends in October in order to run its Day Out With Thomas event. Angela Smart, YDHR's events manager, told council the Thomas event is scheduled for Oct. 22-24 and Oct. 29-31. Also, the railway is planning a Wizardfest event for the weekend of Nov. 6-7.

Smart said the railway wants to close Railway Street from Spruce to Albert during set-up and all the way to Brock Street on the actual days of the events.

Public Works director Ben Kester told council the closure would mean Go Transit and Durham Region Transit would have to re-route their buses and move their boarding locations during the event.

Mayor Dave Barton said visitors attending the railway's Thomas events use up a lot of the parking facilities around town, and that he was worried about local businesses being impacted by lack of parking. Smart said YDHR has used the Fields of Uxbridge and Elgin Park for excess parking in past years.

Councillor

Bruce Garrod expressed concern about the timing of the request, noting it came just a month before the planned event, leaving little time for various departments to report on the request.

"Mistakes happen when you hurry," he said. "You can't hurry these things."

Council decided to refer the request to staff for a more detailed report.

Council then heard from councillor Willie Popp that the Farmers' Market has requested that it be allowed to continue operations beside the Second Wedge Brewery beyond October until the end of November. That would mean Victoria Street would continue to be closed from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each Sunday.

Popp said allowing the market to run later into the year could cause problems on those weekends when YDHR is running its events. Kester noted that it is possible there could be snow by the end of November and offered that a road closure would pose problems with plowing and sanding. Barton suggested the market be allowed to remain open "weather permitting." Councillor Gary Ruona suggested that the community centre at

the arena could be used as an alternate location in the case of inclement weather.

The request was also referred to staff.



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Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

On the wrong track?

It is said that timing is everything and, because of an appalling lack of good timing by the York Durham Heritage Railway (YDHR), perhaps now is the time for council to examine the township's relationship with that enterprise.

The lack of good timing was shown when council received a letter from YDHR on Monday asking that Railway Street be closed for its "Day Out With Thomas" event for two weekends in October, just a month away. With such closures requiring input from various township departments, as well as the region, Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) and Durham Transit, that doesn't give council much time to deal with the matter if they are to acquiesce to YDHR's request. As Councillor Bruce Garrod said: "Mistakes happen when you hurry. You can't hurry these things."

From the tone of the letter, YDHR apparently expected council to just say: "Okay, done." The letter said, in full: "Good Morning. We are reaching out to formally request permission of road closures for our Day out with Thomas event this October. The dates are October 22-24 and October 29-31. We are requesting the closure of Railway Street for the above-mentioned dates. If you require any further information please let us know. Thank you."

Compare that with last week's letter from the Optimists asking to use Elgin Park again in December for their Fantasy of Lights, a six-paragraph tome that listed the event's past successes, the work the club does with local youth and a grateful recognition of the township's past support.

To their credit, council decided to refer the YDHR request to staff, who will now be expected to bring forward their reports with all due haste. However, I believe there are a few things council needs to examine before granting permission.

During Monday's meeting, I was told by Public Works director Ben Kester that YDHR will pay \$300 for the road closure, which will see Railway Street closed all the way up to Brock Street during the event. I then discovered that a film company is charged \$500 if they close a road. But the township's own website shows that a film company is charged \$500 for just a one-day closure. Closing a road for three consecutive

days costs \$1,000. So, with two three-day closures planned, it seems YDHR is getting a reduction of \$1,700.

I also council asked how many other Uxbridge businesses would be allowed to close a street to further their business. Kester said it depended on the street and how long the closure would last. Maybe it should also depend on how it will affect others, such as GO Transit and Durham Transit, who will be required to adjust their routes and pick-up locations during the Thomas event.

The YDHR already receives a reduced rent for the railway station. My understanding is that, because of the reduced rent, YDHR takes care of the flower beds and grass cutting. But anyone who has been near the station lately will have seen what a weedy mess it is. The whole area has become a major eyesore, with tents, huts, shacks and chain-link fencing despoiling the station grounds and aging and decrepit equipment strewn along the track. Not really an image we want visitors to Uxbridge to see.

It is likely that YDHR would claim it needs such beneficial treatment because it professes to be a non-profit organization. That may well be, but it doesn't stop the enterprise from having an approximately \$500,000 annual payroll, a figure former executive director Randy Bird - (he only lasted a couple of months before he was ousted, making way for John Perks) - gave to council himself a couple of years ago. I don't imagine there are too many businesses in town with that kind of payroll, especially when much of the work is done by volunteers.

This is not the heritage railway Uxbridge greeted with open arms a couple of decades ago. In its early days, the railway delivered what it promised: a leisurely ride along the track through some beautiful countryside and no one pushing you to buy this or that. Just enjoy the ride and come back again. Occasionally, there would be a special train, such as a teddy bear trip or a Victorian tea, but they didn't swamp the town with extra traffic or close down roads.

It seems to me that it's time council started treating YDHR like the business it is and a good place to start would be to charge the going rate for road closures.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

What the election really means

It goes back 30 years, but I remember this solemn-faced man stepping toward a news camera in May 1992. He was neatly dressed in a jacket and tie. But he looked drawn, upset and extremely nervous. The man chose his words carefully. He looked into the lens and in the most genuine of expressions offered a simple statement and an even simpler question:

"It's not right. And it's not going to change anything. Can we all just get along?" he asked.

The man was Rodney King, the African-American construction worker who'd been beaten by four Los Angeles police officers in what they called an arrest for a suspected drunk driving offence in March 1991. Video showed the police beating King with batons for 15 minutes, after he'd been tasered and was lying on the ground. The four officers were eventually tried on brutality charges, but were acquitted. Within hours of the verdict, outrage turned to violence, and L.A. erupted in anger and flames. The riots continued for five days; 63 people died, 2,300 were injured, 12,000 arrested. It took 3,500 soldiers to restore order in the city.

That's when King pleaded on camera, "Can we all just get along?"

King's words came to me as I watched our federal election campaign returns on Monday night. In particular, I was remembering the incident two weeks ago when protesters threw rocks at Justin Trudeau during a campaign stop in London, Ont. But the leaders weren't the only victims of vitriol and violence. Somebody spray-painted swastikas on the campaign signs of both Conservative and Liberal candidates in Ottawa last month. And Marci Ien running for the Liberals and Annamie Paul for the Greens (both African-Canadian women running in Toronto Centre) endured anti-black racist taunts during the campaign.

"I got death threats. My family was threatened," Ien told the *Star*.

It's very easy to blame the former president of the United States and his overt Islamophobia, his anti-black racism, his "drug dealers, criminals and rapists" epithets about Mexicans, and the rest of his impeachable rhetoric for giving right-wing extremists licence to do likewise in Canada. Many of us in Canada (myself included) are quick to suggest such anger, such hatred, such protest "are not who we are." But it would also be a mistake to simply dismiss such behaviour the way Hillary Clinton did during the 2016 U.S. presidential election campaign.

"You can take Trump supporters and put them in ... big baskets," Clinton said during an TV interview on Sept. 8. "They are what I would call the deplorables..."

During our federal election, one Canadian commentator suggested that the Liberals, New Democrats and Greens not consider a "basket of deplorables 2.0 strategy" in refuting the Conservatives or Maxine Bernier's People's Party of Canada because it could backfire. As the "basket" analogy has in the U.S. the past two elections, such pigeon-holing of the right tends to embolden some to come out of the shadows (or anonymity) and onto social media to spout their anti-lockdown, anti-vaccination, anti-science, anti-regulation conspiracy mythology in the open. If you doubt it's here, just read some of Bernier's Twitter feeds.

"The phenomenal rise of PPC is the big surprise of this campaign," wrote PPC leader Bernier on Monday. "But see these tweets from the lying mainstream media this morning. They're still pretending we don't exist."

Bernier calls his supporters "the purple army." And, to be fair, the Sept. 20 election results prove him right. The PPC grew its support from less than two per cent across the country to more than six per cent. "More than one million Canadians were part of the purple wave," he said, "(and it) rejected COVID hysteria and government overreach." He did not win his seat in Beauce, Que., but during the election, he went so far as to call Trudeau a "fascist psychopath."

All of which brings me back to Rodney King, a black American in the middle of a race riot in 1991 calling for calm in the face of anarchy. Canadians have just shown their Parliamentarians that they do not care to give majority power to any of the national political leaders. Canadians have told candidates they don't want another election for a long time. They want vital issues such as jobs, the economy, child care, women in the economy, affordable housing, homelessness, climate change, reconciliation with Indigenous people *all addressed now!* And not necessarily along party lines. They want the pandemic crushed scientifically and forthrightly. And for the most part, Canadians want Parliamentarians to do it *together!*

I believe Monday's vote was a call for politicians and the electorate to just get along to get things done. And a minority Parliament is perhaps the most likely means to do it.

For more Barris Beat columns, go to www.tedbarris.com

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New animal rescue opens to serve North Durham

by Justyne Edgell


A new animal rescue is open in Blackwater, Out Of The Shadows Animal Rescue (OOTSAR). “It started with a passion and a really kind heart.” Adrianna Boone, owner and founder of OOTSAR, started dog walking in Toronto at the age of 15, for \$5 a dog, which she would then pay forward by donating to animal rescues and shelters. She then realized that there was a real need for more rescues and shelters in the community. In her position, she was often asked to help re-home dogs or find help for pets in need.

“Unfortunately I found myself saying “no” a lot of the time, with my only advice being to take the dogs to their local animal shelter, which often couldn’t help as they were already full,” said Boone. “I often found myself begging my mom to, if not keep them, just to hold onto them until I could get posters up around the neighbourhood, to find them homes for free or find a friend who would take that dog or cat or rabbit or even a scaly friend.”


Boone says she wishes she could help all animals, but as she is not certified to care for wildlife right now she is caring for only domestic animals. “Hamsters, gerbils, fish, parrots, cats, dogs, livestock, we can help out.”

Out of The Shadows is a foster-based rescue, which means that it may need time to set up a foster home before taking in the animal and helping it find a forever home.







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The rescue officially moved into its new home in Blackwater on Sept. 1, and with a few renovations needed for full operation on the property, it expects to be fully up and running by the spring.

“I want the community to know that it can reach out to us for anything, we are a judgement-free zone,” says Boone. “If you’re having a hard time deciding if you need to surrender a pet, if you don’t know if you should adopt or where to adopt from, if you need help with training, or grooming or a financial situation.”

Boone says in the future, she hopes to reach out to local schools and explore volunteer opportunities for students where she can share her love for animals and her education on running a rescue.

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Heather's services. Call or text 905-852-8525, email hstewart@home-watch.ca and follow us on Instagram - HomeWatchUxbridge

LAWN SLIDE SERVICES - "Reliable Service with Quality Results". Booking now for garden maintenance and landscaping, hedge trimming & lawn cutting. Follow on Instagram - lawn_slide_services - contact Noah, 647-523-6730 or email lawnslide@gmail.com Serving Uxbridge and surrounding area.

THE GIRLS BRA SHOP - Find the bras you'll love living in with our expert fitters at The Girls Bra Shop in Stouffville. Contact thegirlsbrashop@gmail.com for details. 905-642-3339. An uplifting experience!

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WANTED

SEEKING RENTAL HOME: Mother & daughter looking for detached, whole house, rural/semi-rural, 2+bdms. Glowing refs, never miss rent, excellent job. 905-852-2698. 9/30

HELP WANTED: Horse farm helper needed on Fridays. Includes feeding, turning out, cleaning stalls and general farm duties. Call 416-402-1082. 9/23

FOR SALE

LIVE EDGE WOOD: Sugar maple, black cherry and ash live edge slabs. Various dimensions. Other unique wood/lumber pieces. Highwoodfarm.ca 905-904-0414 10/17

SNOWBLOWER: Ariens - Deluxe 24 Dual Stage Snow Blower. Electric start. 905-852-5423.

HOUSEPLANTS - All sizes, natural air purifiers. Make great gifts for yourself or your family and friends. Open Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Cash only. 11450 Conc. 3, Zephyr. Call 416-219-5012. 9/23

EVENTS

MAMMAWI COLLECTIVE will have orange ribbons for families to place in downtown Uxbridge for National Truth & Reconciliation Day (Sept. 30) at the Uxbridge Farmers' Market, 10 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 26.

PLANT & BAKE SALE - St. Paul's Anglican Church. Saturday, Sept. 25, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Baked goods, houseplants, perennials & eco-products will be available. Rainbow Reading blankets and books will also be available. All proceeds go to St. Paul's Outreach Fund.



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Judy Esmonde, Broker
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Cell: 416-677-8709



FOR SALE

1/3 acre, 4 beds, 4 baths, 2 family rooms,
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Offered for sale at \$1,850,000

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in the heart of old stouffville on a large town lot.
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Chris Larmer, Realtor®
www.powerofbluex2.ca
Cell: 416-500-6377



FOR SALE

STEWART LINE, CAVAN MONAGHAN

2-storey custom built 4 bedroom, 6 bathroom
home on private 100 acre lot in progress.
Finished walkout basement with a separate shop
below the 3 car garage. \$3,200,000

Shane Coxworth, Realtor®
www.powerofbluex2.ca
Cell: 905-903-7965

Waste Management Facilities closed in observance of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Thursday, September 30.

- Oshawa Waste Management Facility, 1640 Ritson Road North, Oshawa
- Scugog Waste Management Facility, 1623 Reach Street, Port Perry
- Brock Waste Management Facility, C22480 Brock Sideroad 17, Cannington
- Clarington Household Special Waste Depot, 1998 Bowmanville Avenue, Bowmanville
- Waste Management Centre, 4600 Garrard Road, Whitby
- Waste Management Call Centre



For more information, please visit durham.ca/waste

If you require this information in an accessible format, please call 1-800-667-5671.