

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 17 No. 40

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, October 14, 2021

Parade looking for participants • Uncovering book covers • Keep the bell ringing



AFTERNOONS IN THE PARK WITH FRIENDS - A group of women from Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Uxbridge met under the colourful canopy of trees on Tuesday for a physically distanced chat. Local colours are at their peak now, and forecasted rain may see them shortly fall to the ground. *Photo by John Cavers*

Book festival promises big names, something for everyone

by Justyne Edgell

The Book Drunkard Festival, hosted by Uxbridge's Blue Heron Books, is back again this year, for the third year in a row!

Shelley Macbeth, owner of Blue Heron Books says they have a great lineup of authors for this year's festival, "and as it's a virtual event, we can actually have bigger names that otherwise couldn't come because of distance."

Inspired by Lucy Maud Montgomery's famous quote "I am simply a 'book drunkard'," the festival shares a collection of books, author presentations and experiences that any reading and writing fanatic will love. According to the website, the idea of the Book Drunkard Festival is to capture "the wonderment of the written word and its ability to intoxicate, transport, and transform; it is meant for all ages and myr-

iad tastes.

The festival line up includes local and international authors alike. An event ticket purchases a copy of the book, the virtual author talk (carried out over Zoom), and for certain events, additional local delicacies by some of the festival partners.

"We're doing an experience India event with Alka Joshi," says Macbeth. "Her book actually contains recipes, so we have printed up the recipes for Aloo Gobi and chai tea latte, and the Passionate Cook has put together the spice packets so you have all that you need to make them."

Macbeth says that Joshi will have her 89-year-old father join her to make the Aloo Gobi "as she says he is a far better cook than she is."

Another package highlight, this time for children, is *Our Table* with Peter H. Reynolds. A

book about putting away the devices and enjoying a family meal, the event package includes a signed copy of the book, a table cloth and a family meal by the Passionate Cook.

Other local festival partners include Desbarres Chocolate, and the Second Wedge Brewing Company, which has created pairing flights with certain events.

And, as the festival is inspired by Maud, it wouldn't be complete without "a nod to Maud." This year features two Maud-centric events. The first finds authors Heather Tucker and Carolyn Huizinga Mills will chat about the lasting influence of Maud's writing. The other is an interactive event for children where they can get creative while making antique Christmas ornaments and cards destined for "kindred spirits" with Kallie George.

...continued on page 7

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Lottery rules at www.uxbridgerotary.com/catchtheace.
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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for October, 2021

Monday, October 18
COMMITTEE MEETING, 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, October 19
BIA BOARD, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 20
AGE FRIENDLY COMMITTEE, 3:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT
MEETING, 7:00 p.m. - CANCELLED

Monday, October 25
COUNCIL MEETING, 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC MEETING – ZBA 2021-03 –
BRIDGEBROOK, 7:00 p.m.

Proclamations for the Month

October 24, 2021: World Polio Day

Closures

- Mechanic Street and sidewalks are closed for the month of October due to water and sanitary sewer work and repaving. Residents will have access to their property.
- 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 mid-October. 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 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?

Taxpayers will no longer have to worry about missed due dates or late payment charges. Monthly payments allow for easier budgeting. Once you enroll, you do not have to reapply unless you have a new property within the Township.

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/en/living-here/property-taxes.aspx or at the Tax Department (51

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

Employment Opportunities

Details of all current positions are available at

www.uxbridge.ca/careers

By-Law Services - Municipal Law
Enforcement Officer, Parking Enforcement
Closes October 18, 2021

Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter – Animal
Care Attendant, Casual, Contract
Closes October 18, 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.

Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to

Uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders

U21-30 Grass Cutting

Closes November 4 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.

Horseshoes Continues!

For those wishing to take part, Horseshoe games are still going strong at the Museum on Concession 6. Join in the fun Tuesdays at 5pm! Contact Bob at 905-852-9176 for details.

October 2021

Notice of Road Closure



Planks Lane from Third Ave. S. to Franklin St. is closed except for local traffic. Sidewalks are also closed.

Ongoing road work is occurring in this area.



60th Santa Claus Parade

Celebrating 60 years of holiday Joy

**Sat., Nov. 20
11am**

Parade travels along
Brock St.
from
Centre St. to Nelkydd Lane

uxbridge.ca/parade

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PHOTO CONTEST

Uxbridge Off-Leash Dog Park

Exciting news! We're holding our very first fundraiser for the Uxbridge Off Leash Dog Park and we thought the best way to do it was to have a Photo Contest!

Prizes to be awarded LIVE at the Dog Park on Oct 30th, 2021 at 10am!

Show off your fabulous furry friend for a chance to win cash prizes! It only costs \$5 a photo to play.

For details, follow this link:
<https://forms.uxbridge.ca/Dog-Park-Photo-Contest>
or scan the QR Code, below.

Generously sponsored by:
Uxbridge Veterinary Hospital

and by... The Dog House and Fit For A Dog

The Uxbridge Historical Centre's
UPCOMING EVENTS

A Paranormal Presentation and Q&A with the Georgina Paranormal Society
Admission - \$10
Oct. 21st | 7:00 pm | 8:30 pm

An Evening with Jessica Miller: International Psychic Medium
Admission - \$20
Oct. 29th | 6:30 pm | 8:30 pm
Nov. 12th | 6:30 pm | 8:30 pm

Fright at the Museum
Admission - \$3
Oct. 30th | 4:00-9:00 pm

Printmakers PA Day Camp
Age: 7-12 years old
Admission - \$35
Nov. 12th | 8:30-4:00 pm

Registration Required
Call: (905) 852-5854
Email: museum@uxbridge.ca
Website: www.uxbridgehistoricalcentre.com



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

Uxbridge at a Glance continued



REGION OF DURHAM NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING A PROPOSED DRAFT PLAN OF SUBDIVISION TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING PROPOSED TOWNSHIP OFFICIAL PLAN AND ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENTS



This Notice is to inform you that an application has been received from Bridgebrook Corporation by the Region of Durham for a proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision, in conjunction with an application for a Regional Official Plan Amendment, and by the Township of Uxbridge for Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendments all of which have been deemed complete in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act.

Further, it should be noted that the Regional Official Plan Amendment has been the subject of a previous public meeting held by the Region of Durham on September 7, 2021.

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, the proposed Official Plan and Township Zoning By-law Amendments and the proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision pursuant to Sections 51, 16 and 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990.

The statutory public meeting will be held in an electronic format only in order to practice social distancing and help stop the spread of COVID-19 in accordance with Ontario Regulation 149/20, Special Rules relating to a Declared Emergency under The Planning Act. The Region of Durham will be processing the application for Draft Plan of Subdivision, together with the Regional Official Plan Amendment application, and the Township of Uxbridge will be processing the Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment applications as required by the Planning Act and welcome any comments that you may have.

PLAN OF SUBDIVISION

The proposed application is for the development of a 588 unit residential plan of subdivision.

PURPOSE OF PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN AND ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENTS:

- The purpose of these applications is to redesignate the subject lands in the Township Official Plan from "Future Residential Area" to "Residential Area" as well as rezone the lands from "Rural (RU) Zone" to the "Residential Second Density (R2) Zone", with exceptions, the "Open Space (OS) Zone" and the "Environmental Protection (EP) Zone" to facilitate the development of a 588 unit residential plan of subdivision.

- The Subject Property is currently designated as "Special Study Area No. 6" in the Durham Region Official Plan. The Subject Property is designated "Future Residential Area" as identified on Schedule A of the Township Official Plan and zoned "Rural (RU) Zone".

- The Applicant has submitted concurrent applications for a Regional Official Plan Amendment and Subdivision Application with Durham Region.

LOCATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY:

The Subject Property is located on the east side of Concession Road 6, north of Bolton Drive, having the municipal address of 7370 Centre Road, and is legally described as Parts 1 & 2 of Lot 33, Concession 6, Township of Uxbridge, Region of Durham. The location of the property is graphically illustrated on the key map below.

FILE NO.: Region of Durham File Nos. **OPA 2021-005 and S-U-2021-01**
Township of Uxbridge File Nos. **OPA 66, ZBA 2021-03 and SUB 2021-01**

APPLICANT: Bridgebrook Corp. (John Spina)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Additional information relating to the applications is available for inspection in the Development Services Department between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Township Municipal Office, 51 Toronto Street South, Uxbridge, Ontario subject to COVID protocols. It is preferred that if you require additional information that it be requested by email, mail, fax, or telephone from the undersigned. Additional information with respect to the proposed draft plan of subdivision and Regional Official Plan Amendment applications can be obtained by contacting Lori Riviere-Doersam at lori.riviere-doersam@durham.ca.

Jo Ann Merrick
Administrative Assistant Public Works & Operations/
Development Services
Township of Uxbridge
51 Toronto St. S., Uxbridge, ON L9P 1T1
Email: jmerrick@uxbridge.ca
(t)905-852-9181 ext 202 (f) 905-852-9674

PLANNING ACT REQUIREMENTS:

This Notice is being given in accordance with Planning Act requirements. A final recommendation on the applications will not be presented until after the Public Meeting and all technical comments have been received.

Due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency, physical attendance is not permitted at this public meeting. The public meeting is being 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, October 25, 2021

TIME: Public Meeting 7:00 p.m.

REPRESENTATION

ANY PERSON may participate in the public meeting and/or make written or oral representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment and Draft Plan of Subdivision.

1. Written Submissions

Written submissions related to the proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision should be addressed to the Planning & Economic Development Department of the Region of Durham at the address shown below. Written submissions related to the proposed Official Plan and

Zoning By-law amendments should be addressed to the Township Clerk at the address shown below. If you wish to be notified of the approval or the refusal of the proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision, you must make a written request to the Planning & Economic Development Department of the Region of Durham. If you wish to be notified of the adoption or the refusal of the proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments, you must make a written request to the Township Clerk before their adoption.

2. Oral Submissions

Oral submissions may be provided to Planning Committee at the meeting on livestream, you must pre-register with the Clerk's office by email at jmachesney@uxbridge.ca, or telephone at 905-852-9181 ext 209 or mail at the address below before 12:00 noon on Friday, October 22, 2021. Please include your full name, address, and a call-back phone number. You will be contacted by the Clerk's office to confirm your participation and receive the online and call-in information before the meeting. Technical assistance may be provided to ensure you are able to participate.

PLANNING ACT REQUIREMENTS

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make written submissions to the Region of Durham in respect of the proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision before it is approved or refused, or to the Township of Uxbridge in respect to the proposed Official Plan or Zoning By-law Amendments before they are adopted or denied, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decisions of the Region of Durham or Township of Uxbridge, as applicable, to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make written submissions to the Region of Durham

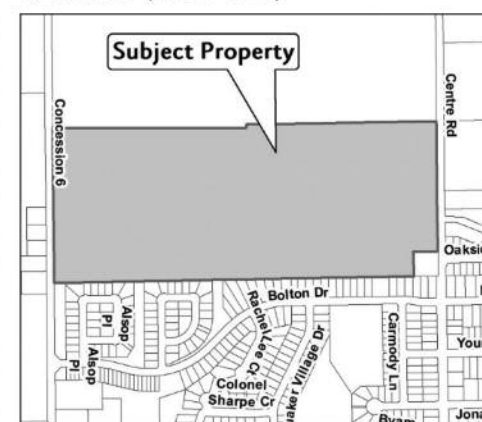
in respect of the proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision before it is approved or refused, or to the Township of Uxbridge in respect to the proposed Official Plan or Zoning By-law Amendments before they are adopted or denied, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

DATED AT THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE THIS 4th DAY OF OCTOBER 2021.

Debbie Leroux, Clerk
Township of Uxbridge
Box 190, Uxbridge, Ontario L9P 1T1
905-852-9181 Ext.228
dleroux@uxbridge.ca

Lori Riviere-Doersam, Principal Planner
Planning & Economic Development
Department
Region of Durham
605 Rossland Road E., P.O. Box 623
Whitby, Ontario L1N 6A3
905-668-4113 Ext 2572
lori.riviere-doersam@durham.ca

KEY MAP (not to scale)



Truth be told.

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Our two cents

Boo humbug - it's that time of year

Tomorrow is the Ides of October, and we feel it should get as much recognition as the Ides of March do (for those who need a reminder, that's March 15, reportedly the day that Julius Caesar was murdered by his so-called pals). Oct. 15 deserves recognition because it usually falls after Thanksgiving, and is officially the beginning of "what-the-heck-celebration/observance-is-it-now-anyway?" season.

At least a month ago, in a certain discount store in town, the Halloween merchandise aisle was set up with record speed. Black and orange seasonal spookiness fills both sides of the aisle - perfectly normal, you say. Except after you have filled your basket with costume accessories, spider webs and fake blood, you round the corner to the next aisle...and are met with red, white and green merriment! You can nestle your Santa hat right next to a headband replete with flashing devil horns, if you so desire.

This is the time that everyone starts to complain - "There should be no Christmas anything on display until Remembrance Day is over." "Halloween stuff was out before school even started!" "I haven't changed over my summer clothes to my winter clothes, it can't snow yet."

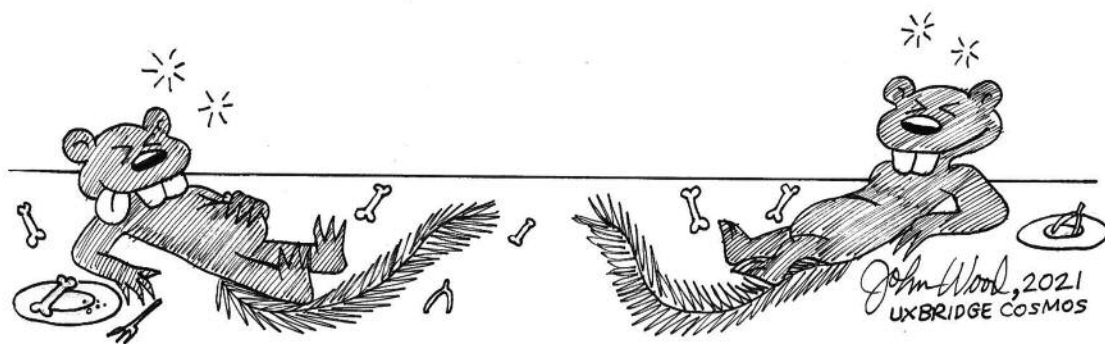
It's a confusing time. To add to it, now that Sept. 30 is National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, does it mean that the Honour Our Vets banners that proudly line our streets should wait until after the 30th to be put up and displayed? We can always look to the banners to know what time of year it is, but the stores and the advertising just mess us all up again.

This year, though, it might be worth quietly getting a head start on holiday shopping. Many manufacturers and shop owners, both brick and mortar and online, are warning the public that shortages and delays are becoming part of the "new normal" that COVID-19 has brought about. To that end, some are sending out notices to loyal customers encouraging them to "get wishlists done early and start shopping for your holiday wants and needs as soon as you can."

Maybe (we can't believe we're saying this) this year it is almost acceptable for the Halloween aisle and the Christmas decoration aisle to be side by side at the same time. Get that one-stop shopping done while the stuff is still there to grab.

If this is the "new normal" and it's here to stay, we're going to officially declare the Ides of October as the official beginning of that crazy time of year when everything starts to ramp up, overlap and get weird. Good thing there's New Year's Day. Then quiet can set in again.

WE INTERRUPT THIS WEEK'S REGULARLY SCHEDULED CARTOON TO BRING YOU A TURKEY COMA...



Letters to the Editor

Re: "No new homes," Letters, Sept. 30

The housing development proposed for 7370 Centre Rd. is occurring in the wrong place, and at the wrong time.

It is in the wrong place because it will result in the irrevocable destruction of productive farmlands. Farmland destruction for development is outdated thinking. We can no longer afford to lose our sources of food supply. Development must now occur on land that has already been rendered useless for farming, and is not part of our valuable wilderness areas. We have already paved far too much of our planet's surface.

The project is occurring at the wrong time because it will contribute to the causes of climate change, a huge problem touching everyone. Uxbridge should be at the forefront of the fight against climate change, and this can't happen if the town continues to support outdated subdivision planning. There is no altruistic motive for such plans, only profit, which is shameful given the climate crisis in which we find ourselves.

Uxbridge is home to so many who value the town's still quaint atmosphere, and its relatively small dimensions. Extending the town north by adding hundreds of homes is environmentally unsupportable, and will bring the town one step closer to becoming just another monotonous Toronto suburb. Now is the time (until Oct. 22) to register any objection to the housing development planned for the farmlands at 7370 Centre Rd.

John Tomlinson
Uxbridge

Editor's note: The following letters are published here in the order in which

they were received.

On the Right Track, Roger

For many years I've wondered how the train (York-Durham Heritage Railway) fits with the texture of our town. Yes, it's old, but that sure doesn't seem to be the spirit of events offered on the train. I don't know if YDHR really is a good guest in our town.

Every event they hold is preceded by several days of track maintenance. During that time, old rail ties are pulled up AND - wait for it - tossed in the wetland beside the tracks. There are more than 100 creosote soaked rail ties sitting in stacks between the train station and Conc. 6.

I've made inquiries with YDHR over the years about this and never get a satisfactory response. The first time, many years ago, they told me "we don't have the funds to do a proper clean up." When a reporter started digging around, they were told, "you are on private property and are not permitted to write a story about this."

That prompted me to call the environmental folks at CN/CP. They *did* care, and whether it was coincidence or not, the ties were cleaned up that summer. Yay!

But that was many years ago, and I've been watching the piles grow year after year. Two years ago, I noticed a deep oil stain covering the centre of the track all the way along. Clearly the locomotive was leaking oil. I felt bad for the poor snapping turtle who chose to lay her eggs in the midst of it.

Then the pandemic hit. Lots of us were skiing or walking our dogs on the tracks. It was lovely. In the midst of such turmoil in the world, a peaceful walk was one of the few things we could still do without

fear. Then, one morning, along the tracks came a very small, slow-moving cart with two men sitting in it. Neither was wearing a mask. "Did you know you can be fined \$1,000 for walking along here?" Not a very nice opening to a conversation.

"Are you with CN?" I asked.

"No, we're with YDHR."

"Great," I said, "Any chance you could tell me when you plan to clean up all the ties? There are stacks and stacks of them all along the line and in fact, I know that leaving them sit like this is against the law."

"Well, you are trespassing if you know about the piles. And we aren't going to engage in this conversation with you."

And off they went.

Really? How about, "We will get them cleaned up this summer. But for your own safety, please don't walk along here." That sure sounds more professional and transparent. And it signals that this business, cares about the footprint they are leaving in our town.

Thanks to Roger Varley, we recently learned that YDHR has another set of events planned and wants to close roads at a discounted rate. And yet, no clean up plan. Is there any business in Uxbridge that would be permitted to leave their construction garbage in the wetland - especially when that garbage is a known hazard? Shouldn't this part of the prep be part of the budget for putting on the event?

YDHR is operating here as our guest. And they, by their own admission, have a \$500,000 payroll. If they cannot afford to pay for the ongoing maintenance of their business, and to properly dispose of hazardous materials that impact all of us, are they really the kind of business we want?

...continued on page 11

When one of
these disappears,
A LOT disappears.

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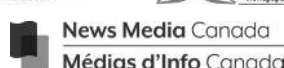
**The Uxbridge
COSMOS**

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8,800 delivered by
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stores and boxes.



Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

How about Juan of Green Gables?

Maybe I'm just an old fart griping about the good old days, but some news out of the entertainment world recently has left me shaking my head and wondering what's coming next.

A news item today (Tuesday) revealed that comic-book superhero Superman is now bisexual! Isn't the fact that Superman can fly, survive nuclear blasts and is impervious to anything other than Kryptonite interesting enough without wondering if he has sex and with whom?

That little Superman tidbit comes just a couple of weeks after another superhero, Batman's sidekick Robin, also was deemed to be bisexual. One is left to ponder the possibility that Wonder Woman is actually transsexual. And, given the apparent need to be up-to-date about the sexuality of characters, should H. Rider Haggard's book *She* now be titled *They*?

What on earth are the creators of these comic strips thinking? Do they really think Superman and Batman fans care about the heroes' sexuality? All I ever cared about was how - (not whether) - the heroes would overcome the villains and how they would escape from seemingly impossible situations. It never occurred to me to wonder if Robin wore leopard-print underpants or if Superman had a tattoo on his behind. Just as I never bothered to ask myself whether Bert and Ernie from Sesame Street were gay or whether the purple Teletubby was gay, something which perplexed a good many evangelists south of the border.

But that's not the end of it. Now comes news that the iconic spy, James Bond 007, will be played in a future movie by a black female. Ian Fleming must be rolling over in his grave. And he likely will be joined by Henry VIII, since a new television drama in Britain has a black actress playing the role of Anne Boleyn. Since Anne Boleyn was the mother of Elizabeth 1, it will be interesting to see how the drama's writers explain how the famously red-haired, pale-skinned Elizabeth could have had a black mother.

I'm all for inclusion, but not at the cost of discarding the roots of famous fictional and historical figures. Yes, I know that in the past white actors and actresses have played characters who were not white, but flipping the coin doesn't correct that old sin.

If this trend continues, what can we expect in the future? How about Juan of Green Gables, where the Cuthberts adopt a Mexican orphan? Let's have a new Robin Hood movie where the hero is played by a Chinese lesbian who spells her name Robyn. There have been numerous King Kong movies, so the next remake could have Kong played by Miss Piggy. Or *The Old Man and the Sea* could be reworked as *The Little Boy and the Pond*.

Ridiculous, right? But I would suggest the above-mentioned changes are equally ridiculous. And those behind these changes might someday discover the error of their ways. Not long ago, there was a local production of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*. The director decided to set the time of the play in the 1920s - just because. However, the director's choice soon ran afoul of the dialogue, which made reference to ration books, which only came into being during the Second World War, and "Japs," another Second World War reference. There are some things that just can't be changed.

I suppose those responsible for Superman's bisexuality and Anne Boleyn's dark skin colour want to think of themselves as being "woke," a term that has been bandied about for a while now but one which I am not quite sure I understand. However, they are not "woke": they are being controversial just for the sake of being controversial. In other words, just because. It tells me the writers behind these moves are devoid of any new ideas, so they just mess around with the characters to appear that they are "with it." I think they would do well to spend more time on coming with new and original story ideas that are about those who have long been neglected in the entertainment industry. Don't make Superman bisexual, create a brand new bisexual superhero, and a story to go along. Stop doing strange remakes, come up with a new idea or two. Don't try to change the past - think for yourself and create a new, interesting future.

I am, of course, being very tongue-in-cheek here, but it seems to me that if these writers continue messing around with characters we've all come to know and accept, it won't be long before we see Samuel L. Jackson playing the role of Peter Pan.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

What a book cover can uncover

He is a veteran. He is the grandson of a veteran. As important to me as anything, however, Klaus Keast, a total stranger, has found a connection that's brought us together unexpectedly. He recently wrote me an email requesting an autographed copy of my 2019 book *Rush to Danger*, about military medics. But in addition, he asked if I could acknowledge the military service of his mentor.

"He (was) a Jewish medic, who not only served in WWII," Keast wrote, "but he also had to fight to be involved in the war effort when initially refused by (anti-Semitic) recruiters."

I thought, how appropriate that a man of Jewish faith fought prejudice in his own Allied army to be able to serve in the Second World War against the Nazis. He also served in defiance of the Holocaust. And finally, rather than choosing to take lives, he chose to preserve them - as a medic.

"And he's featured on the front cover of your book, *Rush to Danger*," Keast wrote.

I had no idea that one of those four medics on my book dust jacket was Keast's mentor. And, since I have not yet communicated further with Keast, I still don't know the Jewish medic's name. But in the last few days, since I received Keast's note, I've kept pinching myself that his appearance on the cover of my book is purely coincidental. The photo was chosen randomly by the art designer at my publisher's office. It shows four British Army medics carrying a wounded soldier to safety in Norway in 1940. I applauded the art designer's choice, but had no idea who the medics were until Keast emailed me, last week.

And this is at least the third time an image chosen for my books, coincidentally revealed more than I'd ever anticipated. Shortly after my book about *The Great Escape* was published in 2013, I received an email from Rob McKay, an air-traffic controller in Vancouver. He'd seen a photo in my book depicting members of the Royal Canadian Air Force imprisoned inside at the Stalag Luft III German POW compound in Poland. They'd formed one of many inside-the-wire baseball teams.

"One of the prisoners pictured in your book," McKay wrote, "was my Great Uncle Tom (Tommy) Jackson."

I opened a copy of my book, *The Great Escape: A Canadian Story*, and there behind the crisscrossed bats in the photo was a smiling,

29-year-old Canadian bomber pilot, in 1943. To help pass the time of wartime incarceration, the men played sports (which helped disguise construction of the escape tunnels used in the escape March 24/25, 1944).

But McKay's email painted an even more vivid picture of his great uncle. "One Saturday evening, at my mom's home in Abbotsford, years after the war, during a hockey game, no less, Uncle Tom started talking about the war. He was the pilot aboard a Halifax bomber shot down over northern Germany," McKay wrote. "Uncle Tom thought his entire crew got out before he bailed out. He later learned that the tail gunner had forgotten his parachute. He knew if Tom found him, they would both try to use one parachute and would both die. So, he'd hidden in the back of the plane and died when the bomber crashed."

It was a story not found in my book, but which I've shared with audiences for nearly a decade.

Even more coincidentally, when I chose the cover for *Breaking the Silence*, my book about meeting veterans and how they've battled their PTSD demons, I tripped over a photo taken during Canada's NATO mission in the Afghanistan War. It showed a Canadian soldier inside a troop transport. First, I acquired rights to publish the photo and then searched the Canadian Armed Forces system to get permission from Corporal Chris deBeaupre to use his picture. He quickly said he'd be honoured.

By October of that year, I was on the road, speaking about the book and its hundreds of stories from WWII, the Korean War and Iraq and Afghanistan. In five weeks, I was interviewed about a hundred times. But none of my interview sessions came close to a chance encounter that November. Following one of my talks at a Toronto suburban bookstore, a woman in the audience caught my attention. I introduced myself and so did she.

"I'm Sandy deBeaupre," she said, "my son is on your book cover."

There are some who claim such encounters are fate. I tend to think they're coincidental. But as I absorb my most recent email exchange with the Klaus Keast, whose mentor somehow ended up on the cover of my book, I can't help but think I didn't so much choose these images. *They* kind of chose *me*.

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



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No road closure for Thomas event

by Roger Varley

York-Durham Heritage Railway (YDHR) has withdrawn its request to council to close Railway Street for two weekends in October to hold its Day Out With Thomas event.

Public Works director Ben Kester told council on Monday, Oct. 4, that YDHR had taken the road closure "off the table" and would instead bus visitors to the event from the south end of the township.

YDHR executive director John Perks told the *Cosmos* that parking for the event will be at Dagmar Ski Resort on Lake Ridge Rd., which he said can handle 3,000 parked cars. He said Thomas visitors will then be shuttled to the railway station in town by buses. Dagmar will also be the site of all activities associated with the Thomas event.

On Tuesday, YDHR announced that all passengers for the Thomas train must travel to Dagmar, where a \$20 cash parking fee will be required for each vehicle. This also applies to any passengers who live in the Uxbridge urban area. The announcement said no one will be allowed admittance at the station. The parking fee is in addition to the non-refundable \$25 fee for each train ticket.

Councillor Bruce Garrod said he

would like to see a traffic management plan from YDHR before the event.

Perks explained the reason YDHR's original request for the road closure was so late getting to council was because the organization needed to know what COVID-19 protocols Durham Health required for the event. He said that information came about two weeks before making the request to council, but it had to be shared with the Mattel corporation in the U.S. before going to council.

Perks speculated that the shuttling of visitors between Dagmar and the railway station will hurt local businesses because visitors will not have the opportunity to wander around the downtown.

"The economy will suffer because the township wasn't willing to work with us," he said.

Mayor Dave Barton said Tuesday he understands that running large events in the last 18 months has been difficult and "I get that YDHR is trying to solve problems. I hope we can work together in the future."

He added, however, that a major part of council's work is to ensure a healthy local economy and past Thomas events, which took over much of the parking downtown, had a negative effect on local businesses.

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Santa Claus *is* coming to town, and he wants you to join him!

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Now that Thanksgiving is over, it's time to start thinking about the upcoming holiday season. Roll your eyes if you must, but the Township's Santa Claus Parade Committee, along with the BIA, has been busy putting together this year's parade since early this summer, and is now inviting everyone to join the fun!

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Uxbridge Santa Claus Parade, and the Man in Red is looking for floats, bands, marchers to join him as he brings Uxbridge together to celebrate with him on Saturday, Nov. 20 at 11 a.m. Businesses, families, schools, service organizations and religious groups are all invited to sign up and start creating a magical parade entry that celebrates the holiday season in Uxbridge.

For those interested in being in the parade in some capacity, go to uxbridge.ca/parade and simply fill out the online form. Registration for all participants must be completed by Monday, Nov. 8.

Also online are opportunities for parade

sponsorship, direct donations, and a call for volunteers. Many people are needed to help make the parade run smoothly, so everyone from high school students needing volunteer hours to holiday lovers are needed to "be an elf" for the day.

The parade route will be the same as in past years, beginning at the Uxbridge Arena and running east along Brock St. right to Uxbridge Secondary School. Non-perishable food donations will be collected for the Loaves and Fishes Foodbank, and cash donations will be collected by the Uxbridge Fire Department.

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, however, those attending the parade will be encouraged to watch the parade with their own family/friend group, and physical distancing will be strongly encouraged. For those who aren't ready to celebrate the parade in person, Rogers TV will be covering the parade live, and making it available to watch on tv from the comfort of home.

Any inquiries regarding the parade can be directed to lvann@thecosmos.ca

Book Drunkard, from page 1

Other authors on the list include Chris Hadfield, Alice Hoffman, Terry Fallis, and Linden MacIntyre, to name but a few. There will also be two local author book launches. Annabelle Murray will formally introduce her book of poetry *The Exact Shape of Me*, of which all proceeds benefit Abbey Retreat Centre. And Lucy

Black launches her new book, *Stella's Carpet*, as an in person event this Saturday, Oct. 16, from 3 - 5 p.m.

The Book Drunkard Festival has a nice long run this year, spanning from Oct. 13 right through to Dec. 1. To learn more about the festival, the events and to buy tickets, visit bookdrunkard.com

The Proscenium Club's new play offers a healthy dose of hijinks and just a touch of gore

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Waste Plan Town Hall



Learn about the Region's draft Long-term Waste Management Plan (Waste Plan) and Five-Year Action Plan before the new Waste Plan is finalized in early 2022.

Tuesday, October 19 from 7 to 8 p.m.

The Town Hall will begin at 7 p.m. Please visit durham.ca/WastePlanTownHall to access the event. Pre-registration is not required. For viewing on a mobile device, please download and install the free Microsoft Teams app prior to the event.

Your voice matters! Questions can be submitted ahead of the Town Hall through email at WastePlan@durham.ca.

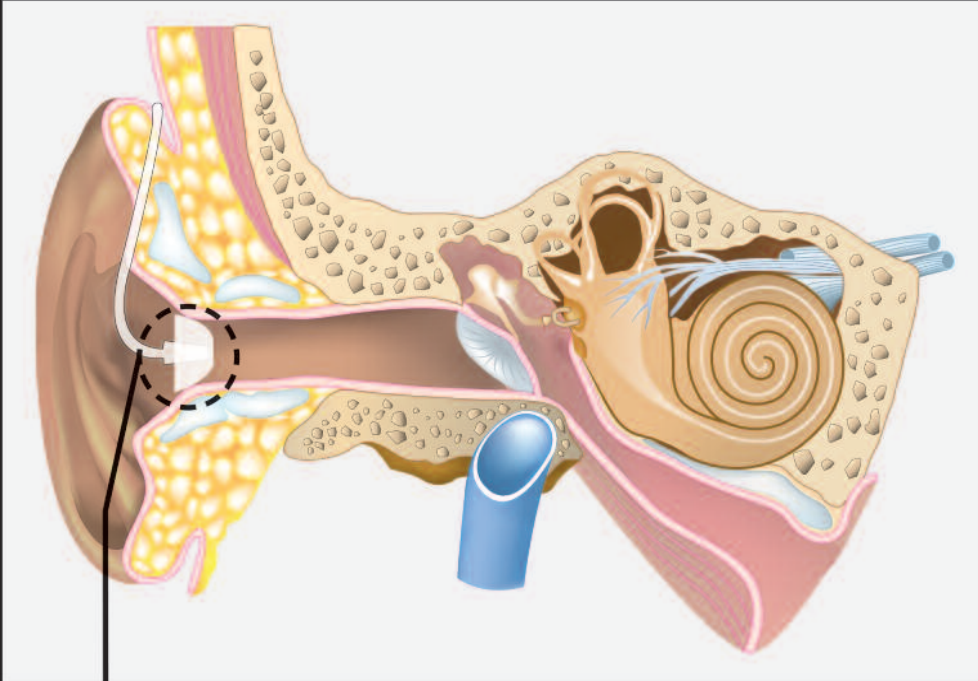


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Trinity United looking to keep the bell ringing

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

The steeple of Trinity United Church on First Ave. is one of the most recognizable landmarks in downtown Uxbridge. It needs some repair and restoration, however, and the church is appealing to residents to help restore the iconic bell tower.

According to Cindy Finlay, office administrator at Trinity, the church bell there has been

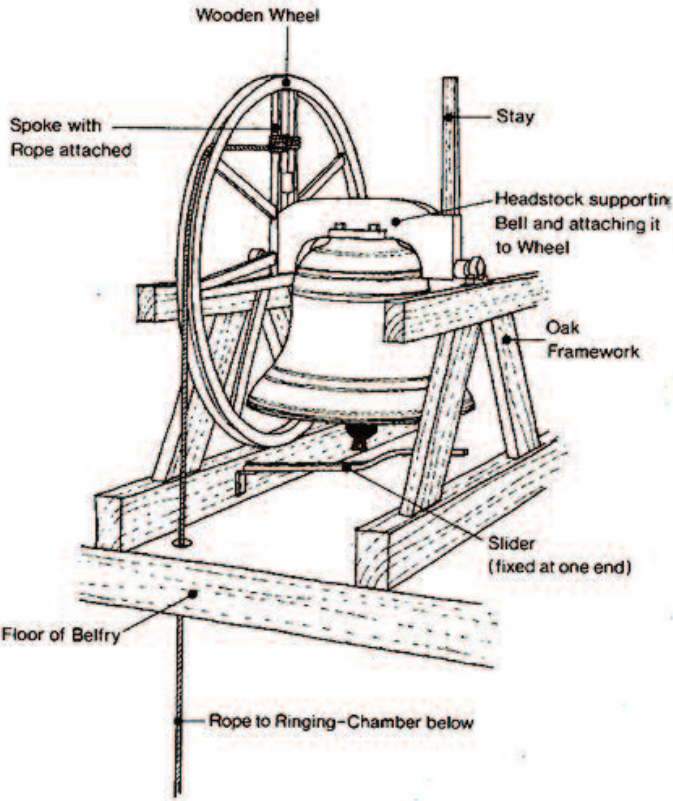
bringing people together since January 1889. Not only has it rung for Sunday services, weddings and funerals, but also more recently in partnership with St. Paul's Anglican Church to commemorate the first 215 Indigenous children who were found in an unmarked grave in British Columbia.

"I think the bell at Trinity is really a significant part of the community, whether you're a church-goer or not, and some people might be sad if it were to disappear," Finlay reflects.

Restoration to the roof primarily involves replacing the current roof with a metal one and updating the underlying roof structure. The work is expected to cost \$25,000, and the church says it's offering the entire community the opportunity to help, and not just its own congregation, because the bell plays such a large role within the town as a whole.

Finlay says the repairs are important because the structure in the steeple is entirely wood, which must be kept leak-free because the 39" bronze bell weighs around 1,200 lbs (just over 544 kg). Although Trinity does not expect First Ave. will need to be closed off at any point during the restoration, it does want to alert residents that there will be a boom truck on site, as well as scaffolding, and that the sidewalk and parking on the west side of First Ave. will be restricted at some point during the project.

Those who wish to ensure that the bell continues to ring are invited to mail cheques to 20 First Ave., Uxbridge L9P 1M4. Etransfers to trinityuxbridge@gmail.com, or call 905-852-6213 if you'd like to make a donation by credit card.



Bell hung for change-ringing.

The diagram above illustrates how important a leak-free roof is to the all-wood apparatus that operates the 1,200 lb. Trinity United Church bell. Restoration efforts on the church steeple's roof are slated to begin this fall.

Submitted diagram



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Focus on Finance with Tammy Scuralli, Edward Jones

Purpose-driven retirement needs a financial strategy

Today's retirees, and those of tomorrow, have had a sense of purpose their entire lives – and they don't intend to give it up just because they'll no longer be working full time. In fact, 51% of recent retirees said retirement is the time for "a new chapter in life," compared with just 25% who said it was a time for "rest and relaxation." According to the 2020 Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. The same study found that 97% of retirees said it was important to keep learning and growing at every age. However, they find their purpose – contributing to the community, growing intellectually, gaining new experiences and so on – retirees will need to be financially prepared.

How can you prepare for a purposeful retirement? You may want to start by asking yourself these questions: Will I need to prioritize some of my goals? As a retiree, you may hope to do any number of things. You might want to take up a hobby or learn a new skill (online learning means you don't have to travel far to continue your education), volunteering in your local community, photography or gardening.

Like almost everyone else, you won't have unlimited financial resources during your retirement years, you may need to prioritize these goals, worthy as they may all be to your sense of purpose.

Can I still afford to retire at the age I planned? When you first calculated your ideal retirement age, you might have been counting on your investment portfolio having returned a certain percentage. Or you might have had different goals in mind than you do now. Or you might have had a somewhat different family situation. Changes in any or all of these factors could affect the age at which you choose to retire. But if you conclude that you may need to postpone retirement for a couple of years, your decision could offer some advantages, such as the ability to contribute more to your Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP), Tax Free Savings Account (TFSA) or similar employer-sponsored plan. In any case, it's a good idea to review your retirement plans periodically, perhaps at least once a year.

How can I incorporate philanthropy into my financial strategy? Giving back to your community may be a key element of your purpose-driven retire-

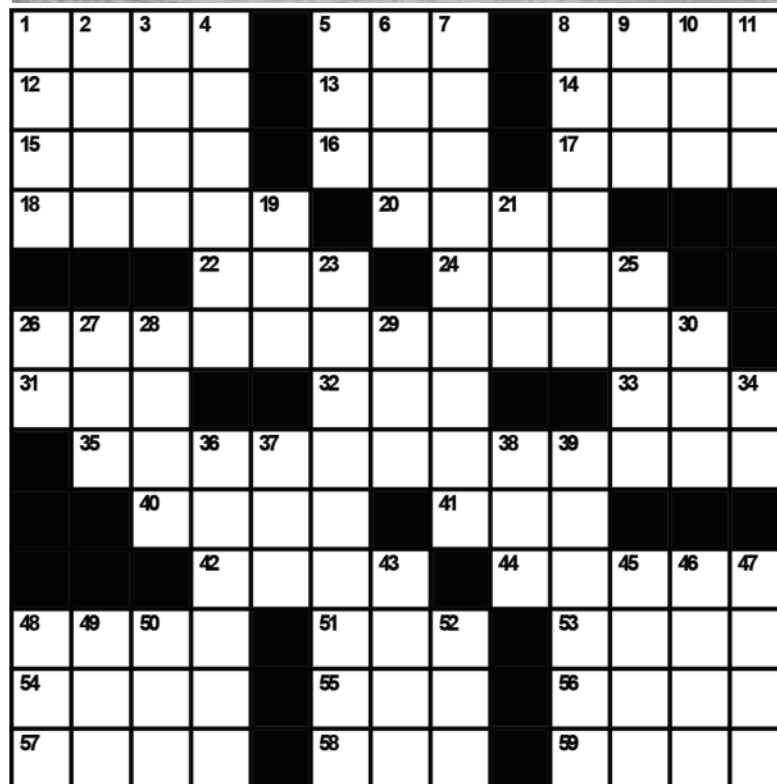
ment. Yet, with so many educational, civic and cultural groups in existence – including many in your own area – you probably can't give as much as you'd like to all of them without affecting your own lifestyle today and the legacy you'd like to leave for your family. So, you may want to take two distinct steps. First, consider establishing a budget for how much you will give to charitable groups each year. And, second, think about including philanthropy in your estate plans. Because there are many vehicles and techniques available, you should consult with your legal, tax and financial professionals when drawing up your estate-planning strategies.

It can be extremely rewarding to live your retirement purposefully – but you'll find it a lot easier to do when you make the right financial moves.

This column, written and published by Edward Jones, Member Canadian Investor Protection Fund, presents general information only. Insurance and annuities are offered by Edward Jones Insurance Agency (except in Quebec).

For more information, please contact Tammy E. Scuralli, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones, at 905-852-1244.

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Across

- 1 Clothing
- 5 Santa's little helper
- 8 Fellow
- 12 Wing-shaped
- 13 In addition
- 14 Greet
- 15 Centers of activity
- 16 Dove's sound
- 17 Go around in circles
- 18 Charger
- 20 Kind of bargain
- 22 In place of
- 24 Aug. follower
- 26 Place where stars change (2 words)
- 31 Engine need
- 32 Sticky stuff
- 33 Row
- 35 Henry Ford invention (2 words)
- 40 Austen novel
- 41 Batman and Robin, e.g.
- 42 One of ____
- 44 Dead, as an engine
- 48 "Casablanca" cafe owner
- 51 Tawny, for example
- 53 Plunder
- 54 Part of a plot
- 55 Police detector test
- 56 Goes quickly
- 57 Spat
- 58 Scrambled or fried
- 59 Previously

Down

- 1 Misses
- 2 Very much (2 words)
- 3 Derby event
- 4 Legal documents
- 5 List abbr.
- 6 Aerial maneuver
- 7 Iron pyrite (2 words)
- 8 Like a miser
- 9 Ate
- 10 Help
- 11 Carry on
- 19 Affairs
- 21 Always, in verse
- 23 A set of confused and meaningless statements
- 25 Indian helmet
- 26 Complete
- 27 Narrow inlet
- 28 Besides that
- 29 San Francisco's ____ Hill
- 30 They are Blue in Vegas
- 34 "____ are the champions"
- 36 Prepared salmon
- 37 Down Under bird
- 38 Ugh!
- 39 Detest
- 43 Draft
- 45 Brace
- 46 Luau strings
- 47 Beta
- 48 Brit heroes in WW II
- 49 Gretzky's milieu
- 50 Wine class
- 52 Table part



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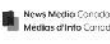


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EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (via ZOOM) Uxbridge Loaves & Fishes Food Bank, Friday, Oct. 15, 10 a.m. To receive a ZOOM invitation link, please email uxbridgeloadsandfishes@hotmail.com

YARD SALES

GARAGE/MOVING SALE Sat., Oct. 16, 93 Oakside Dr., Uxbridge, 8:30 until noon. MASKS REQ'D. Furniture, lamps, home decor, air chairs, garden tools, drawing board, fishing rods and tackle.

YARD & MOVING SALE Oct. 23 & 24, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rain dates Oct. 30 & 31. 471 Wagg Rd., Uxbridge. Everything must go! Lots of bargains and freebies! 10/21

Letters, continued from page 4

We are in the midst of rethinking what our town might look like. Imagine if the train no longer ran, and this entire corridor became a walking trail. Imagine if the old, graffiti-covered trains sitting in town were gone, and that area became a green space. And imagine, with no train, kids could "legally" use the trail system to walk to school.

So while it is apparently illegal for any of us to walk along the tracks and see this ongoing pollution, perhaps someone from council can talk to YDHR and ask for permission to have a look, then have a fully transparent conversation about what their responsibilities are while they are a guest in our town.

In the meantime, let's start looking for a new guest.

Name withheld upon request

YDHR's Response to "On the wrong track?", Sept. 23

As the CEO and president of York-Durham Heritage Railway Association, I wanted to take a moment to write to you with information regarding our historic organization.

York-Durham Heritage Railway often receives positive responses and press from local, provincial and federal news agencies, but it's only natural that occasionally there would be some negative PR. We are an organization that just celebrated its 25th anniversary and are based in the community of Uxbridge. We have never responded to articles or other negative PR, mostly because we understand, like all other registered charities, that you can't win them all.

However, the *Cosmos* recently published an article that was filled with information that, bluntly - just isn't true. It was written without comment, questions or interviews with anyone in our organization.

York-Durham Heritage Railway has come through one of the hardest seasons of its existence, like many tourist operators. We were not even sure we would survive the global pandemic and the sudden shutdown of the tourism industry. We were at the beginning of a five-year growth and restructuring as an organization when COVID-19 hit.

The writer of the article leads the reader to believe that YDHR is receiving a benefit, or somehow being treated differently, than it should be. He comments on a discounted rate, but doesn't mention how much it is. He comments on fencing, but not why it's necessary after 12 break-ins resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages. He comments on tents, without mentioning our need to keep our guests comfortable in outdoor elements. He fails to mention the \$20,000 fee the railway paid, prior to COVID, for our use of Elgin Park and Fields of Uxbridge for

three days (the highest fee paid by a non-profit to rent the park to date.) Nor did his memory recall that YDHR, when it was in a better financial position, made a donation to the township for Canada Day for \$12,000 to go towards the fireworks show. All easily fixable with facts, interviews or questions.

The most concerning part of the article, from my perspective as the CEO, is the last paragraph which states, "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 was pushing you to buy this or that." Unfortunately, that railway wasn't sustainable, and if we kept going in that direction we would be closed today as many historic railways sadly are. Mr. Varley- are you wrong? Most certainly!

The article ends with the idea that YDHR should pay more for road closure permits, and that we should be treated more like a business, because after all, we employ a lot of people, and according to the article, our payroll exceeds \$500,000. The facts seem not to be relevant.

YDHR is one of the largest employers of seniors and youth in the community, YDHR brings an economic impact of over \$2.3 million dollars to the township when it's operational. We are also one of the largest tourist operators in Durham, certainly North Durham, with over 100,000 guests per annum.

Are we perfect? Certainly not. COVID has pressured our finances in ways we have never had to bear, and in reality, without the federal government subsidies, we wouldn't have survived. We are still indebted to local businesses in significant sums, and many of them have been patient with us as we are still trying to re-establish our cash flow now as events reopen. We understand that other local vendors have been frustrated by the lack of response, or payment plans simply because, during the lockdown, we didn't know what the future held. We all have suffered through COVID, I personally fought it, and we have all had to bear uncomfortable times during the crisis. Our no refund policy has been difficult through this season, and something that our guests have had to bear with us and understand.

The worst of it seems to be over, events are opening up, and we are excited about opening our gates to

you and your families. We have implemented a large number of safety protocols, including mandatory vaccinations or proof of a negative COVID-19 test to enter our grounds.

For the month of October, the railway has entered into a partnership with Dagmar Ski Resort to offer grounds for our festival, and parking capacity. We are looking forward to working with the township, local businesses, and our community as we continue to run events for the following months and the year to come.

We know that regardless of your age, or background, everyone who comes onto our train experiences history in motion, and we have fought hard to be sure that we can continue to offer that same historic experience in many unique ways.

From all of us, at YDHR, we want to thank you for your support, your concern, and your dedication. Let's stay on track together!.

John-Graham Perks
President/ CEO

York-Durham Heritage Railway

Editor's note: "On the wrong track?" by Roger Varley, was an opinion piece, not an article, and therefore, by journalistic standards, did not require "comment, questions or interviews" from anyone at YDHR. The facts printed in the column were checked and verified before going to press.

I am writing in response to Roger Varley's Sept. 23 column of September 23 about the York-Durham Heritage Railroad.

As a founding member and former director of the YDHR, I can assure you that from 1990 to the early 2000's, no member was ever paid a cent for their work, which was all voluntary (train crew, track crew, shop crew, property maintenance). We did run a number of very successful special trips, including Christmas in July, train robberies, Masonic specials, Teddy Bear runs, sold out Hallowe'en runs and Santa runs in late fall. I cannot recall ever asking Uxbridge council to shut down any road or causing any major inconvenience in town, with one exception - the opening day parade in downtown Uxbridge in September 1996. Granted, we did not have the huge numbers that the current events are drawing, but as Roger said, we provided "a leisurely ride along the tracks through some beautiful countryside."

I and other former members of the

board were shocked to learn of a \$500,000 annual payroll, while still asking for deeply-discounted rates for road closures. During our operation, there were a number of road closures paid for by movie companies who rented our trains and the station from the town.

I agree totally with Roger that the YDHR should pay its fair share for road closures, as any other business in town would be required to do. I also agree with Roger with regard to the physical appearance of the grounds. Our volunteers and the

Uxbridge Horticultural Society maintained the grass and the flower beds and we had no chain link fences, tents or other eyesores. We did not have anywhere near the amount of "aging and decrepit equipment strewn along the tracks." Yes, we did have several pieces of equipment which needed restoration, but nothing like the large numbers now. We had one small oil shed for track maintenance. With success comes responsibility.

Peter Browne
Uxbridge



Congratulations!
Ricki & Bill Keyzers
on your
65th Wedding Anniversary
Wednesday, October 13, 2021



*65 years have passed
Since the day you said 'I do',
But still your love is strong
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By M.S. Loundes*

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We raised \$36,000!

Thank you to all our amazing volunteers, and to some very generous donations from local businesses, including: Cindy Wood, Williamsons, Uxbridge Shoes & Repairs, Main Street Pools, Slabtown Cider, Templeman's Toffee, Rosario Greco Styles, Port Perry Pet Valu, Uxbridge Canadian Tire, Zehrs, Uxbridge Dentistry, Kawartha Dairy, White Renovations, Little Kickers, CIBC, Hickling Pools & Spas, and Design Loc-Stone Inc. Thank you to all our guests who supported us with cash donations. Donations will go to RMHC, Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Durham, Precious Minds and Jennifer Ashleigh Children's Charity.

Job Posting!

Phlebotomist, Uxbridge

Alpha Healthcare is looking for talented Medical Laboratory Assistants to join our team in Uxbridge, for full-time and part-time positions. Working out of the new Oak Tree Medical Centre

Qualifications
Medical Laboratory Assistant program or equivalent, with specialized training in phlebotomy, MLPAO (OSMT) certification.

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CELEBRATE FAMILY DINNER WITH PETER H. REYNOLDS

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RJ PALACIO, AUTHOR OF 'WONDER' DISCUSSES HER NEWEST ADVENTURE-FILLED NOVEL

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JORDAN TANNAHILL

NOVEMBER 2 7:00 PM
KATHLEEN WINTER

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MICHELLE GOOD

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FLIGHT B
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OCTOBER 19 7:00 PM
ALICE HOFFMAN

NOVEMBER 10 7:00 PM
LINDEN MACINTYRE

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