

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 17 No. 39

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, October 7, 2021

Online @ thecosmos.ca this week • Bruins not off to great start • No road closures for YDHR • Sweet Mangoes



A DRESS TO REMEMBER - Elinor Cole thoughtfully hangs a red dress on a tree in Elgin Park, adding it to dozens of others as part of Maamawi Collective's endeavour to honour and bring awareness to murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls. The walk and gathering at the park occurred Sunday afternoon, just days after Canada's first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on Sept. 30.

Photo by John Cavers

Warm Hearts looking for outdoor winter clothing

by Justyne Edgell

Uxbridge Warm Hearts, previously known as Operation Warm Hearts, is back, gathering donations for the approaching winter season.

The program collects gently used winter clothing items like hats, gloves, coats, snow pants, and boots, and makes them available for purchase at a very low cost. They accept sizes from baby to adult.

The idea is to ensure that no one in our community goes without warm clothing in the winter," says Caitlyn Van Den Hurk, who, along with her husband Ian, took over Uxbridge Warm Hearts from Maggie McCreath and Michele Lyndsay after the 2019 sale. "As parents of two primary school-aged boys, it breaks our hearts to think of a child going to school without appropriate warm outdoor clothing."

Uxbridge Warm Hearts is run completely by volunteers and donations. The Rotary Club organizes clothing rack rentals, Wash Worx Laundromat cleans items that can be laundered, Take Root Creative helps with marketing and posters, and all "staff" working on the day volunteer their time. No accrued costs allows Uxbridge Warm Hearts to donate 100 per cent of its profits to the Uxbridge Loaves and Fishes Food Bank, continuing the cycle of giving back.

Donations are being collected now until Nov. 8, which gives the team a few days to prepare for the big sale on Nov. 13, from 12 noon to 3 p.m., at the community centre in the Uxbridge Arena.

"Winter items can be 'purchased' for minimal cost. The sale works on a pay-what-you-can basis, with a suggested minimum \$2 donation

for items. Non-perishable food item donations are also accepted," says Van den Hurk.

Donations can be dropped off at the collection box at Wash Worx, 11 Main St. N., or at the *Cosmos* office. Alternative drop offs can be organized by contacting Uxbridge Warm Hearts.

On sale day, shoppers must wear a mask, and those 12 and older will be required to show proof of vaccination.

"We understand this may be a barrier for some, but we must abide by the provincial and site-specific COVID protocols to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible. We will also need to abide by capacity limitations," says Van Den Hurk.

Learn more or contact Uxbridge Warm Hearts on Facebook, Instagram or by email at uxbridgewarmhearts@gmail.com

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 Tickets available at PharmaSave Uxbridge, Vince's Market Uxbridge, Canadian Tire Uxbridge, Uxbridge Legion Br. 170 & Stouffville IDA Pharmacy
 Ontario Problem Gambling Hotline 1-888-230-3505.
 Lottery rules at www.uxbridgerotary.com/catchtheace.
 No one under 18 may purchase a ticket or win the lottery.
 In support of
 Rotary Club of Uxbridge, Jumpstart, and the Uxbridge Police Service

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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

The Township of
UXBRIDGE
Trail Capital of Canada

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MORE INFO  www.uxbridge.ca

Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for October, 2021

Monday, October 11
NO MEETING - THANKSGIVING

Tuesday, October 12
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE, 7:00 p.m.

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 until 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.

Employment Opportunities

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

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

Uxbridge Public Library (Uxlib)
Student, Fall Programming
Closes October 8, 2021

Development Services Director
Closes October 11, 2021

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.



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



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




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

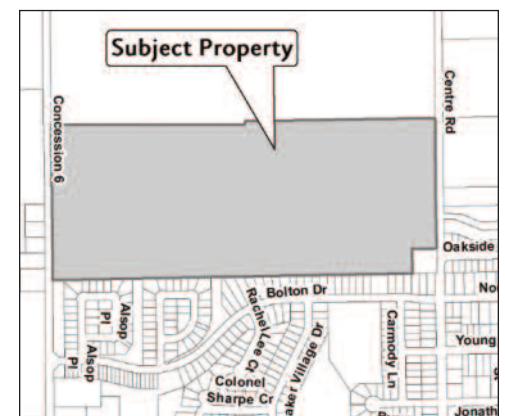
in respect of the proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision before it is approved or refused, or to the Township of Uxbridge in respect to the proposed Official Plan or Zoning By-law Amendments before they are adopted or denied, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal 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
dlroux@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)



MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

The Rotary Club of Uxbridge is pleased to announce the winners of the September monthly draw for the 2021 Trip of the Month Club

The 'Bask In Fall Colours' trip was won by Richard deBlicquy, ticket #109, sold by Elaine deBlicquy

2nd place winners of \$150 - Don and Anne-Marie Archibald, ticket #002, sold by Ian Morrison

3rd place winner of \$100 - Richard McGowan, ticket # 352, sold by Pam McGowan

Congratulations to our September draw winners, and best of luck to all our ticket holders for the 2021 Trip of the Month Club draw for October - 'Adult in Aruba'. The trip package includes roundtrip direct flights to Aruba, 7 nights' accommodation in the 5-star Adults Only Riu Las Antillas Resort and Spa; all meals, drinks and snacks; all daily activities and nightly entertainment; all non-motorized water sports; all gratuities and round trip transfers from airport to hotel.

As restrictions are still in place for travel, a voucher for \$2,500 from Getaway Travel or cash option of \$2,250 is available instead of the trip.



Our two cents

Champions of truth for local communities

Local newspapers play an essential role in keeping communities informed, engaged, and thriving by delivering credible, authentic news and information that cannot be found anywhere else, not even on social media. Newspapers are the glue that keeps communities connected and are crucial players in the local economies where they operate, providing an unparalleled ability to spark meaningful conversations.

Why does original, local content matter? It allows us to tell our stories and feel heard, creating a sense of togetherness and unity. Whether reporting on a charity fundraiser, the local hockey team, or even a global pandemic, strong local journalism gives readers credible information when they need it. While many of us agree that the reporting newspapers provide is an essential public service, many forget that this level of reporting requires a significant investment of both time and resources.

We've recently witnessed the importance of supporting and investing in our community. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) reported that upwards of 200,000 Canadian small businesses would close their doors directly due to the pandemic. Newspapers across the country worked tirelessly to shine a light on these businesses and emphasizing the value of "supporting local". While newspapers continue to play a vital role in supporting and standing up for small businesses during the pandemic, this is not something new or out of the ordinary. We have always supported the local economy by spotlighting local stores and entrepreneurs, supporting community initiatives, and providing local advertising options to speak directly to customers.

Local newspapers are also champions for democracy, providing Canadians with essential information to spark meaningful conversations about their community and country at large. The work of newspaper journalists, editors, fact-checkers, and more, provides readers with the tools they need to make informed decisions, empowering them to advocate for what they believe in. Newspapers allow communities to form their identities by sharing stories and information that make a difference.

We invite you to celebrate National Newspaper Week with us this week, Oct. 3 - 9. It's an ode to the work Canadian newspapers do each and every day to keep you informed and connected.

National Newspaper Week is an annual opportunity to recognize the critical role that newspapers play in an active and healthy democracy and is celebrated in North America starting on the first Sunday in October.



The Uxbridge COSMOS

Publisher/Editor: Lisha Van Nieuwenhove 905-852-1900
Advertising/Sales: 905-852-1900

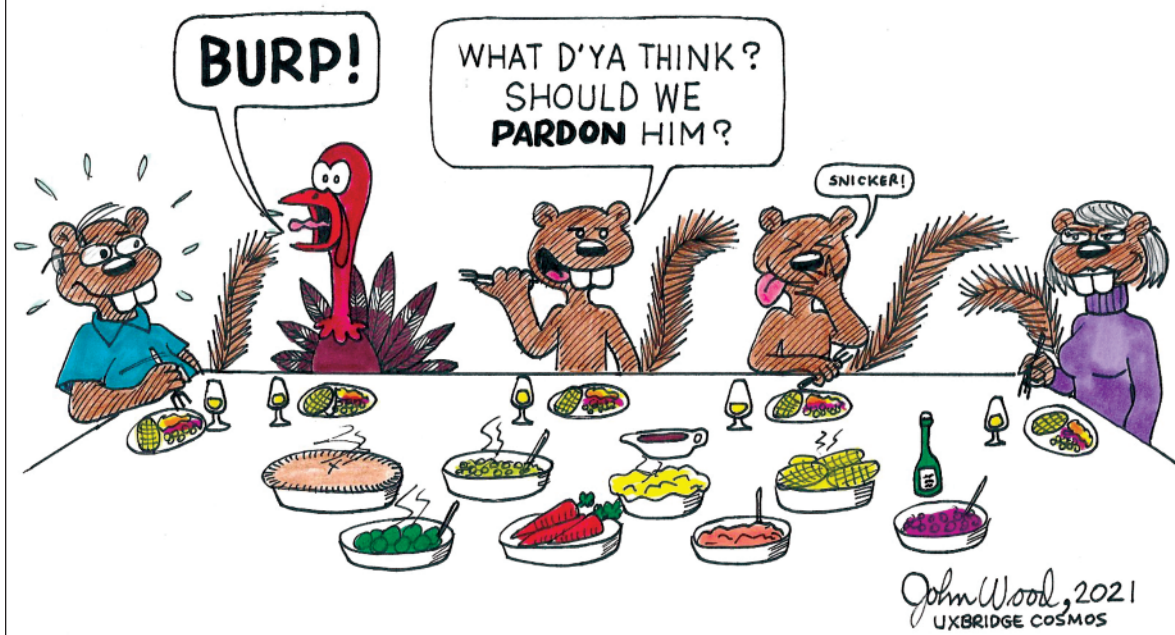
38 Toronto Street North, Unit One, Uxbridge Ontario L9P 1E6
E-mail: Lvann@thecosmos.ca Web site: Thecosmos.ca

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Friday to 4 p.m.

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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.



Letters to the Editor

Call for Kettle volunteers

It is that time of year again when the Salvation Army Kettle will be out at Zehrs. This year it will be at the LCBO as well, and we are looking for volunteers to help us with our fundraising to assist those struggling in the community.

The Kettle is our *only* fundraiser, and it is through the generosity of Zehrs, the LCBO and our volunteers that we are able to continue to raise funds for our programs.

The local Salvation Army office is run by volunteers, so our administration expenses are very low,

which means we can give more back to the community.

For high school students: if you need volunteer hours for school, or would like to assist the Salvation Army, please call 905-640-3966, or send an email to beverlynorth-east@gmail.com.

Give us a call and join our team of volunteers for our fundraising. Remember: "Having a place to go – is a home. Having someone to love – is a family."

Salvation Army is a hand up - not a hand out.

Bev Northeast
Salvation Army Uxbridge

Re: "What's in a name? History", Sept. 23

You may have wondered how the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital got its name. To start looking for the answer, let's go south on Main St. to Brookdale Rd., then east and south to a place called Queensbush, which was the country home of Toronto lawyer Hartley Dewart and his wife Emma. Mr. Dewart was Liberal leader of Ontario from 1919 to 1921. He died in 1924 at Queensbush. Eventually Mrs. Dewart married a fellow called Dr. Graham Campbell, and they continued as summer residents at Queensbush.

In 1947, local folks started discussing the need for a hospital. A charter for the hospital was obtained from the government in 1948, and Dr. Campbell suggested that it be called the Cottage Hospital.

The first cottage hospital was established in Surrey, England, in 1859, in a converted cottage that had just a few beds. Soon there were dozens of cottage hospitals established in rural areas in England.

Locally, after 10 years spent clearing hurdles, work on the hospital began in November of 1957. Dr. and Mrs. Campbell had earlier purchased the land which they donated for the hospital location, and had turned the first sod on June 5, 1955. Unfortunately, Dr. Campbell died at Queensbush on July 30, 1955, before hospital construction got underway.

The Uxbridge Cottage Hospital opened January 12, 1959. And it's obvious why the street where the hospital is located was called Campbell Drive.

Allan McGillivray
Zephyr

Celebrating 100 years of Life

~ Lois Torrance ~

What a day! What a celebration!

Thank you

to the following people for making this a magical and memorable birthday for Lois.



- Classic Car Parade: Donna Kennedy
- Durham Regional Chair John Henry
- Uxbridge Mayor Dave Barton
- Councillors Garrod, Popp & Snooks
- Uxbridge Legion Pipes & Drums
- Uxbridge Fire Dept. Honour Guard
- The amazing voices of Claidhmor
- Uxbridge Legion Honour Guard
- Tish MacDonald, Veterans Outreach
- Sherrill Hodgson, Uxbridge Legion

Special thanks and gratitude to Lois's Bascom Street neighbours and friends for making this a day to remember. You are the best!



Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Would I lie to you?

I had a coffee at a downtown restaurant with a councillor a few days ago when we met to discuss a local issue. He would not let me buy his coffee and I wouldn't let him pay for mine.

It was just a cup of coffee, for Pete's sake, but both of us refuse to take even such a small token of appreciation as a coffee when we are on the job. It's all about optics and ethics.

My ethics come into play whenever I write. Now, I'm no angel. I admit I have done some dishonest things in my life, but I have never lied in a news story or a column. I have occasionally had my facts wrong, but in all cases a correction followed quickly and publicly. That's the way it is with most reputable news outlets.

However, thanks in large part to Donald Trump, large segments of the population have taken to labelling news reports as "fake news," especially when said reports are not to their liking. But, usually, it is not so much a question of fake news as fake outrage. Unfortunately, there are news organizations which do little to stem that tide. Take the *Toronto Sun*, for example.

Last week, the *Sun's* front page featured an extremely poor photo mock-up of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau wildly surfing a wave to illustrate its story on Trudeau flying to Tofino, B.C., to be with family on Truth and Reconciliation Day. Once the *Sun's* edition came out, news organizations across the country, including CTV and CBC, picked up the story and added to the outrage over the prime minister having the gall to do such a thing.

I'm as full of self-doubt as the next guy, so I mentioned to my editor that I was worried because I could not see what all the fuss was about. She admitted she couldn't see it either. So why did so many media outlets jump all over this story? My guess is that it was an easy target and almost guar-

anteed to rile up the population, to generate outrage.

As a result of all that exposure, people across the country began calling on Trudeau to apologise for his actions. One might ask how many of *them* went to Walmart on that day or visited a local restaurant for a meal. Truth and Reconciliation Day is meant, as I understand it, as a time for reflection about the way this country has treated and continues to treat Indigenous people. Surely one can reflect just as well in Tofino - (which, by the way, is home to many native people) - as in Ottawa, Moose Jaw or Come By Chance.

To my way of thinking, this wasn't fake news, but it was fake outrage. And numerous news outlets apparently promote such outrage. Recently, I read a report in the *National Post* about an Indigenous girl who was reprimanded by her teacher for refusing to stand for the national anthem. Sadly, the comment section was filled with blatantly racist and denigrating remarks about the young girl's heritage that the *National Post* did not see fit to censor or remove.

There was similar, though decidedly less, outrage following my column recently about York Durham Heritage Railway. YDHR took to Facebook to claim my column was full of inaccuracies (there were none), resulting in comments such as: "Boo Cosmos."

On my door, I have a plaque with the family crest. The motto reads: "*Magna est Veritas*": Truth is Mighty. I adhere to that motto - (as well as the cup of coffee ethic) - whenever I am writing for the *Cosmos*, as I have all my newspaper career, which started when I was 16 years old.

It seems to me that if I am ever caught deliberately lying in a news story or column, no one will ever believe me again. That would be too big a price to pay.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Travel by swab

There were several of us sitting in the consultation area of a local Uxbridge pharmacy last week - all of us waiting, most of us doing this for the first time, and everybody looking a bit anxious. The woman next to me - well, actually two metres away - was busy texting somebody. Of all those in the waiting area, she seemed the most at ease. I thought I'd seek some assurance.

"Done this before?" I asked.

"Yes," she said through her mask. "My husband and I travel a lot. So, we're getting used to it."

"What's it like at Pearson once you've got all the paperwork?"

"Believe what they tell you," she said. "Get there three hours early."

For some months now, I've awaited the monthly pronouncements from Washington about when I might be allowed to travel by land across the international border into the U.S. A veteran friend, whom I've wanted to visit, is nearing his 100th birthday. Tony Mellaci served with my father (who died in 2004) in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during the Second World War. Researching my last book, I'd met Mellaci at his home in New Jersey, and he'd given me priceless insights about the war and his close comradeship with my dad. So, throughout the pandemic, I've wanted to pay Mellaci a visit by driving to New Jersey. But when U.S. Homeland Security announced another month's extension of the ban on vaccinated Canadians crossing the border to Oct. 21, I knew I couldn't wait. Flying to the States has been allowed for months. But I was about to learn how complicated it is.

I figured, in order to fly to any U.S. destination, that I needed verification of my double vaccination, although I had no idea at what point, how often, or in what form during my travels that I'd need to present that certification. But on top of that, when crossing into the U.S. I discovered I needed a COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test - a swab up the nose - with a negative result. Several checks with Bernadette, my wonderful travel agent in town, indicated the rapid test had to be one approved by that airline. That put me at the local pharmacy with those other anxious travellers getting the test and the proof.

"Don't forget to fill out the passenger attestation," Bernadette added.

The Passenger Disclosure and Attestation Requirement, she said, was proof I'd taken a

pre-departure COVID-19 viral test three days before flying. In effect it was proof of the proof of the proof I was COVID-free. So, armed with my double-vaccination data, my pharmacy rapid-test paperwork and my attestation, I awoke early last Thursday to catch my 8:30 a.m. flight south. I arrived at the airport by 5 a.m. to be sure. Not surprisingly, the three-hour lead time was bang on. After clearing airport security, boarding-pass checks, anti-virus prevention measures and U.S. Customs and Immigration, I arrived at my flight gate with 15 minutes to spare. By the way, I was only asked to show my rapid swab test to one person - a ticket agent at the very beginning of the airport security system.

Landing in the U.S., I rented a car and was on my way to visit my dad's wartime buddy, just in time to join Tony and his wife Sharon Mellaci celebrate their 72nd wedding anniversary. Then, off I went to visit other family and friends. But all the while, looming in the back of my mind, was my return trip. I wasn't worried about getting the car rental back safely or my pre-flight check-in. No, what kept me awake at night from the moment I arrived was getting my return-trip COVID test. Travelling to Canada requires a different one - the Molecular PCR Test.

There are lots of places offering swab COVID tests in the U.S. But the key is taking the test within 72 hours of the return flight and receiving the negative results quickly. A pharmacy chain said they couldn't guarantee it for two to three days, but a drive-through clinic guaranteed same-day results ... at a cost of \$200 USD. So, there I was, a couple of days into my trip, arranging all my itinerary around a nose swab that would yield a negative result, within the prescribed pre-departure period, and guaranteeing same-day results.

As I write this Barris Beat, on Tuesday, I've just now taken my PCR Test. I've paid through the nose (as it were) to get it. And I await its results, praying they'll arrive on my phone within the timelines that the airline and government protocols demand, and all before I arrive at the airport Thursday to fly home.

Such is life in a world seemingly now governed by the swab.

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Hub puts needed services in one location

by Justyne Edgell

North House, St Paul's Anglican Church of Uxbridge and the Region of Durham have teamed up to offer a monthly social service hub to help those in need with a variety of services, all available in one place.

Mona Emond, executive director of North House, says the goal of this program is to break down the barriers of technology and transportation for those requiring social services.

"Often for those who are low income, or living rough, having the technology for a Zoom call or Teams meeting can be a huge barrier. We wanted to bring the services together in one place, where those in need can access them."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many towns and cities to the south of Uxbridge started programs like the Service Hub. "We know there is a need for these services in North Durham," says Emond, who also notes that the number of those facing homelessness or housing instability in North Durham rose from 195 in August 2020 to 238 this past August, with Uxbridge having the highest number among the North Durham municipalities.

North House has teamed up with its service partners to offer drop in assistance at the monthly Service Hub. Services offered will include Ontario Works and Ontario Disability, Durham Region Family Services Counseling, a

Durham College employment centre, Lakeridge Health with addiction and mental health support, Community Care Durham with seniors support, and North House with housing and eviction support.

The Service Hub will be held on the second Wednesday of each month beginning Oct. 13. The Hub will run from 10 a.m. to noon in the downstairs hall of St Paul's Anglican Church at 59 Toronto St S.

Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan, of St Paul's, said he has been thinking about an initiative like this for a while, and says that St Paul's is excited to be part of this program.

"St. Paul's has the space. More importantly, we have a desire to connect with our wider community and see that as an integral part of our ministry and presence in the community," says Kinghan. "The church is called to live out our faith by serving the poor, marginalized and vulnerable of our community."

North House is organizing Service Hubs in Scugog and Brock Townships as well.



Mona Emond, left, of North House and Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan are working with several service partners to provide social services to those who need them.

Photo by Justyne Edgell



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EVENTS

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