

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 17 No. 48

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Table-top Christmas trees • Bruins still rolling along • Same digs, new owner



SING A SONG OF JOY - Award-winning singer/songwriter Tania Joy had the best seat in the house on Saturday evening while performing in the window of Low's Furniture on Brock St. Joy is a featured musician on the Uxbridge Holiday Trail, and will perform again on Dec. 17. Other musicians, artists and dancers will be appearing at various Holiday Trail venues over the next two weekends (see story below). The musicians' appearances are sponsored by Castool Tooling Systems. *Photo by Tracy Walker*

Downtown welcomes Christmas with excitement

by Roger Varley

Christmas came to Uxbridge in a hurry on the weekend with a variety of events aimed at putting residents in the holiday mood.

It began on Saturday evening when the Uxbridge Optimists opened up this year's version of the Fantasy of Lights in Elgin Park. A steady stream of vehicles rolled through the light show, which this year features 14 additional displays.

Down on Brock Street, Jennifer Neveu-Campsall and members of Belle Nova sang Christmas carols as they stood around a fire pit in front of the Coffee Time store. The fire was donated by the township, which will have its tourism trailer parked there during the holiday period. The township's Lisa John-MacKenzie said the carol-singing was a one-off event but,

although nothing is firm, she hoped there will be other singers on other nights.

There will be music on Dec. 16 when Uxbridge Secondary School teacher Amy Peck leads a group of her music students in a busking expedition through the downtown area.

Meanwhile on Saturday, singer/songwriter Tania Joy entertained shoppers from the window of Low's Furniture while further along Brock Street Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus took up temporary residence in the front window of HB Architects.

Earlier in the day, Santa Claus was on hand at Wixan's Bridge to greet the young ones. However, with COVID-19 still a concern, visiting children sat on a small bench in front of Santa, instead of on his knee. But that did not seem to bother his visitors.

Also on the weekend, the York Durham Her-

itage Railway covered the entire station area with Christmas lights and the holiday trains sported colourful lights strung along the sides of every carriage.

And it was not just businesses and organizations spreading holiday cheer. Two women were spotted wearing Christmas light necklaces, while a mother was seen pushing a stroller completely decked out in twinkle lights!

All the activity is connected to Uxbridge's Holiday Trail event, which continues this weekend and next from 6 to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday only. The Uxbridge Dance Academy will present a woodland animal dance at Blue Heron Books on Dec. 17-18, as well as an abbreviated performance of the Nutcracker in the window of the Bridge Social the same weekend.

And throughout the rest of the month, the Fantasy of Lights will be open every night.

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for December, 2021

Thursday, December 9
BUDGET MEETING
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Monday, December 13
COUNCIL MEETING, 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 14
BUDGET MEETING
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE, 7:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT
MEETING, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 15
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE, 4pm
CANCELLED

Thursday, December 16
BUDGET MEETING
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 21
BIA BOARD, 7:00 p.m.
CANCELLED

2022 Virtual Budget Meetings

Virtual budget review meetings are open to public. Meetings take place

Dec. 7th, 9th, 14th from 1 pm - 5 pm

Visit <https://bit.ly/3rakZ7m> to join a session



SHOP AND DINE IN DOWNTOWN
UXBRIDGE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Dec 4th, 10th, 11th, 17th, 18th
6:00-8:00pm

Festive Windows tell a Holiday Story
Tastings & Treats for a Toonie
Sounds of the Season
Holiday Dining Specials
Santa and Mrs. Claus

WWW.DISCOVERUXBRIDGE.CA/HOLIDAYTRAIL



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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



Public Programs at the Uxbridge
Arena have resumed.
Visit uxbridge.ca for details

Winter Parking Reminder

The Township needs your cooperation to ensure the snow clearing operations in our community go as smoothly and efficiently as possible. Parking vehicles on the street in winter months can interrupt or prevent effective snow clearing operations. Snowplow operators clear snow as close to the curb as possible (or end of travelled portion of roadway where no curb exists), but road obstructions, like parked vehicles, prevent this task from being completed.

With winter weather conditions fast approaching, the Township of Uxbridge would like to remind residents and visitors that:

- Parking on Township streets is not permitted between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., from November 1 to April 1.
- Parking in a manner that interferes with snow clearing operations is not permitted

Abiding by these parking limitations is essential for expedient and thorough snow clearing operations. (Feel free to change the adjectives in this sentence!)

Closure

Brock Rd. south from Hwy. 47 to Taunton Rd. will experience periodic lane restrictions to facilitate installation of a fibre optic network to February 25, 2022.

Permit Parking Now In Effect

for Skate Park and Pump Track

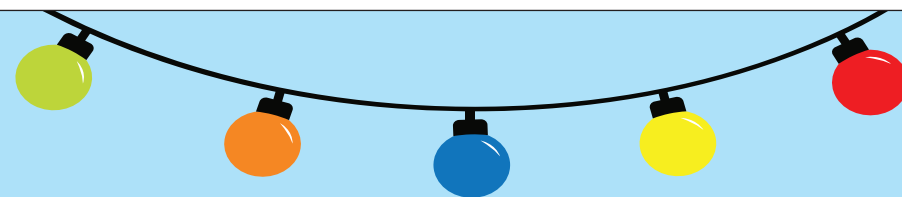
The Township of Uxbridge has implemented permit parking in the new parking lot adjacent to the Skate and Pump parks at the Fields of Uxbridge.

All vehicles parked in this lot require a valid parking pass each time they park to avoid parking fines. The cost for non-residents is \$6.00 per day.

Residents of the Township of Uxbridge can register for a free permit. This permit allows them to register their vehicle on-site and park for no charge.

Attention Uxbridge Residents!

Get a head start and register at home for your **FREE** parking permit before your next visit. You can register in 3 easy steps. To learn more visit uxbridge.ca/permitparking



Take a drive through the 2021 Optimist Fantasy of Lights!

December 4 to January 2 • Nightly from 6-9:30 p.m.

Cash/tap donations gratefully received




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Open to all Durham residents

Uxbridge Arena

291 Brock Street West, Uxbridge (parking lot)

No appointment necessary. Proof of age required.

1st, 2nd & 3rd dose - Pfizer vaccine available for 12+.
1st dose Pfizer vaccine for children 5-11 also available.

December 16 | 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Hosted by the provincial GO-VAXX program. For a list of GO-VAXX clinics visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/go-vaxx-bus-schedule>



Vaccine strong Durham
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FIELDS OF UXBRIDGE

Permit Parking Registration Event

Get assistance signing up and registering for a free Resident parking permit at one of our live, drop-in workshops:

Fri., Dec. 10th between 8:30am - 10:30am
Mon. Dec. 13th between 4pm-6pm

Town Hall Council Chambers, 51 Toronto St., Uxbridge



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

Table-top trees aim to bring seasonal joy to those in need

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Two weeks ago, on page 3, the *Cosmos* featured a story on this year's Christmas tree shortage, telling readers that trees this year will be hard to come by, and those that are available will likely be fairly expensive. This may leave several local families with no tree to trim come the holidays.

Enter Zed Pickering and his "Table Top Christmas Trees." Pickering has been collecting donations of both real and artificial trees to hand over to organizations that provide support to individuals in the community,

such as the Uxbridge Loaves and Fishes Food Bank.

"Our hope is that their clients who wish to have a Christmas tree and might otherwise not have one this year, will be able to take one home for the holidays."

Pickering explains that the reason he preferred to have smaller trees - "going mini" in his words - is to accommodate the fact that those who receive a tree may not have a lot of space in their homes. "They can fit this small bit of holiday joy," says Pickering.

He got the idea for table top trees

while picking out his own family's tree.

"I thought of those who may not have the means to get one and the hard year we've all had."

He put the idea out on social media and got immediate response. He said that he has had a "nice amount of support so far and has collected a few trees." People have found artificial trees online and others have found some at grocery stores and at green houses. Some have arrived already decorated, and Pickering says he has also started collecting donations of decorations.

His sister, Carleigh, has picked up some trees for those who are unable to source their own and is currently keeping them warm and watered until they can be delivered.

Pickering says that he can pick up trees that people wish to donate - any size or style - and store it until its family is chosen. The deadline for donating a tree is Dec. 20, but Pickering says he will start handing out trees before then.

"I don't know how many trees we will be able to share this year, but each one will hopefully share a lot of joy. If it goes well I hope we can grow

the program more next year."

Inquiries can be directed to Pickering at zeddypick@gmail.com

COVID-19 continues to impact budget

by Roger Varley

Uxbridge council began its annual budget discussion on Tuesday with finance committee chair Councillor Bruce Garrod warning that "the uncertainty of COVID-19 is with us again."

Noting that the township is not immune from inflation, which is at an 18-year high, Garrod said township staff is doing everything possible to maintain service levels while keeping costs down. But he cautioned that council is not yet in a position to estimate just how much of a tax increase there will be in 2022. He said council has managed to reduce the increases over the past three years. The increase was 4.86 per cent in 2019, 4.58 per cent in 2020 and 4.27 per cent in 2021. A \$150,000 increase or decrease in the budget can affect the tax levy by one per cent.

In his opening remarks, Garrod said township will receive \$424,800 from the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) in 2022, an increase of only \$1,600 from the previous year. That amount has been decreasing over the past few years. On the plus side, he said Uxbridge has been told that money from the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) will double over the next five years. In 2020 and 2021, that

amounted to \$405,588 each year. As well, the federal government's Canada Community Building fund - (formerly called the gas tax) - will provide \$671K. Last year, the Township received the same amount and a 100-per-cent bonus to support infrastructure maintenance.

Garrod advised councillors that this year's budget discussions would not host a line-by-line scrutiny. Instead, they would be "looking at the big picture."

Public works was the first department budget examined. Director Ben Kester noted there has been "a significant increase" in the cost of some contracts. Starting with the capital budget, Kester said total expenditures in 2022 will be around \$7.38 million, of which \$2.5 million will be covered by taxes. This total is estimated to increase to \$8.5 million in 2023. On the operating budget, net expenditures in 2022 will be about \$5 million.

In answer to a question from Councillor Todd Snooks, who offered that residents in his ward question the number of times streets are plowed in winter, Kester said his department plows more than it used to, but that reduces the amount of sand and salt that is used on the roads. When someone questioned the \$25,000 set aside for traffic calming, Kester said that expense began in 2020 when a

traffic calming policy was adopted by council following numerous complaints from residents about speeding.

There was a glimmer of good news on the facilities front, specifically regarding the Music Hall. Manager Karen Ryl, noting that revenue generated by the hall fell drastically in

2020 and 2021, said bookings of the hall "are picking up" for 2022 and she is expecting revenue to be back close to normal in 2023.

The budget discussions continue today (Thursday) with two more scheduled for next week.



Thursday, Dec. 9

7:20 p.m.

Against Clarington

Garnet B. Rickard Recreation Complex

Friday, Dec. 10

7:45 p.m.

Against Port Perry

Uxbridge Arena

For complete season and player information, and to learn what COVID protocols we are enforcing visit uxbridgebruins.com



NEED TO REACH MILLENNIALS?

New survey results show that **nine out of ten** Millennials read newspapers weekly in print or digital formats.

Results are sourced from a November 2020 national online research survey managed by Totum Research. Interviews were conducted with 855 English and French Canadians in every province, and results were weighted to be nationally representative.

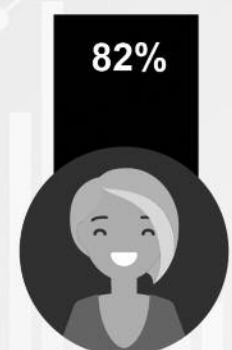
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Adults 18+



Millennials



Boomers

Our two cents

Say it like you mean it!

We are most certainly living in the age of extreme political correctness, and as such, it can be intimidating wishing someone a Merry Christmas these days. As Dec. 25 draws ever closer, it's only appropriate to wish everyone you interact with, and may not see again before the date, a Merry Christmas. Yet for some reason, we find that, just as we open our mouth to say those two little words, a niggly feeling hits our gut, telling us that perhaps we'd better not say it, for fear of offending the person to whom we are speaking. So we shut our mouth again and simply say so long or good bye.

Having to monitor our language like this seems to go completely against the notion of spreading goodwill and cheer at this time of the year. It's completely the opposite of "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all." We WANT to say something nice, and Happy Holidays just doesn't seem to always fit the bill.

We were quietly mulling this dilemma when a reader brought in something that she wanted published in the paper. It didn't quite work as a Letter to the Editor, but its rationale for why we should feel we can freely continue to say Merry Christmas was so refreshing, we had to find a way to share it. It contained excerpts taken from a commentary made by Ben Stein in 2005 on a CBS Sunday morning news program: "I am a Jew, and it does not bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful, lit up, bejewelled trees, Christmas trees. I don't feel threatened. I don't feel discriminated against. That's what they are, Christmas trees. It doesn't bother me a bit when people say 'Merry Christmas' to me. In fact, I kind of like it. It shows that we are all brothers and sisters celebrating this happy time of year. It doesn't bother me at all that there is a manger scene on display...it's just as fine with me as is the Menorah on display a few hundred yards away."

There is diversity, there is the need to have respect for others, and there is an even more desperate need for tolerance. But in being tolerant and respectful, we don't feel that it should be necessary to stifle what we want to say to others. How can wishing anyone merry tidings over a month-long period of festivities that bring light to an otherwise pretty gloomy time of year possibly make anyone that upset or angry? If someone gets that ticked at being wished a Merry Christmas, they've got serious issues, and it would be better to just say a quick good bye and scram, no matter what.

Let's put some confidence back into saying Merry Christmas. If the radio stations can play it, then we can certainly say it.

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

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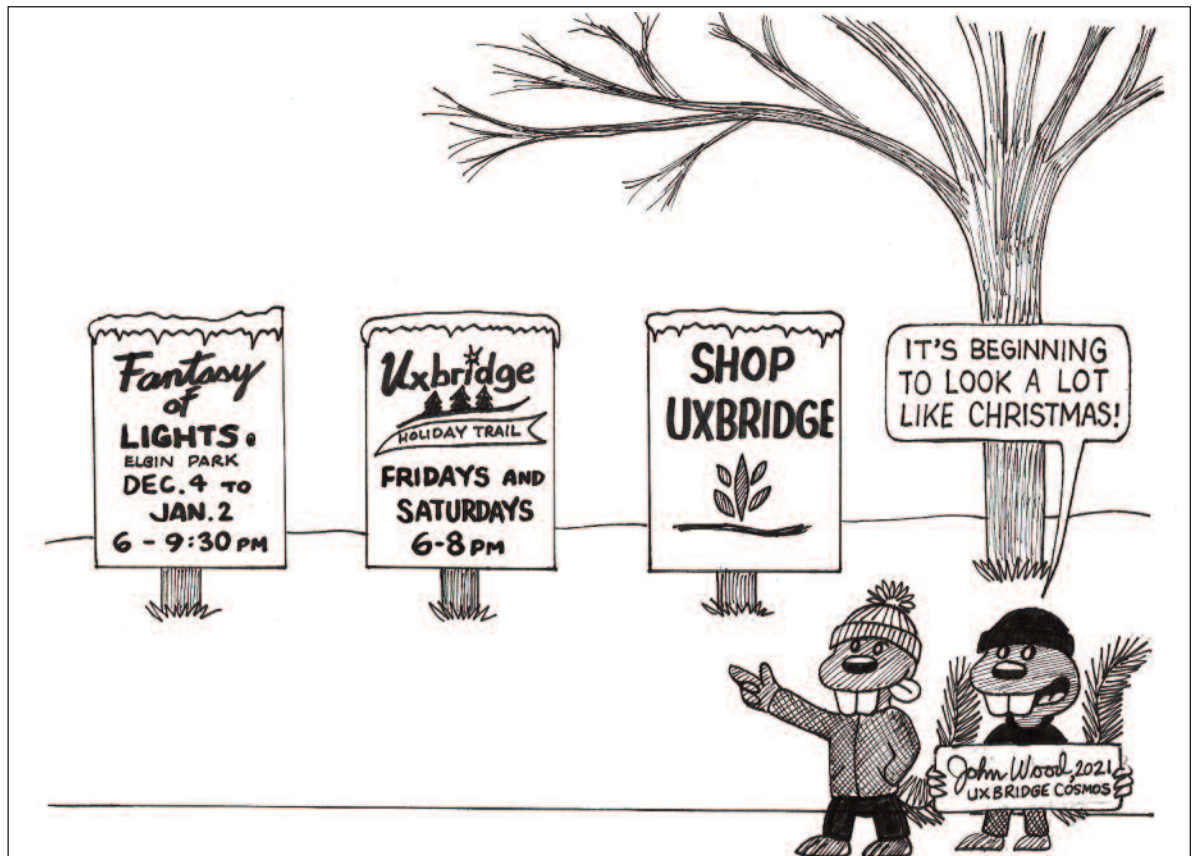


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9,500 copies of The Cosmos are published each Thursday in the Township of Uxbridge: 8,800 delivered by mail, 700 available in stores and boxes.



Letters to the Editor

Letters, Dec. 2 edition

Last week there was a letter in the *Cosmos* from reader John Tomlinson that on two different points was both personally offensive and intellectually deficient.

First, his objectionable comment that smokers dying early "assists global well being" was perhaps intended otherwise, but as the widow of a firefighter who died five years ago this week of lung cancer (most likely attributable to a combination of 35 years of inhaling carcinogens from both fires and cigarette smoking), I found it callous and hurtful. We all wished Dave hadn't smoked, of course, and frequently (to his irritation) begged him to stop, but our frustration at his inability to stop in no way mitigated our devastation at his untimely death. To use it, or anyone else's loved one's death as a throw-away line is a cheap shot, and unworthy of publication.

Second, Mr. Tomlinson's letter made the absurd accusation that an individual's lifestyle is responsible for climate change or even more ridiculous, for the flooding in British Columbia this past month. Even Michael Mann, he of "Hockey Stick" fame, has written recently of the marketing campaign by fossil fuel companies, etc., that has succeeded in placing the responsibility for fixing climate change not on industries that can actually reduce their emissions significantly, but instead, squarely on the shoulders of individuals. The responsibility obviously lies primarily with industry and governments of massive and unregulated polluters like China and India, not with Roger smoking in his car with the engine running.

I wish, especially now, as we enter the season of goodwill, that letters like that one aren't given much space anymore. This isn't a time for

glib and thoughtless insults - has it ever been? It's a time for kindness and compassion, and on that note, I'd like to end by saying that I hope Roger tries to smoke one less cigarette each day until he isn't smoking anymore. Your loved ones will thank you. I'll thank you. Please, do it for Dave, as he couldn't do it for himself.

Chris Clark
Siloam

Rounding out prices

I recently purchased a product at a health food store in Uxbridge. The price was \$5.19 and I paid by a credit card, not cash. The clerk asked for \$5.20 and when I pointed out that the price was \$5.19, she told me that "the machine rounds it up." I questioned this and was told basically, that's the way it is.

It's only a penny but if the machine rounded up for every purchase the ends with 6, 7, 8, or 9, there will be a small profit at the end of the month.

A penny is a penny and as such is not even recognized by our government. The point is not the penny but the deception that is being perpetrated.

I wonder how many other machines in Uxbridge, and indeed in Ontario, "round up"? Lots of money out of a lot of pockets.

Al Playter
Toronto

Applause for Town Square suggestion

I was impressed by the amount of work that has gone into the latest iteration of Downtown Revitalization. There have been a series of these over the years, as expressed by the committee's virtual presentation last Wednesday.

Wynn Walters's follow-up com-

ments regarding the best location for the Town Square are right on the money. A large square where the Coffee Time and Circle K are located is indeed the right place.

This square would be in the centre of town and would highlight the character of the downtown area. Activities would spill out to the stores surrounding the square, which themselves will provide a constant vitality as merchandise and services are creatively displayed. This is the centre of town, not Centennial Park, which is isolated from the downtown core behind a barrier of existing buildings.

Our far-ranging trail network has given Uxbridge a proud identifier. A vibrant Town Square in this busy location will do the same.

John McCutcheon
Uxbridge

Seeking help with Reconciliation

The aim of Maamawi Collective is to create public awareness of Truth & Reconciliation, inspired by the TRC Call to Action 53, Part 4 - to "promote public dialogue, partnerships, and public initiatives for reconciliation."

COVID restrictions have hampered the fundraising efforts of many local volunteer organizations, including ours. However, with financial help and volunteer dedication, we were able to continue our mandate in 2021 to educate, inform and inspire. Guided and supported by partnerships with members of First Nations and Métis people, we remain most grateful for private donations that have funded our efforts.

For 2022, we want to do more. We hope you will support us by choosing to direct funds to specific

...continued on page 7



Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Is it just me, or is it getting worse?

Grocery shopping is not high on my list of things I enjoy doing, but this weekend it was even more depressing than ever.

Prices are reaching exorbitant levels and, in a number of areas, shelves at a local grocery store were severely depleted. I passed by the packages of chicken because I simply could not afford them. Even hamburger is climbing to the point where I might have to pass that up as well. Fresh fish? Forget it!

In the produce section, even the lowly potato seemed to be in short supply. And products I have bought for years appear to be disappearing.

No wonder the number of people using community food banks is increasing. I haven't quite reached that stage yet, but I begin to wonder if it might not be in my future.

We're almost two years into this pandemic and things don't look as though they're improving. All of which makes me turn my eyes to government. The federal government came up with programs to help people who were laid off because of the coronavirus and to help businesses survive the crunch. A laudable effort, but the execution has left a lot to be desired. News reports of late tell us that many businesses received money even though they did not need it. Yet, at the same time, some people who received assistance have found some of that aid is being clawed back. And, although I could never be considered an economist, it appears those government assistance programs have contributed to the rising inflation that's affecting the price of everything.

The federal government's other COVID-19 programs also seem to be falling short. They continually revise and change the requirements for Canadians returning to the country from foreign lands to the point where people are being forced into quarantine hotels because of a mistake using some king of app. There have been stories of people in these hotels testing negative for COVID-19 but still not being allowed to leave because the powers-that-be who can authorize their leaving can't be reached on the telephone. The programs might have some merit, but their execution by government minions is underwhelming.

In the provinces, every jurisdiction seems to be following its own rules and those rules vary greatly from province to province. It's almost a full-time job just trying to stay abreast of what's allowed and what's not allowed.

Despite all the rules, regulations, protocols and programs, nothing is improving. Infection rates continue to climb, anti-vaxxers go their merry way without any apparent sanctions or consequences and the average Joe, who follows all the rules, pays through the nose.

But all of this opens up another question: who is making all the money? As I said, I'm not an economist, but it seems to me that when prices skyrocket the way they have been doing, someone somewhere is pocketing a lot of cash. Just recently, one of the big four banks reported a \$1.4 billion - (that's billion, folks) - *profit* in the last quarter alone. That works out to over \$5 billion profit for the year. That means a nice dividend for the shareholders, but I'll bet you haven't seen a reduction in bank fees.

The same likely can be said about the food cartels. There may be less product on their shelves, but they are still making a tidy profit on the goods that they do sell. And it's not just the food cartels. Apparently, in the U.S., a package of baby diapers that used to cost \$24 now costs \$40.

The various governments had no trouble telling us all to wear masks, to get vaccinated and to avoid gathering together, so it shouldn't be hard for them to put a stop to what, to my mind, is blatant profiteering by corporations. But it's always the little guy, the one who can least afford it, who bears the brunt of whatever crisis comes along.

At the *Cosmos*, we have pursued a policy of promoting the advice and directions of the various government and officers of health, but it is becoming more and more difficult when we see the dithering and confusion that emanates from them. It seems to me the best way out of this - and it's long past time - is for Parliament to appoint a COVID-19 czar to set the whole country on the right path out of this damned pandemic.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Why giving does us good

That Sunday afternoon just before Christmas, I arrived at the community centre in Mallorytown, in eastern Ontario, for a history talk. Members of the Mallory Coach House heritage group had decorated the hall, set out chairs and prepared refreshments for visitors. It turned out to be a (pre-COVID) capacity audience. Only I was without an important ingredient for the event. I had none of my books to sell at the end of my talk. Then suddenly, out of the blue, this guy arrived with his car trunk full of my books.

"Tom Stormonth," he said, "Beggar's Banquet Books, in Gananoque."

"That's a fair hike to here, isn't it? I asked.

Tom nodded. "Hey, it's about getting your books out there, right?" And he added, "Merry Christmas."

It's the time of year for doing good deeds. Some say it goes without saying. But this week - with holiday carolling, feasting, card-exchanging, gift-giving, and other rituals of this season at hand - I think it is worth saying that giving makes a difference. And Tom Stormonth, who with his wife and business partner Alison Dunn, owns/operates the bookstore, is a perfect example. He'd heard I hadn't any books on hand, loaded up his car with stock from their popular store, Beggar's Banquet Books, that Sunday afternoon, and drove the 50 kilometres to fill the gap.

There is no shortage of need in our community, around the world. And whether it's the B.C. flood victims, nationwide toy drives for kids in need or filling the Christmas kettles provided by the Salvation Army, the act of giving has taken a dramatic hit in 2021. Imagine Canada, a charity standards association, recently told CBC News that the pandemic has slowed donations this year. Their national survey showed that half of the 1,219 charitable organizations contacted have seen donations reach only half what they were a year ago.

I guess it's an obvious segue, this time of year, but December never passes when I don't think of those lines from Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, when Ebenezer Scrooge's nephew Fred comes to bid his curmudgeonly old uncle "a Merry Christmas." Fred is rebuffed by the notoriously "squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner" Scrooge, as he scowls his traditional "Humbug!" But undaunted Fred recites, I think, the most indelible words from Dickens' story.

"I have always thought of Christmas time ...

as a good time, a kind forgiving, charitable, pleasant time," Fred tells Scrooge, "when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people ... as fellow-travellers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys."

Such an invocation has always given me pause and inspired my wish to help - whether it's offering volunteer time, taking a few minutes to help a stranger or opening my cheque book to donate to local service clubs, charities or community projects that need a boost. A couple of days ago, friend and fellow author Terry Fallis contacted me. (We recently appeared together during Blue Heron's "Book Drunkard" Festival when I interviewed Terry about his latest book *Operation Angus*). But Terry had bad news. He'd just learned that booksellers Tom Stormonth and Alison Dunn had just suffered a devastating fire. No one was hurt. Firefighters managed to save Lola, the couple's dog. But most of their home outside Gananoque was destroyed.

"We were sitting in the car with our dog," Tom Stormonth told a local reporter, "watching our house burn in front of us, while the firefighters tried to knock down the flames."

Over the years, I can remember many such losses around Christmastime. I'm sure like I, you've watched the monsoon-like flooding in British Columbia's lower mainland the past few weeks. It's no surprise that neighbours, service groups, the Canadian Red Cross, the CanadaHelps online fundraiser, Canadian Forces personnel and those moved by these events from across the country, have come together to help. Especially now. So, with their example in mind, I want my giving this holiday season to make a difference.

Normally, I would sit down and sift through the invitations to donate we receive in the mail and decide to which arts group I'd like to make a decent donation. This year, my arts donation will go to Tom Stormonth and Alison Dunn, not just because they've helped authors and readers come together in a celebration of books, nor because of that Sunday afternoon at Mallorytown when Tom showed up to supply books at my talk. But because, like Fred Scrooge said: "Though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe (Christmas giving) has *done* me good, and *will do* me good."

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



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Uxbridge Toy Drive scores a big ND Warriors win



On Monday evening, 208 toys were donated to the Uxbridge Toy Drive by the U9AA North Durham Warriors, led by head coach Stu Vander Geest and assistant coach OJ Tasse.

The young athletes began collecting toys at the Santa Claus Parade and continued accepting donations at their home games.

“Fill My Hockey Bag” was an idea that inspired our float this year for Uxbridge’s 60th Annual Santa Claus Parade. It combines the love of hockey and a way to give back to the community at Christmas time,” says team manager Sarah Madigan. “The boys were so excited to be back on the ice this year and we thought this would be a good way to share some of their excitement with the community,” she added.

All toys donated to the Uxbridge Toy Drive stay within Uxbridge. Those left over after the Christmas season get donated to the Jennifer Ashleigh Children’s Charity.

The 18 energetic 8- year-olds brought all their donated toys to the Uxbridge Seniors’ Centre on Monday evening, where they helped sort and add them to the Uxbridge Toy Drive piles.

“We are very thankful to all those who supported us and gave so generously,” says Madigan.

Photo by Justyne Edgell

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ENTERTAINMENT FROM THE 1920S IN THE 2020S

Letters, from page 4

projects within the collective: education, by supporting our 2022 lecture series “Walking & Working in Two Worlds”; recognition of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls; support for residential school survivors and fami-

lies; promotion and acknowledgment of National Aboriginal Veterans Day.
For more information or to talk about “Working Together” please contact myself or any member of our administrative circle.
Barbara Blower
Coordinator, Maamawi Collective

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For more information visit:
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Roll Up Your Sleeves
Durham...



Congratulations to the winners from the 60th Anniversary of the Uxbridge Santa Claus Parade!

Best overall float: Country Casa Montessori



Best commercial business float: Hard-Co Landscaping



Best workmanship float: The Second Wedge Brewing Co.



Best community service/spiritual organization: St. Andrew's-Chalmers Presby. Church



Best youth/school float: 1st Uxbridge Scouts



Best sports club float: North Durham Warriors



Honourable mention: Uxbridge Lions Club



Honourable mention: St. Joseph's Catholic School Unicyclists



Thank you to everyone who took part in making this year's parade exceptional! Happy Holidays!





The Nature Nut

column by Nancy Melcher

Wild turkeys

When I was a kid, I'd go bird-watching with my dad. We saw all sorts of different birds: geese, gulls, hummingbirds, hawks, herons, robins, and so many more.

But we never, ever, saw wild turkeys. They were in my bird book, but Dad told me they were not found in Canada. Today, while not as common a sighting as

crows or sparrows, wild turkeys DO live in Canada, due to conservation efforts that started in the middle of the last century.

They are huge, almost the size of a swan, with brown-bronze feathers and a naked head. Males (called gobblers after their distinctive calls) weigh 8-13 kg, but females (hens) are smaller, about 3-6 kg. Hens lay 10-12 eggs in a shallow depression and the chicks hatch fully developed. Turkeys feed on insects, seeds, nuts, fruit, snails, crayfish, and fish.

Wild turkeys were an important food for First Nations. The Huron-Wendat caught them using snares and bow-and-arrows, while the Haudenosaunee relied mostly on snares. They cooked the birds by roasting, boiling, and stewing them.

The arrival of European settlers, clearing the forests for farmland and hunting indiscriminately, spelled doom for the wild turkey. By 1909, it was extinct in Canada. Recent work by conservationists has successfully reintroduced the wild turkey to much of its former range. There now are limited spring and fall hunts for wild turkeys, evidence of the success of those efforts.

Nancy Melcher is The Nature Nut. Send details of your sightings or questions about the natural world to: general@melcher.cx

Bruins mark time with a win and a loss

by Roger Varley

With a win and a loss on the weekend, the Uxbridge Bruins remain in fifth place in the PJHL's seven-team Orr Division.

The weekend started with a 4-1 win over the Georgina Ice at the arena on Friday. With less than a minute off the clock, the Bruins scored a power-play goal, the result of a penalty picked up by the Ice just eight seconds into the game. Captain Daaniel Giorgio potted in a big rebound after Anthony Messina fired a shot from the blue line. Quinn Yule also received an assist. Yule scored what proved to be the winning goal late in the period when he one-timed the puck as it deflected off a defender's stick.

There was no scoring in the second period, which saw Georgina take four penalties and Uxbridge take five, including two bench minors.

Dalton Strongman scored the third Bruins goal early in the third following a beautiful passing play with Yule and Giorgio. Finally, with five minutes left in the game, the Ice spoiled Noah Acciaccaferri's

shut-out bid with a power-play marker. Spencer Krabi closed out the scoring with an empty-netter with 15 seconds remaining.

The *Cosmos* chose Acciaccaferri as the Bruins' player of the game and gave the nod to Austin Paulmert for the Ice.

The next night in Little Britain, the league-leading Merchants doubled the Bruins 4-2, with three of the six goals scored on the power play. Travis Winder opened the scoring in the first with an unassisted tally, only to see the Merchants respond with two, including a power-play marker.

In the second, Yule tied up the game on a power play just as the buzzer sounded to end the period. Strongman and Giorgio were credited with assists.

However, in the third period it was all Little Britain as they scored two more to take the win.

The Bruins are scheduled to play against the Eagles in Clarington tonight (Thursday) before returning to the arena tomorrow night at 7:45 p.m. to face their arch-rivals, the Port Perry MoJacks.



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If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact the number above.



Focus on Finance with Tammy Scuralli, Edward Jones

Balancing fun and finances

Unless you have unlimited financial resources, you'll need to think carefully about your saving, investing and spending decisions. But does that mean you need to deny yourself some fun?

It might seem that way, given your other priorities. You may already be contributing considerable amounts to two important goals: retirement (through your Registered Retirement Savings Plan) and education for your kids (through a Registered Education Savings Plan). How can you also afford to save for those fun things in life, such as a family vacation, a second honeymoon or even a new car? Here's the secret: Include "fun" as one of your financial goals. You're already setting aside funds specifically for retirement, education and possibly other goals – why not add a fun activity or purchase to that list? To do so, of course, you'll first need to review your budget. Are there any areas you can tighten up, possibly freeing up some money that could be used to save for your fun goals? And whenever your disposable income increases, such as when your salary goes up, can you put away some of this money for those goals?

You may also need to prioritize the goals that fall into the "fun" category. Would you most like to spend a month traveling the world? Or would you rather purchase that classic car you've wanted for years? Once

you've identified your most important goals, you can follow strategies to achieve them.

And that means you'll need to be specific. How much will you need for a certain goal? How long will it take you to reach this goal if you put aside a certain amount of money each month? Putting a date on when you'll need the money can help provide the focus you'll need to maintain a consistent savings program. Your financial advisor can help you create a strategy and review your progress over time.

Here's the bottom line: With plan-

ning and discipline, you can continue making progress toward your retirement and education goals while also saving for the fun things in life. It will take some effort – but it's worth it.

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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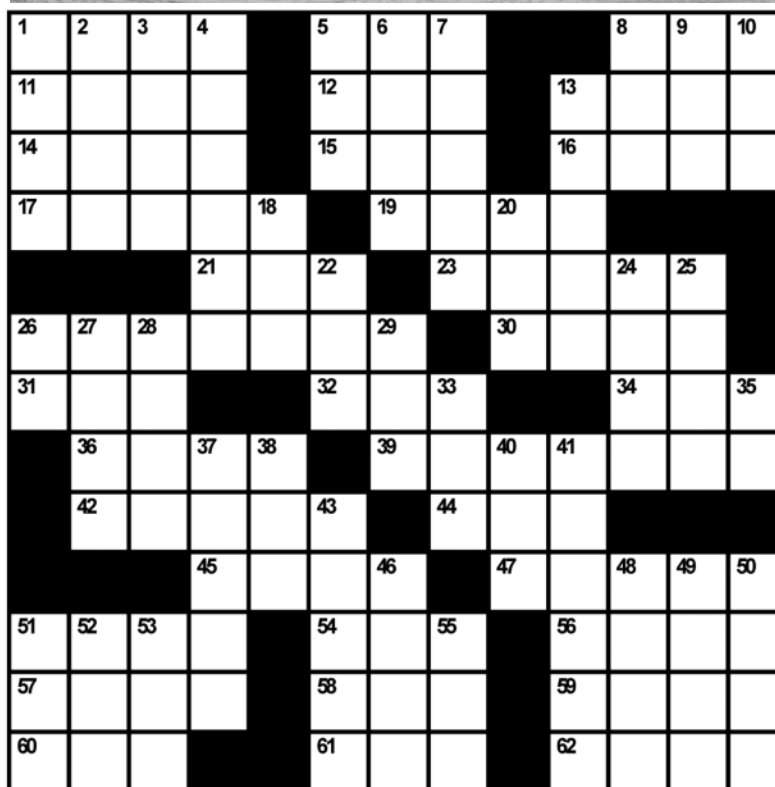
A mid-size seniors non-profit housing corporation in Uxbridge seeks volunteers to serve as directors. Individuals with an interest or experience in social housing, finance or property management are preferred.

Applicants should have some familiarity with governance and be able to attend monthly virtual meetings. Please forward an expression of interest or resumé to:

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Across

- 1 Kind of cheese
- 5 Long-eared pack animal
- 8 Secretive org.
- 11 Fitness assoc.
- 12 Swindle
- 13 Italian car maker
- 14 Ballistic missile system, for short
- 15 Together
- 16 Gym set
- 17 Brace material
- 19 Lawsuit
- 21 ___ your engine
- 23 Goes here and there
- 26 Personal view
- 30 Gull-like bird
- 31 Catch ___-handed
- 32 Harmless cyst
- 34 Vineyard in France
- 36 Rip apart
- 39 One of the Armada
- 42 Sully
- 44 "___ Tuck" show
- 45 Goat hybrid
- 47 Boston newspaper
- 51 Bygone
- 54 Thai people
- 56 Golden calf, e.g.
- 57 Do away with
- 58 Wasted
- 59 Cartographer, James
- 60 In poor health
- 61 Immature newt
- 62 Bungles

Down

- 2 Bypass
- 3 Ground plot
- 4 Bar
- 5 In the past
- 6 'N ___ band
- 7 Primitive fishing tool
- 8 Disapproving expression
- 9 British roll
- 10 "___ De-Lovely"
- 13 Flip (out)
- 18 Neck adornment in Hawaii
- 20 Nine-sound signal
- 22 Pledge
- 24 Greatly
- 25 Delhi wrap
- 26 Alternative word
- 27 Smart-alecky
- 28 Fancy
- 29 Just out
- 33 Palindromic girl's name
- 35 Direction
- 37 Smart and brilliant
- 38 Spit contains it
- 40 Oil drilling machinery
- 41 Unite, in a way
- 43 Machine-made net
- 46 Artless one
- 48 Skunk's defense
- 49 Churl
- 50 Some lodge members
- 51 Pressure meas., for short
- 52 ___ one's energy
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Local ladies fashion boutique steps into new shoes

by Justyne Edgell

After five years of running Kimberly Kelland Fashions, Kimberly Kelland has now retired, but the boutique is still in business!

Earlier this year, Kelland was contemplating what to do next in her life when she made a post announcing the sale of her business to local fashion fanatics who could take over her already established shop and client base.

"Giving up Kimberley Kelland Fashions was a process that started last December when I lost my best friend to cancer," says Kelland. "[That person was] dedicated and hardworking like myself, and it made me evaluate what little personal time I had, and I felt I hadn't been present with my family because of this [the business]."

Kelland said choosing the right time was difficult. She had already purchased clothing stock for spring and summer 2021 and in March made the decision to order for fall and winter 2021, as she worried she was jumping into the decision based off of her grief. "When August rolled around I made the decision to not move forward with purchasing spring/summer '22. I'm at the 'slow down' or retire age anyway," says Kelland.

Kelland says her real estate agent son, Beau Kelland, encouraged her to sell rather than just close up shop. "Averie was the first prospect I met and I liked her right away," said Kelland.

Averie Thorn-Smith, local resident since 2010, was excited to see this post.

"I had been a customer of Kim's since she opened Kimberley Kelland Fashions back in 2016," says Thorn-Smith. "She had posted on social media that she was selling the business and it immediately piqued my interest. The timing was right for me so I sent in an inquiry and now, two months later, I am in and operating as the new owner of the rebranded Threads Boutique."

With the change of ownership, the boutique had a bit of a rebrand. While the sign on the front may be different, Thorn-Smith says she is maintaining the same high-end boutique feel.

"Customers can expect to see the same brands they know and love that Kim carried with the addition of some of my favourites. True to the boutique atmosphere, customers can expect a

personalized shopping experience.

I am always here to help!"

Thorn-Smith says she is looking forward to working so close to home and cutting out the dreaded city commute. "I have dreamed of having my own business here in town. It's an amazing place to live and we have so many great local businesses; I wanted to be a part of that."

"I love Averie's ideas and I think she is perfect. I'm so excited the store will go on as Threads Boutique," says Kelland.

Threads Boutique is located at 14 Brock St. E., sharing the building with Keith's Flower Shop, which makes 14 Brock St. E. "a great place for one stop shopping," says Thorn-Smith, "be sure to pop in and say 'hi!'"

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