

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 18 No. 4

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, January 27, 2022

Betty White Challenge helps Uxbridge animals • Aging with dignity • Winter sport safety tips



TAKING TO THE TRAILS - Cold temperatures, brisk sunshine and fresh snow - lots of it - brought Tristan and Olivia Thorman out to cross-country ski on the Trans Canada Trail on Sunday. The *Cosmos* wants more photos of you! Visit thecosmos.ca for details.

Photo by John Cavers

Potential 'pop-up' square could become permanent

by Roger Varley

If the township is successful in receiving a grant, Uxbridge could have a town square before the end of summer - sort of.

In a report to council on Monday, Amanda Ferraro, director of community services, said a successful grant application could see a "pop-up" town square installed on the small parkette next to the Coffee Time building on Brock Street. She said such a "pop-up" venue could lead to a permanent town square in the future. A temporary town square could be used to accommodate festivals and events, she said.

Ferraro said an opportunity exists to obtain as much as \$250,000 from the My Main Street Community Activator program offered by the Canadian Urban Institute and the Economic

Development Council of Ontario.

Noting that the Uxbridge Downtown Revitalization Committee's surveys show a town square has been identified as one of the top priorities for residents and business owners, Ferraro said the "pop-up" square could be transformed into a permanent square once re-development of the area begins. She said the parkette and some of the parking spaces on the west side of the Coffee Time parking lot could be made visually appealing with streetscaping, benches and tables, patio lighting and planters. She said barricades and security cameras would create a "safe" central space which would augment existing events such as the Holiday Trail, the Santa Claus parade and summer busker days.

A successful grant application would allow for

acquisition of temporary staging, lights, sound system and other equipment which could be stored in an event trailer.

"I want to be clear it is a 'pop-up,' a temporary opportunity to figure out the logistics," Ferraro told council, adding that all township departments would be corroborating to make it work.

Councillor Willie Popp said this is an opportunity the township should not pass up.

"This will bring people back to downtown," he said. "This will help us determine the final configuration of a town square."

Councillor Todd Snooks said Ferraro's report, together with the work of staff, the revitalization committee and other groups is one of the most comprehensive examples he has seen of a

...continued on page 4

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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905-852-9181 info@uxbridge.ca

The Township of Uxbridge

Trail Capital of Canada

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for January, 2022

Monday, January 31

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Schedule for February, 2022

Wednesday, February 2

BIA BOARD, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday February 3

TRAILS COMMITTEE, 9:00 a.m.

Monday, February 7

COMMITTEE, 10:00 a.m.

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY

COMMITTEE, 4:00 p.m.

Monday, February 14

COUNCIL, 10:00 a.m.

Plaque Dedication

Show your love this Valentine's Day with a plaque dedication on one of our many Uxbridge Trails.

Visit www.uxbridge.ca

Interim UHS MAC notice

The Township of Uxbridge is looking for more volunteers for the Museum Advisory Committee (MAC). MAC advises, comments on, recommends, and assists Town Council with the operation and management of the Uxbridge Historical Centre and its services. If you care about history, arts, culture, tourism, and accessibility in Uxbridge Township, we welcome you to join our next (virtual) meeting on Wednesday, February 9, at 7 p.m., to meet the MAC and learn what it's all about. Email museum@uxbridge.ca to receive a meeting link.

Employment Opportunities

Complete details are available at

uxbridge.ca/employment_opportunities

Fire Department - Volunteer (Part -Time) Firefighters

Closes Monday, January 31, at 4:30 p.m.

Candidates must be 18 years of age or older.

Community Services Department – Camp Program Coordinator (F-T summer student)

Closes Monday, February 7, 2022

Community Services Department – Camp Supervisors (F-T and P-T summer students)

Closes Monday, February 7, 2022

The Township of Uxbridge is 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
U22-01 Fields of Uxbridge, Senior Soccer Field Irrigation – Closes Feb. 3, 2022, 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.

Closure

Sandford Road from Conc. 2 to Conc. 3 will be closed for bridge repairs from January 31 to March 8, 2022.



Election Compliance Audit Committee

Townships of Brock, Uxbridge and Scugog

The Townships of Brock, Scugog, and Uxbridge are requesting applications from interested members of the public to serve on the Compliance Audit Committee for the 2022 Municipal Election. This committee, consisting of three (3) members, will serve all three (3) municipalities for the term of November 15, 2022, to November 14, 2026.

Ideally, membership on the Compliance Audit Committee shall be comprised of one (1) member of the public from each municipality to serve all three (3) municipalities.

Purpose

The purpose of the Committee is to review applications which may be referred by the Clerk or submitted by qualified electors who believe, on reasonable grounds, that a municipal election candidate or registered Third Party Advertiser has contravened the provisions of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, related to campaign finances. The powers of the Committee will be to:

- Review applications received and decide whether the application should be granted or rejected;
- If the application is granted, to appoint an auditor to conduct a compliance audit; and,
- Upon receipt of the report indicating a contravention, the Committee may commence legal proceedings against the candidate or Registered Third Party Advertiser; or,
- Upon receipt of the report indicating no contravention, the Committee may make a finding as to whether there were reasonable grounds for the application and determine whether to recover the costs of conducting the compliance audit

Qualifications

Committee members must have the ability to understand and apply the election campaign finance provisions of the Municipal Act and must be considered impartial with respect to their ability to fulfill their responsibilities. Preference shall be given to those Committee members with experience in accounting, law, and law enforcement.

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, prohibits members of Council, a local board, staff of the respective municipalities, candidates, and Registered Third Party Advertisers from serving on this Committee.

Remuneration

Members of the Committee shall be provided a retainer and remunerated for their attendance at meetings together with mileage.

Application Process

Interested persons are invited to forward a written expression of interest and resume outlining their experience and qualifications to serve on this Committee to the Clerk of one of the (3) municipalities.

Further Information

Further information, including the terms of reference may be obtained from the office of the Clerk in each municipality.

Application Deadline

Applications will be received in the office of each Clerk until **4:30 p.m. on January 28, 2022.**

Mr. Fernando Lamanna
Municipal Clerk & Deputy CAO
Township of Brock
1 Cameron Street East,
P.O. Box 10
Cannington, Ontario
L0E 1E0
flamanna@brock.ca

Ms. Becky Jamieson
Municipal Clerk
Township of Scugog
181 Perry Street
P.O. Box 780
Port Perry, Ontario
L9L 1A7
bjamieson@scugog.ca

Ms. Debbie Leroux
Municipal Clerk
Township of Uxbridge
51 Toronto Street South
P.O. Box 190
Uxbridge, Ontario
L9P 1T1
dleroux@uxbridge.ca

Township of Uxbridge COVID-19 Updates

Facility Closure Information

Town Hall - Open for essential services
- Visit website for on-line services

Fire Permits - available online

Uxbridge Arena - Closed, reopening Jan. 31

Uxpool - Closed, reopening Feb. 1

Uxbridge Public Library - Express pick-up

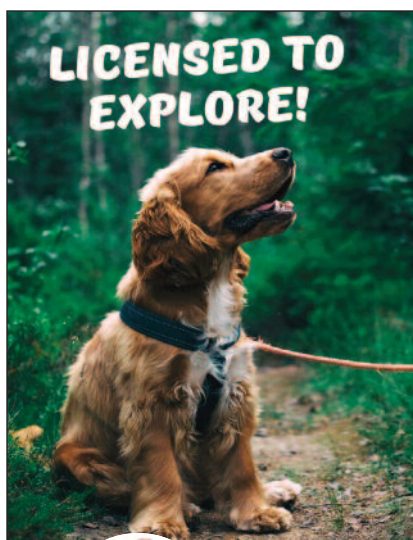
Uxbridge/Scugog Animal Shelter open by appointment, call 905-985-9547

Questions? Contact Us!

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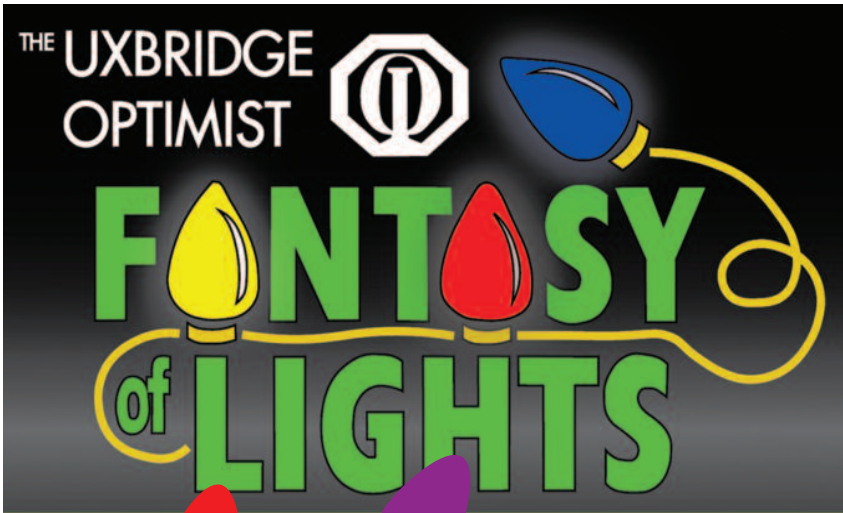
All dogs in Uxbridge must be licensed annually. Not only is it a requirement of the By-law; it's also a great way to support your local shelter, the Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter, and the services they provide.



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

Thank you!



The Optimist Club of Uxbridge wishes to thank the following for their contribution to helping us make our 14th anniversary of the Optimist Fantasy of Lights so successful.

Monies raised from this event go to helping improve this event, as well as toward our initiatives for helping the youth of our town.

We look forward to our 2022 event with great anticipation.

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St. Joseph Catholic
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St. Paul’s Anglican
Church
The Bridge Social
The Flooring Barn
The Second Wedge
Brewing Company
This Guy Cleans
Thunder Ridge Bison
Co.
Toronto & North York
Pony Club
Trafalgar Castle School
Trinity United Church
Town of Uxbridge
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Club
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Commerce
Uxbridge Community
Midwives
Uxbridge Cycling Club
Uxbridge Fair Board
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Uxbridge McDonalds
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Uxbridge Public School
Uxbridge Rotary Club
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Uxbridge Skating Club
Uxbridge Youth Centre
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Davidson Barrow
Robert Dignan
Will Horton
Bill & Nancy Knapp
Ron Peevers
John Ponech
Evan Sahakian
Tony Schwab
Leia Steeves
Luke Steeves
Skye Steeves
Lisa Streets
Keith St. John
Alice Wilson
Preston Wilson
Randy Wilson
Wally Winn

**Our Gate
Volunteers**

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Abby Milner
Alyssa Redshaw
Amber Cockburn
Ashley Fairley
Ashley Woodhams
Ben Mann

Bob Armitage
Braeden Gerard
Brandon Weatherup
Brayden Matresky
Bruce Garrod
Calvin Cockburn
Charlotte Waye
Carol Hendry
Chas Harding
Chris Hurle
Clarke Tracey
Cyndie Jacobs
Dave Barton
Diane Dyke
Dot Partridge
Elaine de Blicquy
Elaine Porter
Ellie Harding
Elliot Taylor
Emily Chillman
Emily Everson
Emma Brown
Emma Leighton
Eric Irwin
Erin Matresky
Ethan Toste
Gail Waye
Gary Ruona
Greg Eickmeier
Greg Gallagher
Heather Hunter
Ian Weir
Indira Barton
Jackie Burch
Jacob Stewart
Jason Eavis
Jasper Brott
Jenn Myers
Jim Roche
John Henry
Julie McKeiver
Julie Silwa
Karen Irwin
Kat Weir

Kathy Eavis
Katie Best
Ken Hendry
Kim Lunn
Koen Searles
Kyle Flear
Kyle Ough
Lauren Eavis
Lauren Garrison
Laya McKenzie
Layla Dubreuil
Liam Davidson
Lisa Cornell-Cook
Lisa Rolph
Lisha VanNieuwenhove
Luke Steeves
Maddie Ough
Marcus Smith

Mark Melcher
Mary-Anne McKenzie
Maureen Barnes
Nancy Mann
Nancy Melcher
Nathan Heyworth
Nathan Searles
Nicole Stewart
Ngaan Chan
Nora Mazloumian
Owen Begg
Owen Garrison
Owen Ritchie
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Sarah Best
Sonya Kehoe
Sophie Taylor
Steve Snodden
Sue Armitage
Tess Dempster
Todd Snooks
Travis White
Tristan Ough
Zebedee Woodhams
Hannah, Parker,
Preston & Shannon
Wilson
Randy Wilson

Thanks

To the Chowns for providing us with cookies.
To the Uxbridge Parade Committee for loaning Santa's sleigh and reindeer.
To Derek Hayes for snow clearing and sanding.
To SunRock Canada for supplying gravel.
To Uxbridge Town Council and staff for their onngoing support.
To the Uxbridge Cosmos, Uxbridgedaily.com, 105.5 Hits FM, Uxbridge Tourism and Uxbridge Scugog Life for helping to promote the event.
To Bill and Nancy Knapp for nightly maintenance.

Finally we wish to thank the local residents for their patience, understanding and support. We had a very successful event which will allow us to put a lot more money into our own community for the good of our youth, We are so grateful to everyone who helped to “pull this off”. We could not have done it without you.
Readersdigest.ca listed us again in the top 10 light events in Canada.
Narcity listed us in the top 7 drive through events in Ontario.

If you would like to learn more about us, please go to our website, uxbridgeoptimist.com for information.

Our two cents

A 'popping' good start

As we report on page 1, Uxbridge could have the beginnings of a town square before the end of summer.

Of course, it all depends on how successful the township is in receiving a grant and, if successful, how large that grant will be. However, it shows that the township has been paying attention, finally, to the wishes of the community at large.

A number of years ago, Bob Shepherd was elected mayor of Uxbridge largely because he had "a vision" for the downtown area. He was never fully able to articulate his vision, nor was he able to garner much support for the idea and he served only one term. But at least he had a vision.

Now, years later, the vision has returned and it is being shared by many in the community, especially the Downtown Revitalization Committee, whose resident and business surveys showed a town square is one of the top priorities for the downtown area.

With the culvert construction finally behind us, and while we wait for the rezoning of the lands that were formerly in the flood plain, Community Services director Amanda Ferraro has proposed that we can gain some valuable information about a permanent town square by installing what she called a "pop-up" town square. Such a "pop-up" would be installed on the small parkette next to Coffee Time, complete with benches and tables to create a communal space, with landscaping, lighting and planters and a stage area. It would be used to enhance such regular events as the Santa Claus parade, the Holiday Trail and others, but could also see musicians and entertainers from time to time.

We applaud the move. It's an excellent opportunity to learn whether such an installation will, in fact, lure more people into the downtown core and bring some vibrancy back into the area.

There are dangers, but if we know what they are, we can be prepared to overcome them. The parkette itself is, at the moment, a neglected little strip of greenery with a few trees and not much else. In the past, there have been attempts to dress it up a little, but it still remains a pretty lifeless lot. The township will have to realize that just throwing a few planters, tables and benches there will not cut it. Even though it is to be temporary - (until a permanent town square can be established) - it should at least give the feeling that it's here and it's going to be used.

The Uxbridge Farmers' Market has proved successful over the past few years because it now has a feeling of permanence that was not there when it was located at the arena parking lot or on the parking lot next to Wixan's Bridge.

Another danger is that, once the temporary square is in place, it might become the norm and no more permanent work will be done. Mayor Dave Barton responded to that possibility by saying there can be no buildings constructed over that part of the Brock St. parking lot that covers the culvert and so it could only be used for a town square. That may well be, but once the area is open for redevelopment, who knows what developers might be asking for in terms of parking or loading zones, etc.

However, the success of the temporary town square will not rest solely on the shoulders of council and township staff. It will depend on how it is utilized by the general public.

We can only hope the quote from the movie *Field of Dreams* is true: "If you build it, they will come."



Letters to the Editor

An interesting article written in the *Toronto Star* just after Christmas ("It is time to re-envision aging in Canada," by John Muscedere and Alex Mihaildis, Dec. 26, 2021) captured my feelings about how older adults in general are treated. The authors talk about how ageism has become a very serious problem in our society, and state that, "Rather than viewing older adults as individuals to be taken care of, Canada must see its older population as the active and valuable contributors that they are."

From the beginning of this pandemic, we have constantly heard, "We must take care of our seniors," or, "We must protect our seniors," but for many people in decision-making positions, this means, "We must control our seniors."

For some reason, once you are over 65 and retired, a good part of society feels you are far less able to fend for yourself. And God forbid you are 85 or older, because the expectation here is that you can

hardly do anything for yourself.

Not true.

Trying to take over or do everything for older people is not respectful; in fact, this approach is quite a put down. If you really want to know what older adults want, think, or need, for goodness sake, just ask them!

Yes, some older adults need a good deal of support in many different ways, but no one approach fits all. Nursing homes and long-term care facilities are not the ultimate answer. We have all seen the results of this type of institutionalized care since the beginning of the pandemic. Sadly, we continue to make the same mistakes. Locking people up for long periods of time with few if any visitors, is simply inhumane. Perhaps some of the people making these decisions should sit in a small room month after month with little outside contact to see what a modified jail situation is all about.

I could go on and on, but many good articles have been written

these last two years outlining the problems and providing many workable solutions. Hopefully, society as a whole will insist on a new and better approach to involve older adults, and, where needed, their families, for their overall well-being. Patronizing, controlling, intimidating (real or inferred) and mandating should all be left out of the equation. Respect through involvement, inclusion and shared decision making should be the right of everyone, including older adults no matter what age.

My hope is that once this pandemic is over, we don't just fall back into the same old way of doing things. Thousands more long term care beds is not the answer. We must be much more creative and work with our older population to find better ways for everyone to age gracefully with respect and a sense of self worth.

Bob Pugh
Uxbridge

"Pop-up" town square might pop up downtown, from page 1

whole community coming together on one project.

"This is a great start," he said.

Snooks emphasized that the term "pop-up" might be misleading, noting that the temporary square would not be put and taken down continually, but that it would remain in place.

Mayor Dave Barton said the space could be used for other pur-

poses over and above existing events.

"We'd be fairly wide open to service clubs and other groups who want to come in and do something creative," he said. He added that if the project goes ahead, one of his first calls would be to Amy Peck, USS music teacher and saxophone player.

"We'd love to see more of our youth performing in a downtown square," he said. "I'm looking forward to the day when I can sit on

a patio in the area, listen to music, and it's not a 'pop-up'. This is about a recovery, getting people to spend time in the downtown core."

Ferraro said that, if the grant application is successful, the township would not be required to provide any matching funding.

Council approved Ferraro's request to proceed with the application.

Your Universe

The Uxbridge Cosmos

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

CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER AWARD 2019

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CMCA AUDITED

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A Blonde Moment

column by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

The ping of death

Something weird happened to me when I turned 50 two Octobers ago. I started anticipating death. Not my own death - I was only turning 50, for heaven's sake. But anticipating the death of someone around me, or connected to me in some way. Lately I'm finding lately that my sense of anticipation towards learning of a death is growing, and frankly, I'm getting a little concerned.

For instance, I've started reading the obituaries in the *Toronto Star* on the weekend. It used to be I'd pull out the Life section for the horoscopes, the Dating Diaries, Dear Ellie (or Abby or whatever her name is), and most importantly, Carolyn Evans-Hammond's wine selections for the week. I'd pull out the cartoons, the Insight section, and cruise through the front section. But now the Business section has a strong pull for me - not because I'm so entrepreneurial-minded, but because the latter half of it contains the obituaries. I scan the list of names at the top of the section, then go through each and every person, taking in names, dates, photos, and if anyone seems really intriguing, I read right through. I've met some fascinating people! I recently reconnected with a family I used to teach piano to in Switzerland, thanks to an obituary. What are the odds, eh?

I started reading the obits in the *Star* when I became concerned for some friends of my parents from whom I hadn't heard in a long time. Their names, thank heavens, haven't popped up yet, but now I am compelled to check every week, just in case. A grim but oddly satisfying Saturday afternoon occupation.

Speaking of being compelled, I am also compelled to check the notifications that pop up on my phone from CBC News. I get no notifications from any app except my CBC News app, but not only because the journalist in me wants to keep up on the latest news from here and around the world. Nope. It's because every now and again a "So-and-So has died" comes through, and I always feel like I just have to find out what happened. If I really lay my soul bare here, I'll confess that every time I open that notification, I half expect to learn that - dare I utter it - our

beloved sovereign head has gone to reign in the sky. To be clear, I am NOT wishing it, I am NOT putting it out there. I'm dreading it, in fact. King Henry VIII would be only too happy to lop my head off for even thinking the thought. But it's the truth.

There has been a spate of celebrity passings lately - Betty White was, I believe, the first on New Years Eve, quickly followed by (in no particular order or importance, and not limited to) Bob Saget, Meat Loaf, Sidney Poitier, the NFL's Dan Reeves, and Vogue's André Leon Talley. My CBC app has been going nuts. Between these, updates on the Russia/Ukraine conflict and COVID news, my phone's been pinging up a symphony.

I don't mean to be irreverent here, and I certainly don't mean to offend anyone - apologies if I have. But I do think I approach death a little differently than many other people. My parents died within three months of one another 14 years ago, now. My grandparents are, understandably, all gone. Some close family friends - gone. Pets too numerous to count - gone. When the passing occurs, I stoically push through whatever needs to be done, I bawl my brains out, then continue on. I move my way through what they call the "five stages of grief" (denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance) in some form or another, but I appear to settle at acceptance and sort of stay there, with the occasional blip (you never stop wanting your Mom). So, in trying to explain this recent phenomenon, I think I can safely say that I don't fixate on obituaries to deal with my own grief. (Let's see if I act so stoic and solid if any of my children or my husband are taken from me. Just look at how I worded that - says a lot, doesn't it? But let's not go there...)

I know I am not alone in my obit obsession. There must be other people who anticipate the news of death like I do. (I hope there are, or I'll feel pretty stupid.) And my heart truly aches for anyone out there who is anticipating a real, close-to-home death.

I guess as we get older, we all have to come to terms with The End. Well, at least that's one phone notification I guess I won't have to worry about opening up.



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Font of history

My parents, both U.S.-born, often took my sister and me on road trips back across the border in the 1950s and '60s to visit our American cousins in the summertime. To help break the monotony of the drives to New York City, our parents often found amusement parks for us to visit along the way. One I'll never forget was in the Adirondack mountains of upstate New York.

"Frontier Town!" announced the big red sign at the park's entrance. And the marketing subtitle declared, "Where the Wild West begins."

Inside we toured the massive railroad station, sawmill, the church, the requisite hotel and saloon and, of course, the jail. The place was crawling with tourists; Frontier Town bragged it had 3,000 guests each day on the weekends.

Odd, but what I remember most about Frontier Town, was the look of the signage. You know, the lettering - its fat, blocky letters with spikes sticking out of the sides - identifying The Saloon, The Livery Stable, or on the Wanted posters outside the jail. Even when I watched all those westerns on TV - *Guns, Smoke, Maverick, Have Gun Will Travel* and *The Rifleman* - I always associated that OLD West lettering with the *real* Old West, as in the American West in the 1800s.

Well, when I researched I learned that the OLD West print type was pretty much a Hollywood invention. In fact, Walt Disney (who created much of the 1950s mythology about the Old West on TV and in "Frontierland," his Disneyland cowboy theme park) actually stole the lettering style from, you guessed it, Frontier Town amusement park. Old West script, if one checks it out, comes from a frontier reality; in order for signs to be legible, the lettering had to be big, bold and obvious for cutting into wooden signs posted outside buildings; and the spikes out the side, some suggest, were added for effect, like spurs on cowboy boots.

I'm discovering, like the Old West font myth, that we're likely to believe whatever the handiest and quickest media tool can give us, even if it's wrong. Actual history is fading, being lost, because we're limiting our understanding of history to whatever parts of it have been digitized. Too many moments of history or artifacts from it - from a time before the world wide web and social media - have fallen through the cracks. Indeed, anything hard

copy - as in letters, documents, actual photographs - is physically too complicated, too expensive, too time-consuming, (dare I say too passé) to consider historical.

By example, I've been trying to find a photograph of a wartime Canadian news correspondent, a reporter named Jack Brayley, who served as the Canadian Press (CP) news bureau chief in Halifax during the Second World War. Brayley was relentless reporting the facts about news events in Atlantic Canada during the war. To skirt government censors, when reporting to his editors, he even developed code words to disguise military activity he'd witnessed. Anyway, my search for a photo of Brayley led me to CP's head office in Toronto. The single archivist I reached by phone told me that all such photographs had been boxed up and sent to a warehouse. She could only supply a picture if it had been digitized. Brayley's had not.

"Can't someone search the warehouse box files?" I asked.

"Once, we could," she said. "But our archive staff that was once 600 (across Canada) is now just two."

I thanked her for the reality check, and realized if Brayley's photo existed in hard copy anywhere, it was likely lost to history because someone (who had no idea who he was) figured the picture of a wartime bureau chief in Halifax wasn't important enough to digitize. And Brayley's image was likely lost forever.

And I remembered the final scenes from the movie *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, when Indiana Jones, the Harrison Ford character, asks the U.S. security guy if the Ark he'd recovered was being researched and catalogued.

"We have our top man working on it right now," the security guy says.

And the film cuts to a box (with the Ark) - identified only as "Top Secret. Army Intel." - being rolled on a trolley across the floor of a vast, nondescript warehouse. As the camera pulls back, the warehouse worker and trolley disappear around the corner of a pile of boxes extending as far as the eye can see, every box marked exactly the same.

The print on the box, by the way, looked like it was right out of Frontier Town.

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



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Local animal charities get support from Betty White Challenge

by Justyne Edgell

Who would have guessed that the passing of a popular Hollywood actress would benefit the Uxbridge animal community?

The Betty White Challenge saw over \$10,000 donated to various animal shelters and support organizations in Uxbridge. The challenge was set up to coincide with January 17, which would have been actress Betty White's 100th birthday, but the bubbly star of television shows like *The Golden Girls* passed away on Dec. 31, just shy of the milestone birthday. Many were inspired by the actress's love for animals and set up the "Betty White Challenge," where people were asked to donate to animal shelters, rescues and charities in the late actress's honour.

One local beneficiary of the Betty

White Challenge was the Edwards Animal Sanctuary, a foster-based cat rescue located in Uxbridge which specializes in stray, feral and special needs cats and kittens. Jen Edwards says almost \$6,290 was donated to the sanctuary, thanks to "such a wonderful, generous group of supporters!"

"The donations will go towards spay and neuter," says Edwards. "We have 18 cats and kittens booked for spay/neuter over the next two weeks. (Donations will also) cover medication, special food and diagnostic tests for some of our special needs cats that are currently needing treatment."

Edwards says they are also hoping



Kittens at the Edwards Animal Sanctuary.
Photo from edwardsanimalsanctuary.com

to purchase neonatal incubators this year, as last spring and summer they took in several newborn to 10-day-old orphaned kittens.

"It (a neonatal incubator) has been on our wish list for some time. So that may be a dream we can finally fulfill this year!" she said.

Jessica Pett, animal control officer with the Uxbridge Scugog Animal Shelter, says the shelter received 46 donations mentioning the Betty White Challenge, totalling \$1,360.

"We are very grateful, the donations will go a long way in supporting animals in our care!"

The New Animal Shelter for Uxbridge-Scugog wasn't left out. Tara Rosen, president of NASUS, says that "we were very blessed. We received \$1,944."

The Uxbridge-Scugog Pet Food

Bank took on the Betty White Challenge itself. Along with accepting \$485 dollars in donations, it also paid it forward to support other charities. The pet food bank donated \$200 "to Miss Dixies Foundation, one of the predominant non-profit food providers for Ontario rescues, sanctuaries and pet food banks."

Betty White was reported to having been an avid animal activist, growing up with parents whom she called "big animal nuts." She is often quoted as saying, "I just don't know how I would have lived without animals around me. I'm fascinated by them - both domestic pets and the wild community. They just are the most interesting things in the world to me, and it's made such a difference in my lifetime."

Jan. 17 has passed, but those interested can still participate in the Betty White Challenge by donating at least \$5 to their animal charity of choice, and mentioning the late entertainment icon's name.

Play safe on Uxbridge ponds

by Justyne Edgell

What's more fun on a snow day than skating on an outdoor rink? Well, if you haven't built one in your backyard, and in a town like this, the community pond seems like a fabulous spot. However, stepping on the ice should be done with caution, and certain ponds are off limits completely.

It's important to remember that Uxbridge has a number of storm water management ponds. The water levels in these ponds fluctuate, making ice conditions unreliable and unsafe.

Councillor Willie Popp, who is passionate about winter recreation during council meeting announcements, says it's important to exercise caution at all times.

"Similar to other municipalities, we advise against recreational use on storm water ponds," says Popp. "Storm water ponds collect run-off from surface water and from storm sewers. The fluctuating temperatures and presence of road salts can create thin or unstable ice and potentially hazardous conditions."

Earlier this month, the Township of Uxbridge posted information to its website about ice conditions. "The Township of Uxbridge will be testing the ice conditions at Elgin Pond throughout the winter. A flag notification system is in place."

Flags are posted in two colours; red, indicating that ice is unsafe, and yellow, to skate with caution. If no flags are posted, the ice conditions have yet to be checked.

"We often provide communication on the Township page (page 2 of the *Cosmos*) to inform residents about Elgin Pond ice monitoring. The pond is currently flagged yellow, which means skate with caution. Users should always check the flag status before using Elgin Pond and not use the ice if it is flagged red," says Popp.

The Canadian Red Cross has identified a few key indicators for ice safety, including thickness and colour of ice.

"Clear blue ice is strongest, white opaque or snow ice is half as strong as blue ice. Opaque ice is formed by wet snow freezing on the ice. Grey ice is unsafe. The grayness indicates the presence of water," reports the Red Cross.

It also notes that 15 cm of ice is recommended for walking or skating on alone, 20 cm for skating parties or games, and 25 cm for snowmobiles.

The Township also reminds residents to keep away from water inlets and outlets as ice thickness can be compromised in these locations.

Morton, Jean

Born in Poulton-Le-Fylde, England, she passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family in her home filled with love on Sunday, January 16, 2022, at 87 years of age.

Jean shared 60 years of marriage filled with love and happiness with her husband Tom. She is survived by her three children, Carol, Barry, and Gillian (John); her bother Bill (Hazel); their children, Howard, Graham, and Heather; and her brother-in-law Dave (Sue). Proud grandmother to Patrick, Brianna (Tom), Trevor and Matthew. Proud great-grandmother to Ryan, Dylan and Tyler. Jean is predeceased by her husband Tom, and the people who raised her from a very young age, her maternal grandparents and her Aunt Mary and Uncle Joe.

Jean had many passions throughout her life, including geography, field hockey, net ball, tennis, squash, lawn bowling, walking, bird watching, gardening, bridge, piano, drawing and painting, and a strong desire to see and explore many different types of landscapes and their geographical significance. She developed a love of theatre and music at a young age in Blackpool and continued that love in the Toronto Theatre District.

Jean became a geography teacher and was a long term volunteer with such organizations as Community Care, IODE and the Uxbridge Trail Association. She enjoyed spending time with her friends and neighbours and most recently enjoying time with her companion Barrie, the Limey Ladies and her exercise group in Uxbridge, ON. We are comforted that Jean and Tom are together again. Her strong love of life and the love she had for her family will be missed dearly. We love you, Jean.

A private service was held on Saturday, January 22, 2022. A celebration of life for Jean will be held in the spring in an outdoor setting. If you are interested in attending the celebration, please send the family an email (Jean.M.Morton@outlook.com); the time and place will be announced in the local newspapers.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Box 388, Uxbridge L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073). Online condolences may be offered at www.lowandlow.ca



Bryan MacKenzie James

February 14, 1990 ~ January 16, 2022

On Saturday, January 16, 2022, at approximately 2:40 am, Bryan MacKenzie James peacefully passed away at Markham Stouffville Hospital. He is forever loved and sadly missed by his mother, Yvonne de Wit, and his father, Andy James; his stepparents, Ron Gordon and Nives Malara; his sister Laura (Dan), and all of Bryan's friends. Those that knew Bryan well, will forever remember his kind, warm heart.

Bryan's service will be at the Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street S., Uxbridge, on Saturday, January 29, 2022, at 1 p.m., by invitation only. Due to the current restrictions, attendance within the facility is limited. To attend this service virtually, a link will be made available on the Low and Low website on the day of the service. Following the service, a small celebration of his short life will be held. Donations to the wonderful Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation in lieu of flowers are appreciated. For online condolences, please visit www.lowandlow.ca



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helper." Psalms 118*

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Contact Lvann@thecosmos.ca or 905-852-1900 Deadline: Tuesday, 12 noon. Ask about online link possibilities, too.

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87% Adults 18+
90% Millennials
82% Boomers

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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ONTARIO JUNIOR CITIZEN AWARD
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A list of some of the organizations who benefitted last year are as follows:

USS Scholarships	\$14,500
Uxbridge Lions Club (inclusive playground)	\$8,000
Hanna Wilson (reading programme)	\$1,000
Precious Minds	\$5,000
Loaves & Fishes Food Bank	\$7,500
Uxbridge Music Scholarship Trust	\$2,500
Go Fund Me - Easton	\$1,000
1st Uxbridge Scouts	\$10,000
Uxbridge Youth Center	\$10,000

TOTAL \$59,500



Uxbridge Optimist Christmas Trees

Many thanks to Pat Higgins and Mark Quibel of Canadian Tire Uxbridge and Scugog Rentals for their continued support for our Christmas tree sales.

If you would like to learn more about us, please go to our website, uxbridgeoptimist.com for information

