

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 18 No. 9

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Online this week: Gypsy moths Part II • Spring into books • Beware licence sticker scams



STANDING IN SOLIDARITY - Pickering-Uxbridge MP Jennifer O'Connell, centre, made a few remarks before the Ukrainian flag was raised at the township offices on Sunday afternoon to show support for the Ukrainian people. Mayor Dave Barton, left, BIA chair Christina Curry (whose family has roots in Ukraine) and Councillor Willie Popp look on. Approximately 50 people braved the blustery weather to attend the brief ceremony.

Photo by Justyne Edgell

Township to start a dialogue on drive-thrus

by Roger Varley

A number of Uxbridge businesses will soon be receiving a letter from the clerk's department asking them to begin a dialogue on vehicle idling.

In a report to council on Monday, deputy clerk Josh Machesney said the township's Climate Adaptation and Transition Committee decided to send the letter to businesses that operate drive-thrus in an effort to reduce vehicle idling and the accompanying greenhouse gases.

Councillor Willie Popp noted that drive-thru service has been "the heart and soul" of business for some operations over the past two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He said he found no animosity in the letter, but won-

dered if the proposed letter would be worthwhile. Machesney said the letter is meant to invite such businesses to start a dialogue and see if there is a solution.

Part of the proposed letter reads: "The Committee understands . . . that an anti-idling bylaw would not be an effective solution as it is impractical to expect drive through customers to turn off/on their vehicles several times as they progress through the queue to limit idling emissions. Eliminating drive through service altogether is also not a practical solution."

He noted that council recently approved a measure to reduce idling by township-owned vehicles.

Popp said that restaurants are not the only

businesses where idling vehicles might be found, noting the growing use of grocery pick-up locations since the pandemic started. Machesney said those businesses were not part of the climate committee's discussion but they could be included.

Councillor Bruce Garrod offered that, while he thought the initiative is good, it might be the wrong timing to send the letter now. However, Mayor Dave Barton suggested the letter and ensuing dialogue might lead to operators coming up with ways to speed up the drive-thru lines or encourage drivers to turn off their engines.

"There's a balancing act to all these things," he said.

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for February, 2022

Monday, March 7
COMMITTEE MEETING, 10:00 a.m.

Monday, March 14
NO MEETING – MARCH BREAK

Wednesday, March 16
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT
MEETING, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, March 21
COMMITTEE MEETING, 10:00 a.m.

Monday, March 28
COUNCIL MEETING, 10:00 a.m.

Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to
Uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders

- **U22-08 Fields of Uxbridge Lighting**
Closes March 9, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.
- **U22-11 Cleaning and Relining of Culvert**
Closes March 10, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.
- **U22-05 Pulverization and Hot Mix Paving**
Closes March 15, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.
- **U22-09 Application of Driveway Apron Paving and Patching**
Closes March 15, 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 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.

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

Closures

- York/Durham Reg. Road 30 from north of Durham Reg. Road 39/Queensville Sideroad to south of Holborn Road, East Gwillimbury. Bridge repairs require road closures from Jan. 21, 2022 until 2024.

Employment Opportunities

Complete details are available at
uxbridge.ca/employment_opportunities

Treasury Department – Student Accounting/Tax Clerk
Closes Friday, March 4, 2022

Uxpool – Aquatic Program Supervisor, Permanent P-T
Closes Thursday, March 18, 2022

Treasury Department – Payroll and Accounting Coordinator, Permanent F-T
Closes Friday, March 25, 2022

Uxbridge Historical Centre – Programming and Events Coordinator, Contract, F-T
Closes Friday, March 25, 2022

Parks Department – Summer Camp Counsellor, 16+
Closes Thursday, March 31, 2022

Parks Department – Assistant Summer Camp Counsellor, 15+
Closes Thursday, March 31, 2022

Parks Department – Summer Student, General Labourers, F-T
Closes Friday, April 1, 2022

Parks Department – Summer Student, Horticulture, F-T
Closes Friday, April 1, 2022

Parks Department – Adult Skilled, Horticulture, Contract, F-T
Closes Friday, April 1, 2022



**Community
Registration Fair**
March 24th, 7-9pm
More information next week!

Weight Restrictions on Lake Ridge Road (Regional Road 23)

Weight restriction of 5,000 kilograms or five tonnes per axle are in immediate effect on Lake Ridge Road (Reg. Rd. 23) from Myrtle Road (Reg. Rd. 5) to approximately 2 kms south of Goodwood Road (Reg. Rd. 21) in the City of Pickering, Town of Whitby, and townships of Scugog and Uxbridge.

Effective Mar. 1, 2022

Notice of Weight Restrictions

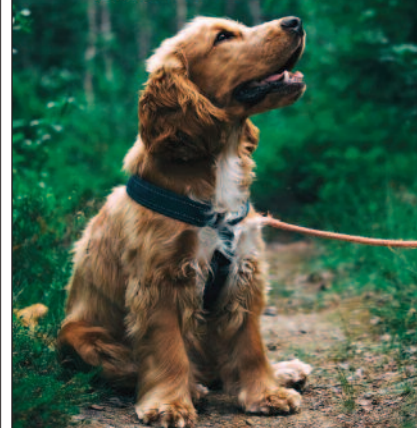


Seasonal weight restrictions on Township roads are now in effect.

Restrictions are in place until May 1st. Weather conditions will determine the actual end to the enforcement season.



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Help Us Design a New Playground!

What features should be part of a new play structure at Herrema Park?

Tell us at our March Break Open House!

Herrema Park Pavillion
March 15th, 12 – 1:30 pm



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

Bruins shot down by Eagles

by Roger Varley

Although the Uxbridge Bruins started out strong, dominating the visiting Clarington Eagles for the first six minutes of their game at the arena on Friday night, the Eagles turned the tables and registered their second shut-out of the Bruins in as many games.

The Eagles scored their first goal - and the eventual game-winner - at the midway mark of the first period when Bruins goalie Jack Randall stopped the initial shot but then allowed the puck to trickle under his pads. A long shot from the blue line on a power play three minutes later sent the Eagles into the dressing room with a two-goal lead.

Late in the second, the visitors took advantage of a five-minute penalty handed to the Uxbridge squad for head contact and scored their second power-play marker of the game.

The Bruins tried to come back in the third, but an apparent goal early in the period was disallowed. Clarington then scored their fourth and final goal.

The *Cosmos* selected Daniel Giorgio as player of the game for the Bruins, with goalie Alex Lepizzera receiving the nod for the Eagles.

The Bruins are scheduled to play their last home game of the regular season tomorrow night (Friday) at the arena at 7:45 p.m., when they host the league-leading Little Britain Merchants. They close the season on Sunday afternoon against the Georgina Ice.

The Bruins are in fourth place in the seven-team Orr Division of the PJHL's Junior C League, just two points ahead of Lakefield.

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DIVORCE Care

MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

The Rotary Club of Uxbridge is pleased to announce the winners of the February monthly draw for the 2022 Trip of the Month Club

The "Tambor Treasures" trip was won by Robert Kirvan ticket #232, sold by Marion Martin

2nd place winner, \$150 - Sabrina Leeder ticket #143, sold by Cyndie Jacobs

3rd place winner, \$100 - Susan Wilson ticket #275, sold by Doug Wilson

Congratulations to our February winners, and best of luck for the March Trip of the Month Club package entitled "Slippery Slopes." The package includes round trip direct, non-stop flights from Toronto to Calgary, Alberta; 4 nights' accommodation at Hidden Ridge Resort in a one-bedroom deluxe condominium unit; 4 days of lift tickets to Norquay, Sunshine Village or Lake Louise; one hour ski/snowboard lesson per person per day; daily round trip transfers to and from the slopes, round trip transfers from Calgary to Hidden Ridge and return.

A voucher for \$2,500 from Getaway Travel or cash option of \$2,250 is available instead of the trip.



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Ontario's economy is getting stronger. See what's happening at ontario.ca/stronger

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Our two cents

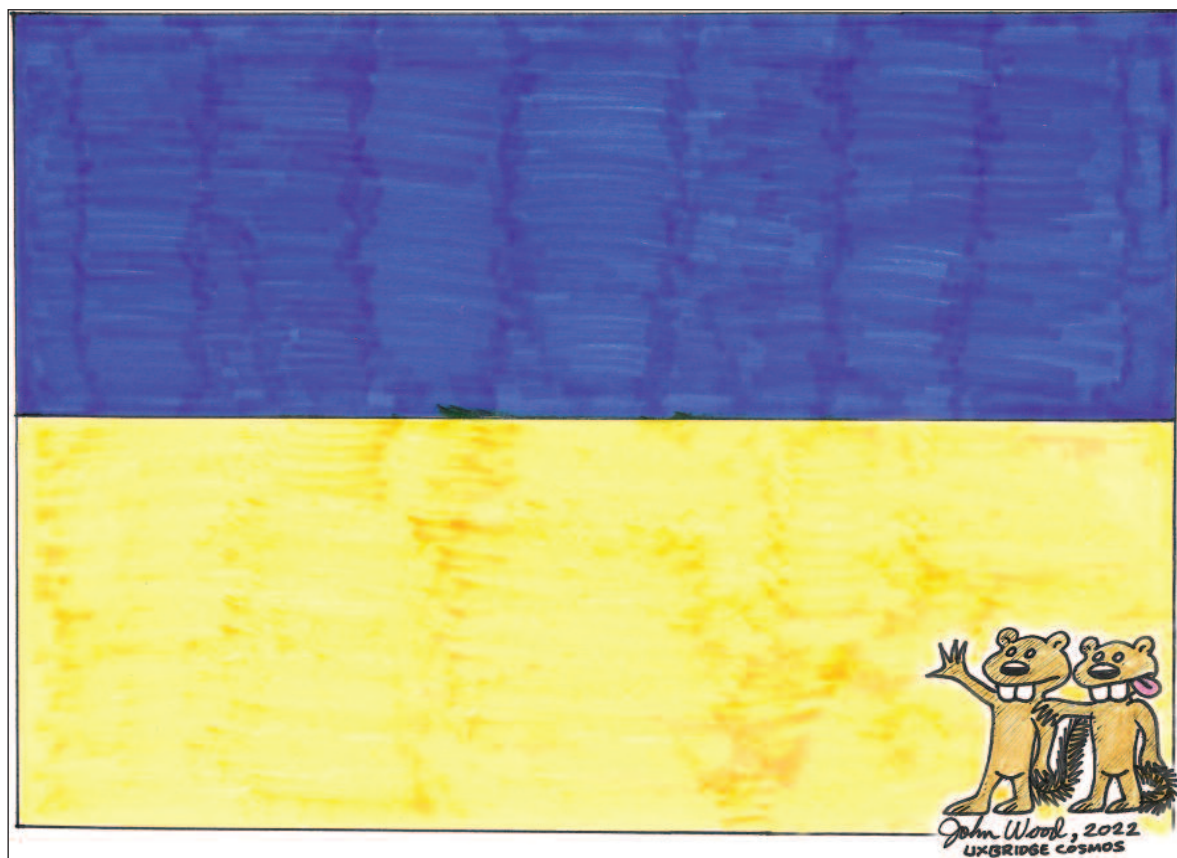
No right words

This is proving to be a remarkably difficult column to write this week. We've had enough of all things COVID, and the lifting of various restrictions on Tuesday gladdens our heart only slightly. We're practically suffering from snow blindness, we've been looking at white on the ground for so long (we have to complain about the weather; we are, after all, Canadian), although at the time of this writing, it's practically balmy outside, at 1 degree on the plus side!

Even making quips about the weather is difficult, and it feels wildly inappropriate when there's a war going on. Of course, it's not the only conflict plaguing the globe at the moment. And it's not the only major skirmish to occur since the official end of the Cold War (Jan. 1, 1991, if you're interested). Somehow it feels different this time, though. More pressing, more foreboding. Maybe it's just our imagination. Maybe it's because we were hopefully approaching the tail end of two very long years of strangeness, and we feel woefully ill-equipped to handle more stressful information and strangeness.

All that is coupled with a feeling of helplessness, uselessness. "Pray for Ukraine." "Stand with Ukraine." "Solidarity with Ukraine." We feel these things in our hearts, but what can we *do*? What we *want* to do is miraculously rid the world of a scourge that has been ruling Russia in some capacity for over two decades too long. Alas, our connections don't run in the circles that could perhaps accomplish that feat, so instead we sit here and worry, hoping against all hope that no one goes berserk and pushes *that* button. Perhaps that's what scares us the most. No one person has the right to hold almost eight billion people hostage. We have a wee problem with our lives being held in Vladimir Putin's hands.

Right now, however, our first concern is to somehow help the Ukraine and its citizens hold on to their country and their way of life. This is a defining moment for the world - if we can somehow solve this without using the big guns, then maybe we'll finally prove to ourselves that, even when it gets *really* difficult, we still know how to play in the same sandbox.



Letters to the Editor

Re: Bouwmeister letter, Feb. 17 edition

You say "this protest has nothing to do with blockading and bridges. I'm not for that." This was a three week occupation and complete blockade of a city of 1,000,000+ people and your letter tells us how much you are actually "for that." You make the connection that since you personally saw no physical violence, it must be peaceful. Weaponizing trucks, blaring horns all night, illegal and unauthorized partying and drunken belligerence, requiring police from every corner of Canada, harassing the locals and yelling at passersby, harassing the press, shutting down commerce, and blockading and occupying a city is never considered peaceful.

As a news junkie, why didn't you delve into who exactly is spurring on this "freedom convoy"? Did you read their manifesto, which demanded the surrender of the Canadian government? Did you find out what this government can provide by way of relieving the vaccine mandates of another country? Did you discover with whom the government should negotiate? Your choices are: a) those who want to overthrow the government (the main leaders); b) the white nationalists; c) the party-ers; d) American politicians; e) religious extremists; f) Q-anon adherents. Did you notice, in your deep-dive news perusal, with the exception of the party-ers, these are the groups raising funds? Do you wonder why they need the funding? Did you discover what they are trying to negotiate? This

answer kept changing, but the central theme was at least cohesive: freedom. An undefined freedom.

The problem with this amorphous freedom is that it has a different shape for each group. How does one negotiate if one can't define what it is to be negotiated? Freedom to do what? Freedom from what? If the answer is "freedom from vaccine mandates at the border," then they are protesting in the wrong country.

While indulging your news addiction, did you read anywhere that almost all of the restrictions are provincial and were about to be removed anyway?

The biggest exception I take is that you called this a multicultural event. I followed this event from the moment it began. On the last weekend, I spent two days live-streaming everything, and only saw, with few exceptions, a sea of white people. Unlike you, me and the rest of the world saw offensive flags, reporters and citizens harangued, and the exceptionally bone-headed couple who posed for photos with their four young children directly in front of a three-deep line of riot police. I saw and heard three weeks of non-peaceful occupation and occupiers acting with impunity on every news source in every medium.

It really irks me that these people wrap themselves in the Canadian flag and have co-opted that symbol for their "freedom from reality" convoy.

If you or the convoy people don't like this democratically elected government, get out and vote to change it. That's how it works in Canada. Holding a city hostage, wrapped in

a flag and gleefully giving the middle finger to the rest of Canada is not peaceful or democratic. By your own words, and contrary to your claim, apparently you are "for that."

Colin Murphy
Uxbridge

Province eliminates licence stickers

Well, Mr. Ford, I can't believe your blatant attempt to buy votes by dropping the vehicle registration renewal fee. Have you thought this through?

I am sure you are aware that the renewal process was the point when every owner confirmed their vehicle was properly insured. How will MTO do this now? Can I be confident other drivers are properly insured now? How can I be assured that the address showing on the licence permit of the other person involved in a collision is accurate?

Municipalities relied on the renewal process to collect outstanding parking tickets. The 407 ETR used the renewal time to collect unpaid bills.

The local Service Ontario office relied on renewals as a source of income. These franchise operations will want to renegotiate their agreements as less business will coming their way.

I think you dug yourself a huge hole when you did not require vehicle plates to be renewed during the pandemic. This was compounded when you stopped sending out renewal reminders. Last Fall, the government announced all plates had to be brought up-to-date by Feb.

...continued on page 6

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.



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Your Universe
The Uxbridge Cosmos

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Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Not a way to increase voter turnout

"I hope I'm not getting confused."

That quote from Councillor Todd Snooks came Monday as council debated a report on a proposed new election sign bylaw. His statement was understandable, since confusion reigned as councillors tried to work their way around and through the twists and turns of the proposed bylaw.

After hearing where candidates would and would not be allowed to place their signs during an election, Snooks remarked: "Under this bylaw, I can't think of a place I could put my sign up without permission of a home-owner."

That's because deputy clerk Josh Machesney's report said if a candidate wants to place a sign on a boulevard, said candidate must obtain permission of the home-owner whose property fronts onto the boulevard. That can lead to problems. Suppose Candidate A wants to put a sign up but a home owner, who doesn't like Candidate A, won't allow it. Then Candidate B comes along and the home-owner says "okay." How would you guard against that kind of discrimination? And, outside of this proposed bylaw, what gives any resident the right to dictate what can and can't be placed on a municipally owned boulevard?

Another section of the proposed bylaw says no candidate can erect a sign within 100 metres of his/her other signs on the same side of the road. The explanation offered for that is that it will "reduce the proliferation of election signs and maintain the positive aesthetic of the Township." This coming from a municipality where our streets are lined with garbage cans and recycling bins every week, free-standing "teardrop" advertising banners are everywhere and real estate signs pop up like mushrooms every weekend. So much for aesthetics.

And what's wrong with having a proliferation of election signs? We have a municipal election every four years. Is it so hard to put up with a bunch of election signs for a few weeks once in a while?

Clerk Debbie Leroux told councillors some people have complained they don't want election signs in front of their homes. Well, boo-

hoo. It has been said that democracy is messy and, yes, election signs can be messy. But it seems to me that seeing a proliferation of election signs everywhere might just galvanize people into taking a bit more interest in the election. Lord knows, there's little interest at the best of times. Even though Uxbridge uses mail-in balloting for municipal elections, roughly half of the eligible voters in this township can't even be bothered to drop a ballot into the mail box.

Yet another section of the proposed bylaw offered that no signs should be posted adjacent to any municipal facilities. The report said that legal advice was that "allowing candidates to place signs on public property adjacent to municipal facilities and parks can easily be construed as providing a contribution to a candidate." In other words, the report is saying that if there are 10 candidates in Ward 5 and they all put signs in front of the arena, the township would be contributing to every candidate's campaign. That's poppycock. And the councillors didn't like that either. They voted to allow campaign signs at all facilities except the township hall at 51 Toronto St. S.

To their credit, councillors remarked several times during the 80-minute discussion that the proposed bylaw would put new candidates at a disadvantage if they are running against incumbents.

In a world where U.S. Republicans are doing everything they can to rig elections through gerrymandering and discriminatory voter registrations, while Ukrainians are literally fighting to save their democracy, it seems to me that tampering with our election procedures and rules is just that: tampering. Apart from trying to appease a few people who somehow are offended by the sight of an election sign in front of their house, this proposed bylaw does nothing to help the election process. Indeed, if it passes next time it comes before council, it will lead to even greater apathy come election time. And that is not good for democracy.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Resolve against a bully

When I was in Grade 3, back in the mid-1950s, an older and belligerent kid chose me as his victim in the schoolyard one day. He picked on me because I had glasses. He knew I had just arrived in the neighbourhood, so he teased me for being the new boy. He taunted me because he knew I didn't have any friends to turn to. He made fun of my name.

"Hey, Teddy Bear," he kept calling from across the yard.

And because he was older and bigger than I was, and indeed because I was alone, he got exactly what he wanted. Before school, during recess and on the way home after class, I was always looking over my shoulder or expecting he'd confront me around every corner.

Bad memories of that schoolyard experience returned to me last week when Russian President Vladimir Putin sent his columns of tanks, trucks and soldiers charging across his western frontier into Ukraine. Whether disguised as some cockeyed territorial imperative to recreate a Russian empire, or paranoia about the NATO alliance creeping onto his very doorstep, the former Soviet KGB operative now Russian despot has decided to use a 19th century-style invasion to overpower a modern neighbour (Ukraine became an independent nation in August 1991). He has even invented an entire mythology to suggest that "Ukrainians and Russians are a single people." It looks to me like a bully who's chosen his latest victim.

The surprise so far, however, is that Putin's putsch has not gone as he planned. On paper, the war between Russia and Ukraine is definitely not a fair fight. Russia possesses the world's fifth largest army of 900,000 active soldiers and 2 million reservists, compared to Ukraine's 196,000 active troops and 900,000 reservists. But paper doesn't win wars; some suggest the invasion has exposed the Russian army as a paper tiger – with lack of supply, unpaid soldiers and even dissent in the ranks. Russian plans apparently called for the quick occupation of Kyiv and the even quicker overthrow of Ukraine's government. Why hasn't that happened? Two words - Volodymyr Zelensky. The Ukrainian president has emerged from the war-rattled streets of Kyiv and has willingly put weapons into the hands of every Ukrainian (aged 18 to 60) willing to fight. In doing so, he has harnessed a defensive force Putin could only dream of –

Ukrainian patriotism. "(Zelensky's) messages have conveyed strength, empathy and fortitude," said Colin Clarke, of the global intelligence Soufan Group this week, "a profile of courage." But as bravely as Ukrainian soldiers and civilians have dug in to defend their country, I don't think that's how bullies are stopped.

Now may finally be the time for the United Nations to step up and fulfill its most vital obligation enshrined in the UN Peace Charter of 1945 – Intervention. As reported earlier this week, Russia used its veto power at the Security Council (where it is one of five permanent members) to stop debate on the war. However, for the first time in 40 years, the other four members have opted to send the "Uniting for Peace" resolution to a vote by the UN's 193-member General Assembly. The resolution says that if/when the Security Council does not act to maintain international peace, the Assembly can act, up to and including the use of armed force. The resolution was used in 1950 to send 48 nations to the defence of South Korea, and while all it produced was an armistice, it may well have prevented a Third World War or even nuclear holocaust.

Indeed, following Putin's threat to bring the Russian nuclear arsenal into play, Bob Rae, Canada's UN ambassador, said that Putin has violated a joint statement issued last month by all five Security Council members – that nobody can win a nuclear war. Rae said that the UN Charter requires all signatory nations to decide disputes by due process, not on the battlefield. If the Security Council has the spine to stand up to Putin – with a two-thirds majority on the "Uniting for Peace" resolution – Russia could be expelled from the world body. Or, also provided under the resolution, the General Assembly could dispatch a military force to intervene in Ukraine. In Winston Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech in 1946, he said, "Courts and magistrates may be set up, but they cannot function without sheriffs and constables."

As I learned back in elementary school, cowering in the face of a bully, when friends stood beside me not with sticks but with solidarity, the bully disappeared.

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**SCAN
HERE
TO SIGN UP**



Letters, from page 4

28, 2022. Then you determined the updating process was unworkable. Your answer to this fiasco is to forego the renewal process. At close to \$1 billion, that's a serious bit of coin that will not be able to support social serv-

ices, education, health or build your Highway 413.
Mr. Ford, if you really want to make an impact on the lives of the average working Ontarian, then step up and subsidize daycare.

Grant Baines
Uxbridge

Re: Council takes trustees to task, Feb. 17 edition

I feel the need to respond to a recent article in the *Cosmos*. There appears to be a huge misunderstanding, and I would like to provide clarification.
On Feb. 3, Morgan Ste. Marie, the chair of the Durham Catholic District School Board, and I wrote a letter to Transportation Minister Caroline Mulroney. In that letter, we were advocating for funding to support and enhance road infrastructure in rural municipalities. By all accounts, enhanced road infrastructure should be a good thing. We asked that funding be provided to municipalities to ensure that they can construct areas for school buses to safely turn around on dead-end roads. Many dead-end roads do not have the appropriate conditions and turning radius for school buses.

We also advocated for proactive change. We suggested that, going forward, when new subdivisions are built, the design of any dead-end roads should include a wide enough radius for school buses to safely turn around.

It is my understanding that Durham Student Transportation Services (DSTS) and representatives from both member school boards met with (Uxbridge) Mayor Barton and members of council in 2020 to discuss dead-end roadways and the need to work together to provide accessible bus stops wherever possible for all students. It is also my understanding that DSTS provided the turning radius necessary in order to access certain roadways. It was hoped that road improvements could be made in order to allow bus access.

The understanding and expectations of safe practices and liability have changed over time. It should not be surprising that it has happened with school bus transportation. Though the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario handbook has recently made three-point turns acceptable on route, it requires either a spotter or the driver to exit the vehicle to ensure a safe turn around area. Hiring a second individual to ride every rural bus is not feasible (we are taxpayer funded organizations) and asking a bus driver to exit a running bus to check conditions, leaving students unsupervised, is not a safe practice.

I also cannot compare garbage trucks and snow plows with school buses when considering turning around on dead-end roads. I am looking at our most precious cargo - our students! A school bus also differs greatly from those other vehicles in wheel base and weight.

We want to find solutions to support the safe transportation of our students. We will need to work together on this - DSTS, the municipalities and the province. It is hoped that, through cooperation and collaboration, we can find a solution.

Carolyn Morton
Chair of the Durham District School Board, Trustee for Brock, Uxbridge and Scugog

'Tough cookie' retires from Food Bank after 30 years

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

The Loaves and Fishes Food Bank is losing a long-time volunteer this week, and her absence will be keenly felt – she has, after all, been there for over 30 years! Betty Webster-Catherwood started as secretary of the Board back in 1992, and later filled almost every role imaginable. But on Wednesday, March 2, Webster-Catherwood will hang up her food bank hat for the final time, just in time to don a birthday hat – she turns 80 on Friday.

“Betty is quick to share that her “mind may be going but my back is strong,” says Don Mertens, co-chair of Loaves and Fishes. “While the former is debatable, the latter is undeniable. Betty hauls 25-pound sacks of potatoes up and down stairs, assists in set up and is often the designated “runner” during food distribution. Betty never complains and can be counted on to restock items from the downstairs warehouse.

“It is humbling to watch this fit and fabulous 80-year-old carrying heavy boxes up and down stairs. At first, we were a bit worried she might get injured, but there is no stopping Betty when she puts her mind to something,” says Mertens.

Jennifer Pilkey, purchasing manager at the food bank, was trained by Webster-Catherwood when she started volunteering in 2006, and has worked alongside her for 15 years.

“Betty has an incredible work ethic, but her care for others is even more impressive. She always goes the extra mile and her generosity is exemplary,” says Pilkey.

Mertens also says that Webster-Catherwood was way ahead of her time, living out the tenets of “reduce-reuse-recycle” throughout her tenure at the food bank. Over the years, she has found ways to use anything that might be disposed of, including repurposing hardy boxes as shelving units and ironing grocery bags so they would be more presentable. She hates wasting food and routinely takes home the 50 per cent off offerings that are not distributed, and goes door to door in her building

sharing bread and baked goods with her neighbours.

Friends at the food bank say Webster-Catherwood's self-deprecating sense of humour masks the incredibly generous and thoughtful woman that she is. They say she routinely bakes for others and often brings in chocolate fingers for the volunteers – a gesture that takes more than three hours to prepare.

“Betty can be counted on to drive those without cars to the grocery store or to a doctor's appointment, tidy up around town and even vacuum the halls and common areas in

her apartment. She also brings delectable treats to her furry friends, scattering crushed pecans and walnuts through the park from her favourite bench on a daily basis,” reveals Mertens.

Webster-Catherwood was born in

Meaford, Ontario. Her first job was as a nurse at Uxbridge Cottage Hospital, a job she held for 10 years. She then worked as a nurse at the now defunct St. John's Training School for Boys in Uxbridge, a job she also held for 30 years. It was here she apparently acquired the nickname ‘Super B****h,’ a moniker she heartily embraces.

“My mom is a very principled woman and is extremely fair, but if someone steps out of line, she is the first to call it out and set the record straight. She is one tough cookie,” says her son, Wayne Webster. “The boys at St. John's knew they would not get away with anything when my mom was around but they loved and respected her for the consistent boundaries she set, the care she offered and the structure she provided.”

After retiring from the workforce, Webster-Catherwood dove into numerous volunteer activities, including: serving on the UCW at Trinity United Church; supervising blood donor clinics in town; selling clothes at Chance Are; and the food bank.

“Mom is the first to step up when help is needed. She is always on the move and always thinking about other people,” says Webster. “Serving at the food bank has given her such joy and she has found real purpose in it.”



After 30 years of volunteering at the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank in Uxbridge, Betty Webster-Catherwood is retiring on March 2. Submitted photo




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BOTHAM,
Elizabeth “Sandra”
November 17, 1947 -
February 26, 2022

Peacefully passed away after a lengthy illness at Uxbridge Hospital on Saturday, February 26, 2022. Sandra Botham of Uxbridge and formerly of Zephyr at 74 years of age. Cherished and loving wife for 20 wonderful years with Wesley “Wes” Botham. Loving mother of Scott (Katherine) Lavalley. Proud grandmother of Kyle, Elizabeth and Carolyn. Beloved daughter of the late Gordon and late Helen Rynard. Dear sister of late Roger (late Margaret) Rynard. Loving niece of late Jean Rynard. Dear stepmother of Terry (late Brent) Stachel and Susan Marsh (Kevin). Dear step-grandmother of Melissa, Brook, Amy and their families. Sandra will also be fondly remembered by her best friend, Dianne Morris.

Cremation has taken place and a celebration of Sandra's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Zephyr United Church or to the charity of your choice. Online condolences may be made at www.skwarchukfuneralhome.com



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