

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 18 No. 13

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, March 31, 2022

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SHOW 'UKRAINE MATTERS' - Uxbridge's Kevin Feeney braved wet and windy weather to walk outside the township offices on Friday and Saturday, showing his support for the country of Ukraine, which is currently under attack from Russia. Feeney took on his show of solidarity with the war-torn country following last week's appeal to the world by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to show that "Freedom matters. Peace matters. Ukraine matters."

Photo by John Cavers

Uxbridge emergency order formally rescinded

by Roger Varley

Uxbridge council has formally terminated the COVID-19 related emergency order that came into effect on March 31, 2020.

In a report to council, Chief Administrative Officer Kristi Honey said the emergency order, which matched similar orders declared in much of the world, was declared under the provisions of provincial legislation and the township's Emergency Management Plan. She said that, because of the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions by the province, Uxbridge and all other municipalities in Durham Region decided to terminate their emergencies on the same day.

Mayor Dave Barton noted that the emergency order gave council the ability to move quickly on pandemic-related issues, but added that

council never had to use those powers.

He had a word of caution, however: "The emergency is over: the pandemic is not."

Also during Monday's council meeting, Judy Risebrough, chair of the Downtown Revitalization Committee, gave the committee's final report to council. Risebrough stressed several times during her presentation that, now the groundwork has been done, the project will require leadership from the current and future councils to move forward.

Risebrough said the recently completed Brock Street culvert has reduced the size of the flood plain in the downtown area, which should encourage downtown development. She said the committee carried out surveys of residents, businesses and visitors, resulting in hundreds of responses, to determine what was needed in

the downtown. She said the surveys identified a town square, restaurant patios and reduced truck traffic as high priorities.

Lower Brock Street should be made more vibrant, she said, while addressing such issues as accessibility, active transportation and being age friendly. Other components would see Centennial Park and the Heritage railway area developed into destination points.

Referring to needed ongoing leadership, Risebrough commented: "This is a marathon, not a sprint." Barton agreed: "We have to know where we want to be in 25 years."

Risebrough said council's next step should be to share the information the committee has accumulated with the community at large and,

...continued on page 3

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for April, 2022

Monday, April 4
COMMITTEE MEETING, 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, April 6
BIA BOARD, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 7
TRAILS COMMITTEE, 9:00 a.m.

Monday, April 11
COUNCIL MEETING, 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC MEETING – CEMETERY ROAD
NEIGHBOURHOOD STUDY AND
OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT
7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 13
MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
7:00 p.m.

Employment Opportunities

Complete details are available at uxbridge.ca/employment_opportunities

**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

**Uxpool – Lifeguards and/or Instructors,
Summer Session**

Closes Friday, April 1, 2022

Spring Lessons at Uxpool



Registration begins March 23
Lessons begin April 25
To Register go to:
www.uxbridge.ca/uxpool

**Public Works Department – Student
Labourer**

Closes Friday, April 1, 2022

**Parks Department - Summer Camp
Supervisors (18+), F-T and P-T**

Closes Wednesday, April 6, 2022

**Development Services Department -
Building Inspector/Plans Examiner, F-T**

Closes Friday, April 8, 2022

**Uxbridge Historical Centre – Collections
Associate, Summer**

Closes Friday, April 15, 2022

**Uxbridge Historical Centre – Programming
and Community Engagement Associate,
Summer**

Closes Friday, April 15, 2022

**Uxbridge Public Library - Children's
Summer Program Coordinator**

Closes Friday, April 15, 2022

**Uxbridge Historical Centre – Museum
Educators (2), Summer**

Closes Friday, April 22, 2022

**Uxbridge Historical Centre – Museum
Preparator, Summer**

Closes Friday, April 22, 2022

2022 Municipal Election Info Sessions

Are you considering running for local office, being a campaign manager, or registering a third-party advertising campaign in the 2022 election? Do you want to learn about the upcoming municipal election? If so, these Election Information Sessions will provide you the information you need to become an informed election participant: learn the roles and responsibilities of municipal officials, eligibility rules, the nomination process, campaign rules and campaign finances, compliance audit and more.

WHITBY:

Wednesday,
April 13, 2022
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Regional Municipality of Durham
Headquarters

605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
Meeting Room LL-C (on the lower level)
Please use the South Entrance Door
You may also watch the livestream at:

<https://www.eventstream.ca/events/m-region>

If you are not attending in-person, please submit your questions in advance, or the presentation to clerks@durham.ca

UXBRIDGE:

Wednesday, April 20, 2022
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Uxbridge Seniors Centre
75 Marietta Street, Uxbridge

A presentation by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing will be part of the event and will cover:

- Roles and responsibilities of officials, staff and third-party advertisers
- Eligibility rules
- Nomination process
- Campaign finances
- Compliance audit
- Voters' list and voting proxy
- Scrutineers
- Recounts
- Resources

2022 Ux-Camps

Check out our 2022 Camps Flyer by scanning below





Registration opens April 5th at 9:00am
www.uxbridge.ca/recreation

Time to Renew Your Burn Permit!



www.uxbridge.ca/fire

Elves Wanted!

Be part of the 2022 Uxbridge Santa Claus committee!

We are looking for creative people, organizers, and those with holiday spirit of all abilities and backgrounds to help with the parade.

www.uxbridge.ca/parade





Community Registration Fair

Did you miss the Registration Fair?

Visit our Recreation page to contact any of the groups who participated in the event.

www.uxbridge.ca/recreation

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for participation

Uxbridge's Sunshine list grows

by Roger Varley

Two more Uxbridge Township staff members have been added to the so-called Sunshine list this year, bringing the total to eight. The newcomers to the list are deputy treasurer Tobi-Anne Lee and Bill Rynard of public works.

The Sunshine List, put out by the Ontario government every year, names all public employees earning more than \$100,000 a year.

Chief Administrative Officer Kristi Honey is the top earner in Uxbridge, receiving \$170,228 in salary in 2021. Honey pointed out to the *Cosmos* that, in 2020, she took several weeks off, unpaid, in 2020 "to help balance the books due to COVID-19."

Treasurer Donna Condon came in second with a salary of \$143,971.

Fire Chief Phil Alexander, director of community services Amanda Ferraro, Public Works director Ben Kester and clerk Debbie Leroux all received \$127,041. Rynard made \$101,326 and Lee just made it onto the list with \$100,460.

All also received varying degrees of taxable benefits.

On the same day the Sunshine List was published, Condon gave a report to council listing councillors' remuneration for 2021.

Mayor Dave Barton received \$66,900 in salary, benefits, car allowance and expenses from the township. Finance committee chair Bruce Garrod pulled in \$48,000, while councillors Pam Beach, Gord Highet, Willie Popp and Todd Snooks all made \$46,000. Gary Ruona was the lowest paid, making \$41,000.



Green Party picks candidate for Pickering-Uxbridge

by Roger Varley

A third-year environmental studies student has been selected by the Green Party of Ontario to run as its candidate in Pickering-Uxbridge in the upcoming provincial general election.

Julia Rondinone lives in Pickering and is studying at York University.

In a press release, Rondinone said "the time to act on climate is now. I know the power of youth and my generation to create positive change. We need to urgently embrace the new climate economy in order to provide for future generations."

In the same release, Ontario Greens Leader Mike Schreiner said "youth deserve a voice at Queen's Park and Julia would be a great representative for her generation and riding in the legislature."

Council, from page 1

once they have heard from Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority, work with property owners in the downtown area to get into position to take advantage of the development possibilities. She also suggested that the Downtown Revitalization Committee be made a standing committee of council, "not as an overview committee, but as a partner committee."

In other council news - after a two-year hiatus, the Barton Farms Easter egg hunt is coming back.

Council approved a request from Erin Bogardis, the "chief egg hider," to hold the event at Herrema Fields on Saturday, April 23, from 11 a.m. to noon. She said she expects about 125 people to attend, with children searching for plastic eggs hidden around the field, with draws and prizes also on the agenda.

Finally, a confusing election sign bylaw was passed during Monday's meeting.

"I can see where the confusion is coming from," commented deputy clerk Josh Machesney as he summed up the discussion that ensued when council revisited his proposed new election sign bylaw. Trying to figure out where signs will be allowed and where they won't triggered a host of

questions from councillors. Mayor Barton suggested that candidates should be told where they can put signs, not where they can't: "It would be much simpler."

He worried about new candidates running for office.

"For the average candidate just starting out, it's tough to follow," he said.

Nevertheless, council passed the bylaw.



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Our two cents

Not a good sign

After listening to Donald Trump's non-stop blathering about stolen elections for months on end, after seeing continuing attacks on voting rights in Republican-held states and, even here in Ontario, learning that a number of First Nations communities were completely left out of the voting in the last federal election, one would think we'd start taking our elections a little more seriously.

Unfortunately, we seem to have arrived at a point where elections are looked on as a nuisance, an inconvenience that we have to put up with from time to time, instead of celebrating them as an acknowledgement of our democratic process.

The latest Uxbridge bylaw governing election signs was passed by council on Monday. Those watching the proceedings would have seen councillors in varying stages of confusion as they discussed and questioned the bylaw, although at the end of the session they all claimed they were no longer confused. We who were watching were left unconvinced, especially when Mayor Dave Barton opined that it would be a lot easier if bylaw told candidates where they can put their signs instead of where they can't.

A sign that elections are now considered a nuisance came from bylaw's original report to council, which stated the new bylaw is aimed to "reduce the proliferation of election signs and maintain the positive aesthetic of the Township." Yes, that's the problem with elections: they bring out those nasty campaign signs. But the bylaw goes even further. Now, candidates for election must kowtow to individual homeowners who think elections are a nuisance. That's because the bylaw states a candidate cannot place an election sign on a municipally-owned boulevard if the homeowner adjacent to said boulevard objects.

There are so many things wrong with that little section, it's hard to know where to begin. What if a homeowner objects to a sign simply because they don't like the candidate? Why should that person have veto power over an election sign? What if a homeowner agrees to a sign being on the boulevard? Does that mean other candidates can plop their signs alongside their opponent's or do they also have to receive permission to put their signs? Finally, and perhaps most importantly, what gives any individual homeowner the right to determine what will and won't be allowed on municipally-owned property?

One provision of the new bylaw states that a candidate cannot post an election sign within 100 metres of another of their signs on the same side of the street. What if it is found that a sign is only 99 metres from the last one? Or 98? Or 97? Is there any leeway allowed? If so, how much? We haven't been told, but we suggest that anyone planning to run in the upcoming municipal elections had better make sure they are armed with a tape measure, a calculator and a complete copy of the bylaw or else they are going to find their signs whipped away by our bylaw officers.

Elections are fundamental to our democracy and any bylaws, rules or regulations that inhibit or deter people from entering their names for consideration are not only short-sighted, they are anti-democratic.

Nomination day for the municipal election is May 1. That gives this council a month to revisit this election sign bylaw and tell the bylaw department to butt out. We won't hold our breath.



Letters to the Editor

As I've been watching Uxbridge township remove trees on the Leaskdale sideroad this spring, I've been concerned for the fate of a relatively rare native tree growing along this road, a young rock elm.

I am encouraged that many people besides myself are interested in learning about the value of environmentally-significant greenspaces and our native tree and plant species. While I may not be able to save this particular tree, I wanted to write this letter to hopefully spark some community interest in conserving the naturally-growing native species in our area on both municipally-owned lands as well as private property.

Carly Davenport
Uxbridge

Thank you, everyone at the *Uxbridge Cosmos* for helping Uxbridge residents to stay informed

about our growing community.

Roger (Varley), you end your column each week with "Tell me, am I wrong?" In your March 24 column, ("Easy does it"), you were only 50 per cent wrong. You correctly identified Maamawi Collective's presentation to Uxbridge council as being related to an Indigenous Lead "Gathering" on Sunday, June 5. As during past "Gatherings," the Collective is honoured to have guidance from First Nations and Métis partners for this event. The date is chosen because June has been National Aboriginal History Month since 2009, when a unanimous motion of all political parties passed in the House of Commons.

Roger, you are also 50 per cent right! The Collective intends to mark a day for all Canadians to celebrate the rich contributions Indigenous people have made to Canada, to celebrate the culture of

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples on this land now know as Canada.

National Aboriginal Day was first celebrated in 1996, after being proclaimed that year by then Governor General of Canada Roméo LeBlanc, to be celebrated annually on June 21. Fast forward to June 25, 2018, and a proclamation renaming "National Indigenous Peoples' Day." Simple math suggests that 2022 will be the 26th anniversary of National indigenous Peoples Day.

Maamawi Collective is working to create ways that Uxbridge citizens can honour National Indigenous History/Culture Month. Readers ideas are welcome via email at www.maamawicollective.ca

Barbara Blower
Coordinator
Maamawi Collective



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The Uxbridge Cosmos

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Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

One small action

Last Friday, Kevin Feeney of Uxbridge decided to do something about the war in Ukraine. He paraded, all by himself, in front of the township offices, carrying a home-made cardboard replica of Ukraine's blue and yellow flag.

Pumping his sign mechanically up and down, he staged his lonely vigil almost unobserved. A few cars honked their horns as they passed him, but that was all. He returned the following day at 11 a.m. - (what he called "the Armistice hour") - for a short while, once again all by himself.

Why would this 71-year-old senior do this? What on Earth did he hope to achieve?

He told me that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky had called on all people to show support for that beleaguered country in its fight for survival against Russia's invasion, "so I'm doing my part. I can't just stand around."

He admitted he had never done anything like this before, but thought he would "give it a try."

"Zelensky is the front line in the fight for democracy," Feeney said. "I hope other people take it up."

But no one did. I posted about his one-man protest on a local Facebook page on Friday and offered that it might be nice to see some people join him on the Saturday. About 14 people showed that they "liked" my post, but none of them turned out to join him.

So, what is/was the result of his one-man show of support? On the face of it, nothing. Motorists might have honked at him, but it's a sure bet he was forgotten as soon as they passed him by. There were no television crews out to film him or interview him. Apart from myself, it's likely no one else in the world was even aware of his presence.

In the grand scheme of things, Feeney's solitary stance was as insignificant as a grain of sand. But it is worth remembering that a single grain of sand moving can be the start of an avalanche, a single leaf floating to the

ground can herald Autumn. That's not to say that Feeney started an avalanche or a change in the weather, but at least the possibility existed. If he had not staged his lonely vigil, there would have been no chance at all of an avalanche or a Fall.

Discussing Feeney's protest with my editor, Lisha, she, too, wondered what was the point of it. I didn't need to defend Feeney, but I did point out that Gandhi, who eventually led a movement that saw the British give up their rule over India, started out with a single, simple act of defiance in South Africa. Nelson Mandela, who eventually became president of South Africa, the country that imprisoned him for years, started out with a single act of defiance. Elijah Harper, one small voice all alone in opposition, scuttled the Meech Lake accord with his solitary vote. And, for all the Christians out there, there's Jesus Christ.

Now, I am not putting Feeney onto the same pedestal as those esteemed names, but he is in the same league. It didn't matter that there were not hordes of people joining him. He believed he had to do something, no matter how small, and he did it. If nothing else, he likely will feel a little bit better about himself.

There are other small demonstrations of support for Ukraine around town. A few stores downtown have blue and yellow pom-poms in their windows, the Ukrainian flag still flies at the township offices and somewhere in Uxbridge there is a front porch bedecked with blue and yellow Christmas lights. None of this is going to change what is happening in Ukraine, but at least, in some small way, it sends a message that we care. And if enough of these small demonstrations of support come together, we might yet have an avalanche.

It seems to me that it's one thing to join a well-publicized protest along with thousands of others, but it's quite another to start your own one-man stand, even if you know no one else is going to notice.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

What half the world is missing

One morning last week, our daughter called and asked if I would drive our granddaughter to high school. I eagerly took on the taxi duty, mostly for the chance to catch up with our granddaughter. During the trip to school, I learned that she was enjoying her drama, physics and French classes. But her favourite subject was science.

"I did an essay on Chien-Shiung Wu," she said, "and got 100 per cent."

"I've never heard of her," I admitted.

"She was known as the 'first lady of physics,'" she said proudly. Then, later in the day when my granddaughter emailed me her essay, I learned that Wu had actually worked on the Manhattan Project, the Allied development of nuclear weapons during the Second World War. My granddaughter explained that Wu had studied particle physics and pioneered the process to enrich uranium which would ultimately fuel atomic bombs. The essay described how Wu had studied physics in her native country, China, but travelled to the U.S. in 1936 for advanced studies at the University of Michigan. She considered her work on atomic particles constructive, and distanced herself from the Manhattan Project. "I have confidence in humankind (that) we will one day live together peacefully," she said at the time.

I've pondered the life of Dr. Wu and my own granddaughter's fascination with science during the same week that the returning Taliban regime in Afghanistan announced that girls were now banned from attending school beyond Grade 6. Not only that, but Afghanistan's supreme leader has also told young women they're now barred from boarding airplanes unaccompanied by a male relative, that men and women can only visit in public parks on separate days, and that women cannot use mobile phones.

Really? In 2022? Who do the Taliban rulers think they're fooling?

By coincidence, on a recent trip to Huntsville, I arrived at the venue where I was to speak, well before my presentation that evening. The church hall had a carpet of artificial turf laid out on the floor. At either end of the turf stood a wooden frame - one an oversized basketball net, the other a monkey-bars configuration of wood and steel. As I entered, I saw half a dozen students and their teachers hunkered down over a contraption (about the size of a travel trunk) on a chassis

with wheels. Extending up and out from the base of this machine was an aluminum frame, rubber rollers, plastic arms, while at its centre were batteries and a pivoting head akin to R2D2, complete with flashing lights and whirring gyros.

"It's a semi-autonomous competitive machine," David Topps told me. He's a former teacher at Huntsville High School, where for some years now the boys and girls have entered something called First Robotics, a province-wide competition. "And the students are tuning up Robot 4152 for the regional finals this week."

I watched as an equal number of male and female students installed fresh batteries in 4152, rebooted its computer components, and prepared the robot for the timed sequence of jobs it had to accomplish on the floor. First, it had to range on the shooting-distance to the basketball net. Next, it had to track down several basketballs, rotate and catapult the balls into the net - scoring as many baskets within the time limit as possible. Finally, it had to travel to the monkey bars, lift itself up and hang there as time expired. I was amazed at the speed and accuracy of 4152 to do all those jobs, and at the ease with which the girls and boys guided the robot to accomplish its tasks.

"There's no blueprint," one of the Huntsville girls told me. "There are a few rules that you follow. Then, it's up to us to find something that works. And when it works it's the best feeling ever!"

My granddaughter's science project has drawn me to the more troubling part of Chien-Shiung Wu's story - the way the physicist was treated as a person of Asian parentage and a woman during her life. When she applied at the University of Michigan women were not allowed to use the front entrances to campus buildings. Undaunted by the misogyny and xenophobia, in 1947, Wu became Columbia University's first female physics professor, overlooked by Nobel, but awarded the Wolf Prize for science in 1978.

So, while the fanatics in Kabul turn the clock back to the Dark Ages - closing school after Grade 6 to girls - young women elsewhere are following the model of Dr. Wu, showing the world what it's missing by excluding half the population.

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Zip-py mode of transportation may soon sail over Uxbridge

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Visitors to Uxbridge may soon get a bird's-eye view of the Trail Capital of Canada, courtesy of a proposed zip line that would extend from the arena all the way to the downtown core.

In an exclusive interview with the *Cosmos*, eco-tourism company 'P Hi in the Sky revealed that it is currently putting together a proposal that "Uxbridge simply can't refuse."
"We want to soar over this great little town, we want to fly over it!" says 'P Hi in the Sky spokesperson Hahn

Glider. "We are super pumped about this project and can't wait to set it in motion!"
Glider says that Uxbridge is perfectly situated for a zip line because of its position at the bottom of a valley. Because a zip line utilizes the decline of a slope and makes gravity do

all the work, the zip line proposed for Uxbridge would initiate at the Uxbridge Historical Centre. The first leg of the line would extend from the Centre down to the back of the arena. From there, the line will continue over tree tops and rooftops and land zip liners right in the downtown area where many residents are hoping a town square is finally established.
"People can get on at the museum and ride right to the downtown, or they can just get off at the arena," says Glider. "Or, they can get on at the arena and glide right downtown!"
Phil Flyer, a zip line technician with 'P Hi in the Sky, told the *Cosmos* that the proposed zip line is a tricky one to design and install because "we have to make sure that we're get the line high enough so that no one hits a tree or a chimney or something,

but not so high that it goes too fast and we get people going 'splat' when they get to the end."
'P Hi in the Sky believes that travelling by zip line is the way of the future. Although zip lining has been used for centuries in remote areas as a method of transport of either goods or people, it only became a popular form of adventure sport in the 1990s. It's largely marketed under the banner of ecotourism, but Glider thinks that, as more people want to move away from fossil fuels and be more environmentally conscious, zip lines are a safe and viable option.
"People want to visit Uxbridge, they go to the museum. They tour around there, they have a nice picnic, you know. Then they want to go downtown. Rather than get everyone in

...continued on next page

Edward Jones

> edwardjones.ca

You and a guest are invited to our complimentary presentation.

Retirement Income

This presentation touches on the sources of income an investor may have available to them at retirement. It discusses the basics of OAS and OAS clawback, it also discusses CPP and taking it early vs. later than normal retirement age. This presentation also discusses the various account types that can be drawn on at retirement and which are most tax efficient.

Event Details

When:

April 13, 2022 12 PM VIA ZOOM

Where:

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Soaring, from previous page

the car, drive down to Uxbridge, try to find parking and all that, just load onto the zip line, take a nice ride over the residential areas and then land right in the middle of it all in Uxbridge's town square! What could be more perfect?" enthuses Gilder.

A shuttle bus to get zip line riders back to their cars is being considered.

When asked whether the zip line would be for all ages and abilities, Flyer insisted that everyone would be able to partake.

"You bet, our zip line will be able to take anyone. Got a grandpa with a cane? No problem, load him up. Got a baby in a car seat? No problem, we have a special patented harness/trolley mechanism built just to attach car seats to. All sizes, all ages, no one will be left behind. But people with, like, heart problems, high blood pressure or other physical issues should probably consult a doctor first," he says.

Zip line cables are made of steel-grade wire rope. Flyer says that the Uxbridge zip line will use 7×19 steel cable, which has a breaking strength of 21,000 lbs.

The first leg of the zip line, from the museum grounds to the arena, would be approximately 800 metres in length. The second leg would be almost one kilometre exactly. This would make the Uxbridge zip line the longest zip line in Ontario, although not the highest. Flyer estimates that the Uxbridge zip line will

be no higher than 30 metres off the ground.

The *Cosmos* asked Don Fallonmahead, a resident who lives on Balsam St., how he felt about a zip line possibly going right over his house.

"Well, I guess I don't really care," says Fallonmahead, "as long as the people above don't scream a lot or fall in my backyard or anything. Although I have a pool, so it might be pretty cool for them...I dunno."

Zip lines operate by combining a trolley with a pulley located inside that runs along the length of a cable. This is attached to a harness or seat that attaches to the pulley by a pivoting link or carabiner which secures the load, allowing the person or

cargo to travel down the line. Flyer says that the lines will have a "capture block," which is a block on the cable tethered to a rope controlled by a person who can manually apply friction on the rope to brake. Riders will also have hand brakes available to them to control speed and stop, and, if all else fails, a mat or netting at the lower end of each incline will be available.

"Everyone will have to wear gloves and helmets, too," explains Sally Forth, a zip line enthusiast who has already been hired by 'P Hi in the Sky to help visitors and Uxbridge residents use the zip line. "If you're going to ride a lot, we'll have helmets available to buy, but visitors can just

use the ones we have, if they don't want to purchase one. Same with the gloves. I know it's not cool with COVID right now, but there's hand sanitizer, right?" she says.

'P Hi in the Sky hopes to have its final plans ready to present to town-

ship council by April 1, 2023. It hopes that, by then, Uxbridge will have realized that there isn't really going to be a zip line from the museum to the town square, and that on, April 1, 2022, the *Cosmos* got you again.



Uxbridge may soon have a zip line system soaring above the downtown core. Urban zip lines are fast becoming popular modes of transportation for country and city dwellers alike.

Photo courtesy treehugger.com/architecture

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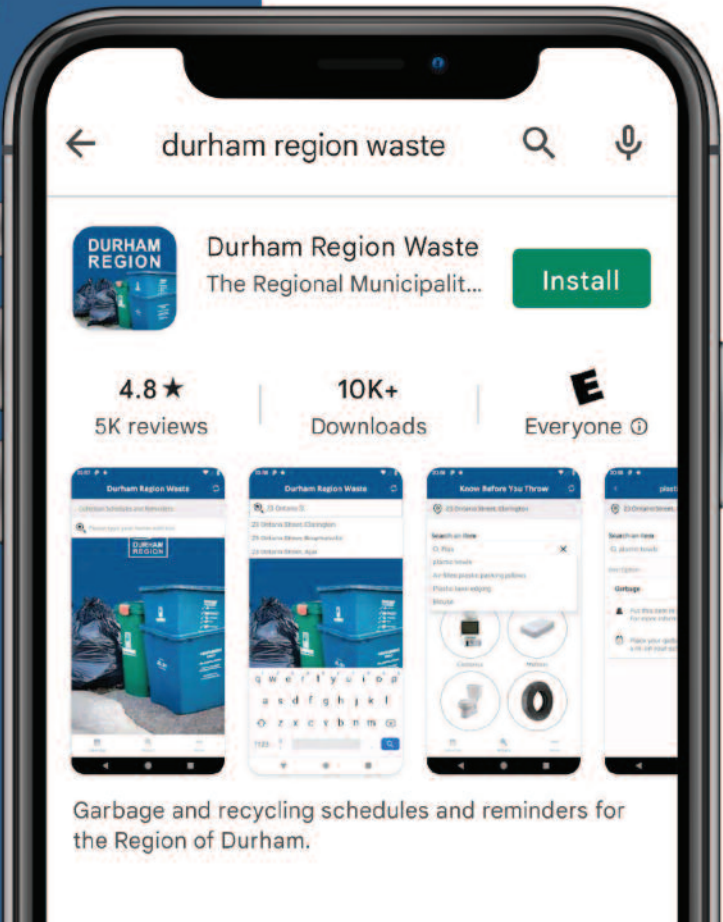
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Watching Things Grow

with Barb Pratt

Plant a Tree!

There are so many reasons to have trees on your property. First, because trees are beautiful, and should be an integral part of any home. A house with trees around it looks more settled, more a part of the landscape. A garden that incorporates trees will have a range of light, sun and shade, and give conditions for a variety of plantings.

One of the beautiful gardens on this year's Gardens of Uxbridge Tour (June 25, put it on your calendar) features a small "forest" planted especially for grandchildren to experience.

Trees soak up pollutants from the air; they give off oxygen. They are homes for wildlife — no, not just squirrels, but birds, bees and other

flying insects that are vital to our environment. They need the food and shelter that trees provide.

Here's another reason for having trees on your property: they reduce your energy bills! Plant trees on the south and west sides of your home to give cool shade in the summer; you won't be running the air conditioner nearly as much. And if they are deciduous trees, they lose their leaves and allow the sun to warm your house in winter.

Soon we will be seeing the early spring flowering trees such as serviceberry, pagoda dogwood, and crabapple that are so uplifting after a long winter. Picture a pink flowering Eastern redbud spreading its branches over a bed of bright tulips! A fine reward for planting the tree in just the right place, and getting the tulip bulbs into the ground in the fall.


One of my favourite flowering trees is the *heptacodium*, or seven sons tree. It has interesting peeling bark, and blooms in late August and September, putting out beautifully scented white flowers. After it finishes, the flower bracts turn bright red, and last through the fall.

Trees make lovely memorials. The Township of Uxbridge will plant a tree and install a dedication plaque for the cost of \$1,000. The Township will plant and maintain a 50 to 60 mm tree in one of the Township parks, or the Countryside Preserve. They provide a list of tree species available, including Birch, Chestnut, Butternut, Black Willow, and Sugar Maple. Look at the town web site for more information and application forms.

There are so many trees to choose from. Uxbridge Nurseries at 490 Scugog Line 9 or Greenbank Garden Centre on Hwy. 12 south of Greenbank are good places to start.

Trees are calming. They improve your mood and sense of wellbeing. They shade you and help you breathe.

Why not plant a tree — or two — this spring?




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Putting down roots - a Ukrainian journey to Uxbridge, Canada

by Christina Curry

Christina Curry is the chair of the Uxbridge BIA and owner of Keith's Flowers and Gifts. This is the first in a series of profiles of immigrant people and their families who have chosen to live in Uxbridge and the surrounding area.

I've sat at my computer several times over the past few weeks knowing that I have a story to tell. It's not even really my story, but once I put on the moo moo it all came together.

While I was raising of the Ukrainian flag at Town Hall on Feb. 27, thankfully supported and bolstered by friends, colleagues and solid members of the community, one of the things that stood out most to me was *roots*. We all stand together, live together, shop, dine and explore (Sorry - the BIA is never far from my mind!) this little slice of the world. Just over a month ago, the people of Ukraine were living their lives very much in parallel to ours. A small farming community filled with roots.

Growing up in Sunderland, Ontario, I was quite perplexed as a kid that no one else had a Baba and Papa. Sure, they had grandpas and nanas, and yes, I think there was an Oma in there somewhere, but otherwise the other kids didn't even know what a *holubtsi* was. (For those not in the know, it's Ukrainian cabbage rolls.) AND, their grandparents didn't live with them, they only saw them on holidays.

My Baba and Papa lived with us for six months of the year and enjoyed snowbird life for the other six months during my entire childhood. I never went to summer camp. Instead, my summers were a red station wagon, garage sales, lots of fishing and bingo, jam making, the orthodox Ukrainian church in Scarborough and, every so often, visitors from what they referred to as 'the old country'. It was during one of these summers I discovered that all these aunts and uncles and cousins in Canada weren't of any relation. Instead, these were chosen family, made not from genetics but from the barracks of hard labour camps.

In 1942, Nazi soldiers entered the Ukrainian village of Chervonohrad. Olga Kundzir - my Baba - was 16 years old. Barns and houses were set on fire and those not able to assist in the Nazi war effort in some way were shot and killed. Baba's brother-in-law was shot; in the process, a bullet hit Olga's pregnant sister Hania. He died instantly and Hania died within three days. Dur-

ing the Second World War, over seven million Ukrainians died. Next came the railway cars, where the able-bodied were shipped to hard labour camps to build ammunition. It was there Olga met 24-year-old Vasil Melnychuk, taken from Kolomyia, Ukraine. Love in the barracks. There were daring escapes and captures, transfers to other camps. Hiding fellow prisoners and helping them escape. Baba and Papa told a story with great pride how they had hidden another prisoner and helped him escape, only to many years later see him again at the CNE Ukrainian picnic.



Olga and Vasil Melnychuk in the German barracks during the Second World War.

Photo submitted by Christina Curry

The stories my Baba told to me in adulthood were shocking. She told me that the gas chambers often weren't completely effective and the ground moved over the mass graves for days after the earth was moved on top. She talked about the piles of hair, the buckets of gold teeth. She told me about the children and elderly, the cruelty. The bombs and the sounds. She even talked about the two children she had during the war, but she refused healthcare, so they both died from fever and flu.

Both Baba and Papa lost siblings in various ways, be it from escape or frontlines. Very few things made her cry, but these stories did.

When a sponsor was found after the war, Papa and Baba were able to come to Bronte, Ontario. They milked cows, worked the fields, planted crops and lived in a barn to pay off the cost of their passage. They worked several jobs at once without complaint. When they were able, they sponsored their "family" from the barracks. In the years after, they brought their children to visit "the old country" and to meet their parents, their siblings who had survived and show the next generation their home. They sent every extra penny back home, along with fabric, toys, clothing and anything else they could afford.

The biggest party every year was the anniversary of their Canadian citizenship.

My Baba, Olga Melnychuk, was a spitfire, full of no-holds-barred honesty and fiercely loving. She used to say you should always cook for two more people because you could just never tell who would show up. Her English was good, she played Yahtzee and drank brandy and rye until 4 a.m., with her Ukie girlfriends in the Ukrainian Canadian Seniors residence in Etobicoke. She was the loudest singer in the videos of mass pierogi-making at her church - always off key, but she didn't care. She called the *Price is Right* game show by its lesser known name - Come On Down! And Ravi Bakshar from CTV newsnet by *his* lesser known name - Robbie Baseball.

The house in North Port Florida was exactly as you'd imagine someone from this generation's house would be. Furnished from garage sales and very Sandford and Son. It was the best. We literally have 450 photographs of my Papa holding oranges from his very own tree. He had never even seen an orange until after the war.

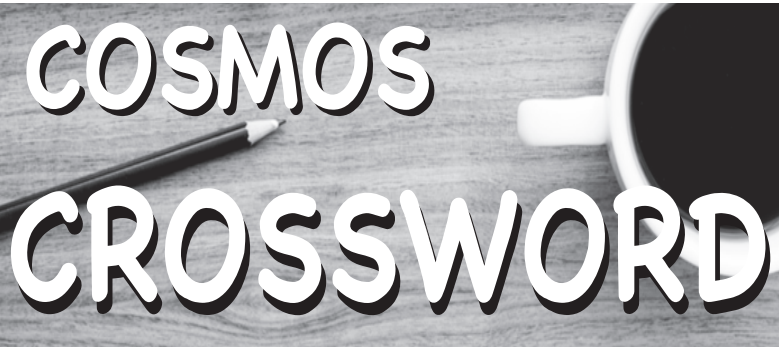
In her retirement, Baba's hair got bigger yearly (her inspiration was the Queen's 'do on the \$20 bill) and her house dresses, well ... let's call a spade a spade here. Her moo moos just got louder in both print and colour. Like an Eastern Bloc Mrs. Roper! She wasn't joyful, she was joy.

This is only one story, of one family. In Uxbridge alone there are thousands of these recollections, and we share a collective resilience and gratitude for this little slice of the world. In the coming weeks, I plan on telling some of these stories. Maybe they will be eye-opening, maybe they will inspire. But most importantly, maybe they will show readers just how similar we all are, no matter the roots.



Olga and Vasil Melnychuk in Canada.

Photo submitted by Christina Curry



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Across

- 1 Spanish pot
- 5 Fuel usage
- 8 Bathing suit part
- 11 Desserts
- 12 "Now I see!"
- 13 Christmas
- 14 Heavy, durable furniture wood
- 15 Hair holder
- 16 Unaffectedness
- 17 Drug type
- 19 Use the soap
- 21 Vintage
- 23 Wives in the family
- 26 Veneer
- 30 Opulence
- 31 Without precedent
- 32 Be up
- 34 Gwen Stef
- 36 Word after "Que," in song
- 39 Least possible
- 42 Way it's going
- 44 Red Cross supply
- 45 Fancy
- 47 Buccaneers' home
- 51 Bored response
- 54 Fermented sugarcane
- 56 Of the flock
- 57 Tour de France downfall substances
- 58 Friend in the 'hood
- 59 Twelfth of a foot
- 60 O__ Wilson
- 61 Puppy bark
- 62 Harden

Down

- 1 Picks one
- 2 Alternative word
- 3 Loyal, in Scotland
- 4 Request (2 words)
- 5 People, e.g.
- 6 My goodness!
- 7 Loud Australian bird
- 8 Gaudy scarf
- 9 Hi__ graphics
- 10 Pub offering
- 13 1940s-60s world leader
- 18 Completely
- 20 Actor Mineo
- 22 Small amount
- 24 Midterm, for one
- 25 Computer list
- 26 "Man __ Fire"
- 27 Skin covering
- 28 Decorative pitcher
- 29 Starchy tuber
- 33 Accidental movement
- 35 Messaging format
- 37 Keeps in check
- 38 Plus
- 40 That was a lie!
- 41 Type style
- 43 Churchill Downs event
- 46 Heavenly glow
- 48 Latino rock group
- 49 Select
- 50 Tooth trouble
- 51 Bow making wood
- 52 Curious George
- 53 Scored a victory
- 55 Scrub



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Light For Your Path

*Jesus said, "Yes, I am
the vine; you are the
branches." John 15*

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EVENTS

UXBRIDGE MINDFULNESS/INSIGHT MEDITATION is resuming in-person meetings Every other Sunday, 10 a.m. (next one April 6). Whether experienced or new to meditation, all are welcome. Location is Blue Heron Studio. Email Gail: ghorner550@gmail.com 4/14

SCUGOG ARTS small town BIG April 30 - May 8, 2022. small town BIG will be a multi-disciplinary arts festival with events organized by various presenters including Scugog Arts. Festival will feature 23 events at 22 venues, with over 75 artists supported, and in collaboration with 14 different arts and culture presenters. The events include live music, visual art, theatre, film, Indigenous culture and more! Check out the full festival lineup at scugogarts.ca/small-town-big/ For more information, contact info@scugogarts.ca or call 905-982-2121.

MISCELLANEOUS

GOING TO CUBA? Over-the-counter medications are urgently needed. Please call for more information 416-705-9993.

2022 will bring Moths 2.0

by Justyne Edgell

As Uxbridge residents anticipate the arrival of spring and the budding and leafing of trees, they can also expect pesky, hairy caterpillars.

The LDD Moth, previously called the Gypsy Moth and soon to be known as the Spongy Moth, is a non-native, invasive defoliator which wreaked havoc last year. The infestations are said to erupt every 10 years and have a cycle lasting between three and five years.

Last year, 1.7 million hectares of the province were affected by this pest.

"They're a real nuisance to land owners," says Dan Rowlinson from Ontario Forest Health Monitoring of the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry, "and that's probably an understatement."

"2021 was a real good year for the LDD Moth," says Rowlinson with a chuckle. "As the outbreak ages, the defoliation does start to wane." This drop in insect population can be a result of several factors. Certainly predators and parasites can diminish the population, but the biggest factor is weather.

Over the cold months of winter, egg masses above the snow line, un-insulated by snow, are exposed to the cold temperatures and will die off. Cool and wet weather conditions allow for a fungus, *Entomophaga maimaiga*, to spread through and collapse the population. There is also a naturally occurring virus called nuclear polyhedrosis virus which can spread quickly through infected populations to non-infected populations.

"We start to see gobbs of dead LDD larva hanging off the trees,"

says Rowlinson. Hanging in "the inverted V is a tell-tale sign that this virus is having an impact on the population."

"We can anticipate pockets of severe defoliation this upcoming season, there's no doubt about that," he says. "But as the virus takes hold again this year, we can expect to see further waning of the population. 'We're starting to see all the right indicators.'"

While spraying to kill off the moth population is an option, it is costly and its effects aren't limited to only the LDD Moth. *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *kurstaki* (Btk), is a naturally occurring bacteria found in soil which has been used in select urban areas of Ontario. Btk works on all insects that go from egg to larvae, to pupae to moth or butterfly. The toxic proteins get into the insect's stomach and break down the lining, thus stopping them from feeding. The City of Toronto reports that there is another pesticide, BoVir, that is highly effective on the LDD Moth alone; however, it is not currently registered for use in Canada and is reportedly more costly than Btk.

There are also manual efforts that

landowners can take to combat the infestation. In the spring, once the eggs have hatched, bands of burlap around their trees will give the larvae a place to congregate during the warm days. They can then be physically removed and killed. In the fall, landowners can physically remove the egg masses. Both the larvae and egg masses can be destroyed.

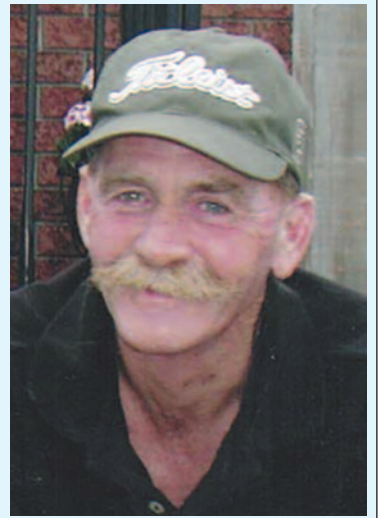
On Wednesday, April 20, at 6:30 p.m., the TRCA, in partnership with several provincial conservation authorities, will be presenting a free informational webinar on the LDD Moth, or Spongy Moth, formerly the European Gypsy Moth.

"The webinar will provide an overview of the LDD moth life cycle, how to identify them, infestation forecasts for 2022, and management options that property owners can consider," says Nancy Gaffney, a representative from the TRCA. There will also be conservation authority experts in attendance to answer questions from attendants.

The registration link is now available on the TRCA's LDD moth webpage trca.ca/ldd and a recording of the webinar will be made available for those who are unable to attend.

TAYLOR, Michael Eugene

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Michael E. Taylor on Monday, March 21, 2022. Michael, beloved son of the late Murray and Doris Taylor, and survived by his brothers John and Rick (Janette), his nephews Jarvis and Chad, great-niece Aubrianna and great-nephew Otis.



There will be a small graveside service at the Goodwood Cemetery on Sunday, April 10, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., followed by a celebration at the Uxbridge Legion from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

He will be sadly missed by his friends and family.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Box 388, Uxbridge, L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073). In Michael's memory please consider a donation to the Canadian Cancer Society. Online condolences can be made at www.lowandlow.ca

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