

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 16

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Expropriated lands being studied - again • Cosmos takes a win • A lesson on CBC-ing

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OH! SUSANNA - The Thomas Foster Memorial was filled with the music of another Foster last weekend - the "father of American music," Stephen Foster. (From left): Julien Kelland, Leslie Higgins, Renae Wolfesberger and Laura Hughson, accompanied by Jane Loewen, opened the spring concert season with a program of late 19th century popular music by Foster - at the Foster. *Photo by Karen Higgins*

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Downtown revitalization - slow, but happening

Conrad Boyce
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

When the *Cosmos* conducted a survey in January of 50 average Uxbridgians about their thoughts on tourism, most of them mentioned a less than attractive downtown as a significant deterrent to future tourism development in the township of Uxbridge. A bustling and beautiful main street should be the beating heart of any small community, they reasoned.

Township council agrees, and in August of 2020 launched a downtown revitalization (DR) project based on a four-stage program developed by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). It was

launched at that time because the big culvert replacement project, which was the first step to revitalization, was nearing its end, and the township applied for and received provincial funding to undertake the DR project.

What exactly is the definition of "downtown" for the purposes of this project? The boundaries aren't totally set in stone, but generally extend from Maple Street on the north and include Centennial Park on the south, from Cedar Street North on the west to just east of Main Street. The intersection of Brock Street West and Toronto Street North is the centre of the study area.

The OMAFRA program includes four main steps:

1. Laying the groundwork - Council established a DR advisory committee to oversee the first three steps. By December 2020, this group had proposed a vision statement which was promptly adopted by council: Uxbridge features a vibrant and thriving downtown that is rich on history and is recognized as an inclusive and accessible community. This was supported by a series of descriptive statements that included the development of a town square and a vibrant shopping and culinary experience.
2. Collection and analysis of data - The township retained the services of a landscape architecture, planning, urban design and communications firm that undertook public

...continued on page 6

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Uxbridge at a Glance

The Corporation of The Township of Uxbridge
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Uxbridge L9P 1T1
905-852-9181 info@uxbridge.ca

The Township of Uxbridge

Trail Capital of Canada



Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for April, 2023

Monday, April 24, 10:00 a.m.
COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 24, 11:00 a.m.
PUBLIC MEETING – OPA 71
and ZBA 2023-02

Monday, April 24, 7:00 p.m.
BIA BOARD MEETING

Proclamations for April

April 16-22 – National Volunteer Week
April 22 – Earth Day
April 28 – National Day of Mourning

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping will be starting in the upcoming weeks, weather permitting and will take 6 – 8 weeks to complete. Please try to not park on the streets during this time. Please leave the sand on the road as there will not be any special pick-up of sand left in piles or in pails. It is acceptable to rake any sand that has accumulated on the boulevard into the curb and gutter prior to the sweeping of the street. Any areas that are missed due to parked cars will be redone after all sweeping is complete.

Below is the schedule for sweeping:

1. S/E corner of town
2. N/E corner of town
3. Rural subdivisions and hamlets
4. N/W corner of town
5. S/W corner of town
6. Town parking lots

(The town portion is divided into 4 areas with Brock & Main Streets as the centre point.)

Effective Mar. 1, 2023

Notice of Weight Restrictions

Seasonal weight restrictions on Township roads are now in effect.

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

Employment Opportunities

Complete details and qualifications required for these positions are available at uxbridge.ca/careers

Current Opportunities

Treasury – Deputy Treasurer, full-time, permanent

Closes Friday, May 5, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Uxbridge Public Library – Facility Custodian, contract

Closes Friday, May 5, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Public Works and Operations - Crossing Guards

Resumés accepted on an ongoing basis

Summer Opportunities

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Interpretive Guides, contract

Closes Friday, April 21, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Community Museum Technician, contract

Closes Friday, May 19, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Tourism – Assistant Tourism Development Coordinator, summer student, contract

Closes Friday, May 26, 2023

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

https://www.uxbridge.ca/en/business-and-development/bids-and-tenders.aspx?_mid_=23193

- U23-09 - Supply and Application of Liquid Calcium Chloride
Closes April 27, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
- U23-08 - Sidewalk Installation and Repairs
Closes April 27, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
- U23-15 - Traffic Control Markings. Closes May 4, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
- U23-05 - Fire Extinguisher Maintenance. Closes May 18, 2023, 12:00 p.m.

Road Closures

- Victoria St. between Brock St. W. and King St. W., Sundays beginning May 7 to the end of October, 7am and 3pm to facilitate the return of the Farmers' Market, located along Victoria St.
- Uxbridge East Gwillimbury Townline from north of Durham Reg. Rd. 39/Queensville Sideroad to south of Holborn Road, East Gwillimbury will be closed for bridge repairs, to 2024.
- Uxbridge East Gwillimbury Townline from York St. 500m south of Ravenshoe Road to Zephyr Road will be closed for bridge repairs, to January 2024.

The Thomas Foster Memorial

9449 Conc. 7 (Durham 1) 4km North of Uxbridge

Check out www.thomasfostermemorial.com for the "Fridays at the Foster Concert Series" and event schedule beginning May 2023 until September 2023.

Volunteers Wanted! Earth Day Clean-Up

Bonner Fields (Capstick Lane)
OR
McCutcheon Way (Rail Trail)

Saturday, April 22nd, 9am-11am

Free garbage bags and gloves available at Town Hall between April 17-21st, 8:30am-4:30pm

From The Tax Office

Second Property Tax Installment is due April 26, 2023.

Penalty/Interest Charges:

For non-payment of a tax levy on or before the respective due dates of each installment, a penalty of 1.25% shall be imposed on the first day of each calendar month and thereafter in which the default continues. Failure to receive a Tax Bill does not excuse the taxpayer from responsibility for payment of taxes nor liability of any penalty or interest due to late payments.

The penalty/interest charges cannot be waived or reduced by the Tax Department or Council for any reason.

Monthly or Installment Pre-Authorized Payment Plan

Deadline to Enroll for the 2023 Final property taxes is April 30, 2023.

To find out if you are eligible to enroll, visit our website www.uxbridge.ca/en/living-here/property-taxes.aspx or call the tax office at 905-852-9181 for more information.

Change of Address

If you need to change or update your mailing address, please notify our office in writing or by emailing tax@uxbridge.ca

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Contact Uxpool via email at pool@uxbridge.ca.

AVIAN FLU SAFETY

- Do not attempt to rescue waterfowl who appear to be in distress
- Ponds and rivers are unsafe due to flooding and melting ice.

Report ill or dead birds to Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Control at 905-985-9547

April 28

Day of Mourning

Pause. Reflect.
Remember. Renew.

At 11 am, we will honour workers who have died, were injured, or became ill from their job, and will renew our commitment to health and safety in the workplace.

CCOHS.ca



Township of Uxbridge documents are available in alternate formats upon request. Please fill out the Request for Alternate Formats Form at uxbridge.ca/accessibility

email: accessibility@uxbridge.ca
phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209

Uxbridge at a Glance *continued*

The Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge Notice of Complete Application and Public Meeting Concerning an Application for an Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-Law Amendment

This notice is to inform you that the Planning Committee of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge will hold a statutory public meeting to make available adequate information to the public regarding, and to consider, a proposed Township Official Plan Amendment and Zoning Bylaw Amendment pursuant to Sections 17 and 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, in respect to drug treatment and harm reduction facilities in the Township of Uxbridge.

The statutory public meeting will be held in person and electronic format. The Township of Uxbridge will be processing the Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment as required by the Planning Act and welcome any comments that you may have.

PURPOSE OF PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT:

The purpose of the proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment is to introduce a land use planning framework and regulations with respect to planning for drug treatment and harm reduction facilities in the Township of Uxbridge.

LOCATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY:

This Amendment applies to all the lands in the Township of Uxbridge.

FILE NO.: Official Plan Amendment No. 71 (OPA 71)
Zoning By-law Amendment 2023-02 (ZBA 2023-02)

APPLICANT: Township of Uxbridge

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Additional information relating to the proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment is available for inspection in the Development Services Department between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Township Municipal Office, 51 Toronto Street South, Uxbridge, Ontario. It is preferred that if you require additional information that it be requested by email, mail, or telephone from the undersigned.

Jennifer Beer, Permits & Approvals Analyst
Development Services

Township of Uxbridge, 51 Toronto St. S.
Box 190, Uxbridge, ON L9P 1T1

Email: jbeer@uxbridge.ca
(t) 905-852-9181 ext. 225
(f) 905-852-9674

PLANNING ACT REQUIREMENTS:

This Notice is being given in accordance with Planning Act requirements. A final recommendation on the application will not be presented until after the Township Public Meeting and all technical comments have been received.

The public meeting is being held in a hybrid format allowing for in-person attendance or electronic viewing of the public meeting. The livestream public viewing can be accessed by visiting <https://www.uxbridge.ca/en/your-local-government/council-meeting-calendar.aspx>.

The meeting date and time is as follows:

MEETING DATE: Monday, April 24, 2023 TIME: Public Meeting 11:00 a.m.
REPRESENTATION

ANY PERSON may participate in the public meeting and/or make written or oral representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

1. Written Submissions

Written submissions should be addressed to the Township Clerk at the address shown below. Written comments should be submitted before Friday, April 21, 2023. If you wish to be notified of the adoption or the refusal of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, you must also make a written request to the Township Clerk before the adoption of the by-law.

2. Oral Submission

Oral submissions may be provided to Council at the meeting on livestream, you must pre-register with the Clerk's office by email at dlroux@uxbridge.ca or telephone at 905-852-9181 ext. 228 or mail at the address below before 4:30 pm on April 21, 2023. Please include your full name, address, and a call-back phone number. You will be contacted by the Clerk's office to confirm your participation and receive the online and call-in information before the meeting. Technical assistance may be provided to ensure you are able to participate.

PLANNING ACT REQUIREMENTS

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Uxbridge before the proposed application is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Township of Uxbridge to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

If a person or a public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Uxbridge before the application is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

DATED AT THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE THIS 4TH DAY OF APRIL, 2023.

Debbie Leroux, Clerk
Township of Uxbridge, 51 Toronto St. S.
Box 190, Uxbridge, ON L9P 1T1

Email: dlroux@uxbridge.ca
(t) 905-852-9181 ext. 228
(f) 905-852-9674

Cosmos tornado edition wins top provincial award

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

A tornado, a state of emergency, no electricity, some dedicated journalists, photographers, a graphic designer, and an enthusiastic crew of make-shift newspaper deliverers all came together in one newspaper that, according to a provincial news association, went above and beyond with community service.

At its annual Better Newspaper Competition awards ceremony, held virtually last Friday, the Ontario Community Newspaper Association (OCNA), of which the *Cosmos* is a member, awarded first place to the *Cosmos* for community service for its May 24 'Special Early Edition' following the May 21 tornado.

In her comments, judge Karen Gibson said the following: "This entire edition brought tears to my eyes. When there were no other means of communication available, the team of the *Uxbridge Cosmos* went above and beyond to bring crucial information to its residents. What a unique opportunity for a newspaper to do what it was meant to do. I could go on and on about how outstanding the newspaper edition is and the folks who made it happen. But just wow. Well done."

The *Cosmos* normally publishes on Thursdays, but because the tornado wiped out internet capabilities for several days, the newspaper worked with township authorities to gather all the information that residents required post-tornado, and arranged to produce the newspaper two days early.

Because the *Cosmos* office had no electricity, a make-shift headquarters was created in a barn that was supplied

...continued on page 6



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photo credit to Peter Hvidsten

Our two cents

Airport Lands back on radar

The news came out too late on Tuesday for us to do a full story on it, but we were incredibly heartened to learn that Transport Canada announced it's taking what *may* be the final look at the Pickering Airport Lands and the possibility of them being developed.

All a news release from the ministry revealed was that "Transport Canada has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire an aviation professional services contractor to help the department analyze current and future airport supply and demand in Southern Ontario." Another RFP will reportedly then be sent out to engage a third-party contractor to undertake the study as well as the consultation.

We're not clear on what the difference between the two RFPs is, but we are fairly clear on the following, which was also part of the news release:

"This analysis, as well as engagement with local stakeholders, the provincial and municipal governments, and Indigenous Peoples, is a first step towards making a final decision to address future airport capacity constraints in the region, and on the future of the Pickering Lands. We have no intention to proceed with building an airport on the Pickering Lands in the near term and the conclusions of the study could lead, for example, to a determination that an airport on the Pickering Lands is not required in the long term."

The people whose homes were expropriated by the federal government well over 40 years ago are (if there are any still around) likely shaking their heads. Land Over Landings chair Mary Delaney said one Facebook, "For the first time ever, Transport Canada is suggesting there may not be a need EVER for an airport on the Pickering Lands. Until now, every statement has indicated they would hang onto the Lands forever, if necessary. We regard this as a critical first step towards the permanent protection of these precious farmlands, hopefully within the Rouge National Urban Park."

We are going to be cautiously optimistic about this news. Using that land for farming rather than an airport is what's necessary. Being one step closer to that being a reality is news that is certainly better late than never.



Letters to the Editor

I would like to endorse the opinion made about the police by David Watts (*Cosmos* Letters to the Editor, Feb. 23 edition). The police are not special, just a club with gun rights and bullet-proof vests.

Perhaps you believed, like me, that "serve and protect" was meant for the public. I was wrong. I have learned the police are there to serve and protect the letter of the law; help and justice are a sometime byproduct.

Case in point: the cops are legally protecting the right of a squatter (one who pays no rent) to live in our home; we must provide him housing, heat, water, etc., at our expense while he awaits trial on six counts of burglary, despite the fact that he has stolen from us. The law protects the rights of the perpetrator over our rights by denying us peace-of-mind and the help we need in our own home.

We are not fools, but sometimes wanting to help gets in the way of good judgement.

A local man moved into an apartment in our house last April to help with some light house maintenance, for a very reduced rent. (We are seniors and need some assistance from time to time.) His references were unverifiable; he claimed he had a job, so we took a chance on somebody who looked like he needed a break.

A week later, we agreed to allow his girlfriend to move in on a temporary basis, for no rent. (She

claimed her wicked landlord would not fix her leaking roof after the tornado.)

All went relatively well for several months. We had a few disputes about all the stuff he kept bringing to the property, which he claimed he found in the garbage and was fixing up to sell. He continued with the fiction that he had employment, but kept changing jobs,

In October, the police arrested him, and the story came out from the girlfriend that he was a drug addict and had been stealing and fencing the objects he stole, to support his habit. He has paid no rent since October, and now we have to take out their garbage.

He gets two government cheques a month, and the girlfriend works at a local restaurant. Together they could afford an apartment but, hey, "why pay rent when you can live free off some old gits, and the law will not stop you from ripping them off?" They told us so in many harassing emails peppered with four-letter words.

We later learned this pair had done this elsewhere in Uxbridge. They knew the Landlord Tenna Tribunal was packed solid and they could get a year's free accommodation with no repercussions before the sheriff took action. Durham police told us, "there is no legal definition for the numerical age of elder," and "it is not considered abuse unless you share a toilet."

The squatter recently knocked my

husband down and spat on him. The police said, "no action could be taken since there was no witness."

MPP Bethlenfalvy's office told us that he "could not intervene," and that we must apply through the Landlord Tenant Tribunal. It is his branch of government (Legislature) that created this law and his Conservative Party that has starved the judiciary.

We do not expect or want the cops to interpret the law, but we do want the courts to react to lawless behavior in a timely way.

We cannot learn when the charged squatter comes to trial, or when our case with the over-burdened Landlord and Tenant Tribunal will be heard, but the boys-in-blue-brotherhood will ensure they are kept comfortable at our expense.

I believe he could be held elsewhere. The help we need is denied us since the dwelling unit is occupied by these vagrant dead-beats.

My husband has just suffered a TIA (temporary ischemic attack) aggravated by stress of the situation (medical opinion), also aggravated by the untimely resolution by the courts and the cops, my opinion.

We planned to stay in our home, pay our way and continue to contribute to the community as we have always done. This enforced harassment is not what we envisioned for our "golden years."

S. Reiner
Uxbridge

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

Time for some serious talk

As anyone who reads this column regularly knows, I consider myself a news junkie.

I spend hours every day reading news from around the world. I've been an avid newspaper reader since I was a child. And, of course, I've spent most of my adult life in the news business.

So it came as something of a surprise a few nights ago when I decided to give it a rest for a while and amuse myself playing games on my laptop. (I absolutely love WGT Golf: it's the next best thing to actually being on the course.) What led me to that moment, you might ask.

It was the realization that Canada appears to be importing some of the worst characteristics of the United States. Every day, it seems, we are hearing the latest lunatic rant from Marjorie Taylor Green or the latest infringement of rights by Ron DeSantis or ravings from Donald Trump. But we also hear, on a daily basis, the latest screeching from Pierre Poilievre, usually accompanied by a similar rant from his lapdog Andrew Scheer.

And just as Republicans are in constant battle with Democrats - (they can't even agree on the colour of the sky) - so it is in Canadian politics, particularly in Ottawa. Serious debate on any issue devolves into personal attacks and insults, usually accompanied by reams of dis- and mis-information. Poilievre's latest rant - (it's been going on for a while now) - is that Justin Trudeau spent \$6,000 a night for a hotel room while on "vacation" in London. The fact that Poilievre could characterize attendance at the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II as a "vacation" speaks volumes about him.

The premiers of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are always in conflict with Ottawa, mostly on ideological grounds and rarely on matters of substance. Oh, it's nice when the federal government sends money their way, but God forbid Ottawa should have any say in how that money is spent. Witness the health care transfer Ottawa made to Ontario and yet Doug Ford squirrelled billions away without spending it on healthcare.

But it's not just politicians who are ranting: the news business is, as a whole, digging its own grave.

The *National Post*, which, while always a

conservative publication, was at one time a newspaper of some merit, has been reduced to a one-note trumpet. Read any columnist in that newspaper and they rage against Trudeau and the Liberals in practically every column they write. In fact, the headlines they use on most of the columns could be accurately described as "click bait," designed to attract readers who are already swayed to their point of view. Ezra Levant's so-called Rebel News is nothing more than an anti-Liberal podium.

Sun Media lost its way years ago. The *Toronto Sun* was born out of a labour dispute at the old *Toronto Telegram*. When John Bassett closed the *Telegram* rather than reach an agreement with his unionized workers, they started their own newspaper, the *Toronto Sun*. These were union people and they decided a worker-owned newspaper could hold its own against the remaining corporate biggies, the *Globe and Mail* and the *Toronto Star*. Now, the *Sun* is anti-union and pro-Conservative. And, in this day and age, it still features "Sunshine Girls." Go figure!

With all the screeching coming at us from politicians and the news media, is it any wonder many Canadians are feeling that they don't count? It seems to me this country is in need of a serious discussion about who we are and where we're headed. When I say discussion, I don't mean protesting with truck horns and cries of "Freedom." I'm talking about a gathering of elder statesmen - (Chretien, Mulroney, Broadbent, Clark, e.g.) - academics, news professionals, premiers, high-ranking public servants, etc, to come together with only one item on the agenda: how to best serve the citizens of Canada. If it means political parties working together - (horrors!) - so be it. If it means the provinces and the federal government working together for the public good, so be it. If it means the news business reporting the facts accurately and without spin or bias, so be it.

Obviously, no amount of talking and conferencing is going to solve all the problems. There will always be differences of opinion. But it seems to me differences of opinion should not translate into hate for those who don't think the way we do. It's impossible to work with someone you hate..

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Broadcasting 101, Mr. Poilievre

We had worked for a number of months researching a documentary to air on CBC television in Edmonton. Back in the early 1980s, several of us freelance broadcasters had crafted a story about what would happen in Alberta when the oil ran dry. One can imagine the volatility of such a subject given Alberta's economic dependence on fossil fuel production, not to mention hostility in the oil patch over the National Energy Program at the time.

"Before the documentary goes to air," a CBC producer told those of us writing the documentary, "the content has to be lawyered."

"Lawyered? Isn't the CBC arm's-length from politics?" asked one of my colleagues.

"That's exactly why it has to be vetted," the producer said. "It's got to be fair to both sides of the debate."

The National Energy Program (NEP) was a policy drafted in 1980 by then prime minister Pierre Trudeau to ensure Canada could supply its own oil and gas needs for 10 years. Intended to reassure energy-poor parts of the country they'd have fuel to run their cars and heat their homes, the NEP also appeared to restrict fossil-fuel development and sales. By the 1990s, global economic conditions had made the NEP unnecessary, but to this day the concept continues to alienate Conservative Party faithful.

My point is that despite the potential for infuriating every political party in the country - both Peter Lougheed's Alberta Conservatives and Pierre Trudeau's federal Liberals - in the 1980s, the CBC felt it vital to explore Canada's future energy needs with a timely documentary. Put another way, despite the fact that the CBC has depended largely on federal government funding for over 90 years, its radio and TV journalism has remained true to its Crown corporation mandate - to pursue facts in the public interest, not to favour its funder.

A week ago, new Twitter owner Elon Musk decided to label the British Broadcasting Corporation and National Public Radio in the U.S. as "government media." In his ignorance, Musk equated a British Crown corporation and an American public broadcaster with the *People's Daily* in China, or Putin's TASS news service, or Iran's IRNA News Agency, i.e. as "state-run media." Mimicking Mr. Musk, Canada's current Opposition leader has decided he'll use the same misguided labelling to rile his base and attack

mainstream media.

"We must protect Canadians against disinformation and manipulation by state media," Pierre Poilievre wrote last week. "That's why I'm asking Twitter to accurately label the CBC as government funded."

Pardon me? I don't think anybody who's paid attention to broadcast history in this country has thought for a minute that the CBC wasn't government funded. But to equate tax dollars allocated to a public Canadian broadcaster with disinformation and manipulation is simply Poilievre-generated bunk. Full disclosure here: In 50 years as a professional broadcaster in this country (longer than Mr. Poilievre has been alive), I have never been a CBC employee. And while a large proportion of my freelance broadcast work has been on CBC airwaves, in all those thousands of words of scripting or hundreds of broadcast appearances on the CBC, nobody has ever told this journalist what he should or should not present on-air at the behest of the federal government.

The CBC has been the Conservatives' whipping boy almost since its creation in 1932. Hating, defunding or eliminating the CBC all together has been a platform plank espoused by Conservative politicians going back to John Diefenbaker, and Stephen Harper (who blamed the CBC's woes on low ratings, not his \$115 million budget cut), and Erin O'Toole (who announced in 2020 that he'd end funding to CBC English TV and News Network by 50 per cent by the end of his first mandate). Like many anti-CBC politicians, who eventually realize that hating or killing the CBC is a bit like cutting off one's nose to spite one's face, O'Toole changed his mind.

"I want to maintain and modernize (the CBC) and make more accountable our development funding," he said in 2021.

Clearly, Pierre Poilievre's ideas of fair news dissemination are the likes of Twitter or Fox News - the former whose owner only understands monopoly and firing employees who speak out, and the latter which perpetuates disinformation about a former president's lies. If that's the kind of news environment the Opposition leader prefers, let him go live in Elon Musk's phony Twitter-verse. I prefer a national publicly funded broadcaster that vets my work in pursuit of the truth.

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



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What's on deck for revitalization, from page 1

consultation with over 500 residents, resulting in a visualization report for the downtown. This report provided residents the opportunity to see what the downtown could like in the future. Three major surveys were then conducted in the summer and fall of 2021 to gather ideas about the future. An online resident survey gathered 830 responses, an online business owners' survey garnered 53, and an on-the-street visitor survey was con-

ducted for eight consecutive days downtown in September, with 587 individuals (of these, 265 were non-residents). The surveys produced an avalanche of opinions and ideas, which had to be sifted before moving on to the next step.

3. Development of goals and an action plan - The action plan was adopted by council in March 2022, and reaffirmed by the current council in December.

4. Implementation - Because the plan has both specific targets and ongoing principles, the implementation will be ongoing; it will be continually updated as the years go by. Some of

the more immediate and urgent objectives have already been met.

The action plan has four main pillars:

1. Dedicated leadership - This section asks the current council to: reaffirm adoption of the action plan (done); establish a standing committee of council to replace the DR advisory committee (done); apply a one per cent levy on property taxes to support DR (done for the first time in the 2023 budget); and incorporate elements of the action plan into other township operational plans.

2. Revitalization of Lower Brock -

This will begin in earnest once the dust has settled from the culvert project, and the debris from last October's fire demolished.



Centennial Park, located behind the library, will be transformed with downtown revitalization.

Photo by Conrad Boyce

A town square over the culvert north of Brock St. is a key element. A small beginning was made with the revitalization of the Brock Street Parkette near the old Coffee Time, and in the fall the township approved the revised Down-

town Community Improvement Plan (CIP). Today, developers, property owners and business owners can apply for financial assistance through the CIP for projects aligned with the DR plan.

3. Creating a safe, walkable downtown - This pillar includes such elements as streetscaping and reduction of truck traffic. Recent modifications to the signal timing at Brock St. and Toronto St. were intended to make the intersection safer and more pedestrian friendly. One of the objectives for this year is a parking study, which will assist the township with planning for the future and may revisit the use of angle parking on upper Brock.

4. Downtown as a destination - This section talks to tourism as an economic driver. It speaks to marketing, and developing some key elements of downtown, including the "Railway District." A goal for this year is the development of a master plan for Centennial Park, a green space gem in the downtown that currently is underutilized.

The one per cent levy created an initial DR reserve of about \$150,000. This will fund the following key aspects of the action plan for 2023:

- the parking study
- the plan for Centennial Park
- expanding library hours to allow for increased use of its washrooms for downtown visitors
- rezoning in the downtown to enable future development as a result of the revised floodplain created by the new culvert.
- (CIP) building, facade or signage improvements
- a part-time salary to retain the coordinator of the project

Interested readers / residents are encouraged to read more about the project on the township website, uxbridge.ca/myuxbridgedowntown. All the reports and plans can be viewed there in their entirety.

A Cosmos win, from page 3

with electricity from a generator. The paper was assembled, printed and distributed all on the Tuesday following the tornado.

Due to tornado damage, the local Canada Post office could not deliver the paper, so a small army of volunteers, from Scouts to Cadets to Rotarians to supporters, delivered the newspaper by hand to almost every house in the areas most affected by the tornado.

This is the third time the *Cosmos* has won an OCNA award for outstanding service to the community. It was also recognized by the Canadian Community Newspaper Association, a national organization, for outstanding community service.

The *Cosmos* is hosting an open Town Hall on May 11 at the Uxbridge Seniors Centre, to discuss the tornado and its aftermath. Several guest speakers will offer their experiences, and attendees will be invited to share their experiences. More details to follow in next week's *Cosmos*.

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Luke 11:28

For Bible Resources:
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CLASSIFIEDS

Classifieds are \$15/week up to 25 words; \$0.20 per additional word (plus HST). Payable in advance by cash, cheque, debit or credit card. Contact Lvann@thecosmos.ca or 905-852-1900 Deadline: Tuesday, 12 noon.

SERVICES

DOG-HAPPY DOG TRAINING GROUP CLASSES! Next series begins May 11. Visit dog-happy.ca or email julie@dog-happy.ca

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DO YOUR OLD PHOTOS NEED RESTORATION? Boxes of slides taking up room? Preston Gallery/BIA Photography at 77 Brock St. W. (Uxbridge) specializing in restorations & scanning. Call Sabrina, 905-550-8825.

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WANTED: VINYL RECORD/CD COLLECTIONS. CASH PAID. Classic Rock, Reggae, 80's Pop, Jazz, Hip Hop, R&B, Soul, Punk, Blues, Psych, Metal etc. Call or text Mark, 647-884-1720.

DO YOU ENJOY CONCERTS? Would you like to attend free concerts? Come join the Thomas Foster committee! Bev Northeast, 905-640-3966. thomasfostermemorial.com

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EVENTS

WALKSTRONG CLASS IN GOODWOOD: Improve gait, posture & core with walking intervals. May 9 - June 29. Tuesdays/Thursdays 8 - 8:55 a.m. Contact Lauren at 647-294-5155 or torontopersonaltrainer@gmail.com 5/4

EARTH DAY WITH UDORA LEASKDALE LIONS CLUB: Road Cleanup - between Udora & Leaskdale. Meet at Udora Community Hall at 9:30 a.m. Students can earn volunteer hours. Bring work gloves! BBQ served when completed, about 11:30 a.m. Also, 200 White Pine & Spruce sapling trees available to plant for Earth Day. Pick up at Udora Community Hall, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., while trees last. Max. 10 saplings per family. Trees are FREE, donations for local food banks appreciated. For more information email Lion Dave at uccl.events@gmail.com

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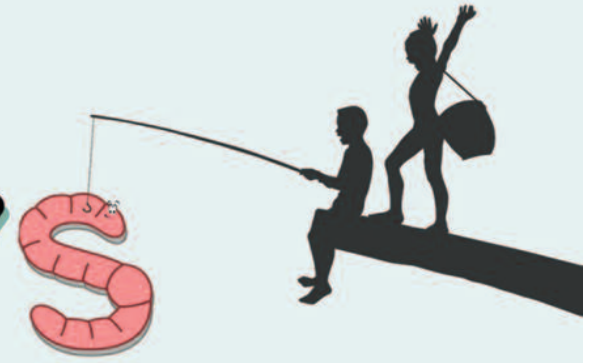




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