

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 11

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, March 16, 2023

Calling all festival organizers • SIU investigates incident • What's next for tourism in Uxbridge?



WALKING FOR WOMEN - Dozens of people walked from downtown Uxbridge to the hospital and back last Wednesday morning on the occasion of International Women's Day. The walkers raised money that will go towards women's health initiatives at the Uxbridge Hospital. This is the third year that Uxbridge real estate broker Cindy Wood has coordinated this event. *Photo by John Cavers*

Bruins take the lead in opening playoff round

Roger Varley

Following a scary beginning, the Uxbridge Bruins rebounded to take a 3-0 lead in their best-of-seven playoff series against the Port Perry LumberJacks.

The series opened last Friday at the arena as the LumberJacks jumped on early Uxbridge mistakes and stunned the Bruins with three unanswered goals in the first period. The first goal came as Brayden Roberts beat a lone Bruins defender and beat goalie Kyle Groff with a lovely backhand. The second goal resulted when Mark Stoop intercepted a blind back pass and scored. The third, by Jeremy Poulin, resulted from a blast from the blue line.

The second period was a different affair as the refocused Bruins rallied with five goals of their

own. Josh Czaliy opened the scoring early in the period, with assists going to Anthony Lamanna and Quinn Meek. That was followed in quick order by markers from Lamanna and captain Andrew Swan. Then, in the final four minutes, Meek scored what proved to be the game-winner, followed quickly by a goal from Alex Hyde.

Both teams went on a scoring drought in the third period until Lamanna notched an empty-net goal as the period wound down.

The *Cosmos* selected Meek as player of the game for Uxbridge, while giving the nod to Stoop for Port Perry.

On Sunday, at the Scugog arena, the LumberJacks opened the scoring again as Stoop scored a short-handed goal near the midway mark of the first period. Noah Button tied the score a couple of minutes later on a shot from a sharp

angle.

It wasn't until late in the second period that the Bruins took the lead on a goal by Peter Kerr and then, with 20 seconds remaining, Czaliy found the net on a delayed penalty to make the score 3-1.

There was no scoring in the third.

Back at the arena on Monday night, goalie Groff was in stellar form as he turned away 33 shots to lead the Bruins to a 3-0 shutout.

Kerr scored the only goal of the fast and furious first period, assisted by linemates Lamanna and Meek.

Early in the second, Lamanna missed a sure goal when LumberJacks goalie Gavin Bradt left the crease to play the puck and was beaten by Lamanna, but the Bruins forward missed the

...continued on page 3

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JUST LISTED: 40 Cemetery Road

This exquisite property is in the heart of Uxbridge and has a frontage of approx. 198 ft and has the potential for severance. Schedule a private showing before this one is sold!



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

The Township of
UXBRIDGE

Trail Capital of Canada

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for March 2023

Monday, March 20, 10:00 a.m.

GENERAL PURPOSE AND
 ADMINISTRATION MEETING

Monday, March 27, 10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEETING

Proclamations for March

March - Multiple Myeloma Awareness
 Month

March 18 - Transit Operator and Worker
 Appreciation Day

March 21 - World Down Syndrome Day

March 21 - International Day for the
 Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 22 - Crossing Guard

Appreciation Day

March 26 - Earth Hour at 8:30 p.m.

March 31 - Transgender Day of Visibility

Road Closures

Visit Uxbridge.ca/roads
 for up-to-date notices.

Let's Reconnect
 SENIORS INFORMATION FAIR

10am - 4pm
 Uxbridge Arena
 Community Centre

AGE-FRIENDLY Uxbridge Ontario

This project is funded by the Government of Ontario

Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to
https://www.uxbridge.ca/en/business-and-development/bids-and-tenders.aspx?_mid_=23193

- U23-06 - Supply and Delivery of Granular A – Closes March 21, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.
- U23-07 - Pulverization and Hot Mix Paving - Closes March 22, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.
- U23-04 - Goodwood Baseball Diamond - Harold Bell Park – Closes March 24, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.
- U23-13 – Uxpool Masonry Repairs – Closes March 31, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Employment Opportunities

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

Current Opportunities

Uxbridge Historical Centre – Programming and Collections Assistant

Closes Friday, March 24, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Public Works and Operations - Crossing Guards

Resumés accepted on an ongoing basis

Summer Opportunities

Community Services – Summer Camp Supervisor, contract
 Closes Friday, March 31, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Community Services – Summer Camp Counsellors, contract
 Closes Friday, March 31, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Community Services – Assistant Summer Camp Counsellors, contract
 Closes Friday, March 31, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Animal Control Assistant/Kennel Attendant, contract
 Closes Sunday, April 2, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Parks – Adult Horticulture Worker, skilled, contract (Union)
 Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Parks – Attendant, unskilled, contract (Union)
 Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Parks – Grass Cutting Attendant, contract (Union)
 Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Parks – Horticulture, summer student, contract
 Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Parks – General Labourer, summer student, contract
 Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Collections Associate, contract
 Closes Friday, April 14, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Uxpool – Lifeguards and/or Instructors, summer
 Closes Friday, April 14, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Community Engagement and Programming Associate, contract
 Closes Friday, April 14, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Interpretive Guides, contract
 Closes Friday, April 21, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario – Project Assistant, summer student - Closes Friday, April 21, 2023.

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Community Museum Technician, contract - Closes Friday, May 19, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

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.

CROSSING GUARDS WANTED!

Not all heroes wear capes... some wear high visibility vests while holding stop signs!

Become a community hero by applying for a crossing guard position!

For more information on how to apply, visit uxbridge.ca/careers

Virtual Public Information Centre
Planks Lane Reconstruction
 (Main St. to Marietta St.)
Tues., March 21st
7:00-8:00p.m.

Learn more or join the meeting:
<https://bit.ly/3yA0eoj>

Snow Removal Reminder

All snow, slush, and ice must be cleared from sidewalks beside properties and roofs adjacent to sidewalks within 24 hours of snowfall

Spring Swimming Lesson Registration Opens

Thursday, March 9 at 9 am

Register online at www.uxbridge.ca/uxpool or calling 905-852-7831

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.



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*

Board and Committee Appointments 2023 - 2026

The Council of the Township of Uxbridge invites applications from members of the public who are qualified electors of the Township of Uxbridge who wish to have their names considered for a four-year appointment (term of Council – expiring November 2026) to one of the various Boards, Committees, etc. **Any** person interested in offering their services, and would accept an appointment (including present members with expired terms), are invited to submit a Volunteer-Committee Member Application Form available on the Township's website <https://www.uxbridge.ca/en/your-local-government/boards-committees-and-initiatives.aspx> along with a letter of interest outlining relevant qualifications and experience to the undersigned by Friday, March 24, 2023.

Any questions regarding these appointments may be directed to the Clerk.

Debbie Leroux
 Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
 P.O. Box 190
 51 Toronto Street South
 Uxbridge, ON L9P 1T1
 Telephone: (905) 852-9181
 Fax: (905) 852-9674
 e-mail: dleroux@uxbridge.ca

Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee

This committee of volunteers are appointed for the 4-year term of Council; additional members will include one or more members of Council, representatives of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. ESAC serves as an advisory body to Council. The Committee's focus generally is to protect and enhance the environmental health of the watersheds within the Township, including the implementation of watershed plans. The Committee provides a community perspective on watershed management and work supporting environmental sustainability. ESAC meets monthly and new members and visitors are always welcome.

Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee – 1 volunteer representing the Township of Uxbridge

TAC is a volunteer committee established by the Durham Region Transit Commission and Regional Council in 2006. An overview of the TAC and its Terms of Reference is available for viewing at <https://www.durham.ca/en/regional-government/committees.aspx/#Durham-Environmental-Advisory-Committee>. The goal of the DRT Advisory Committee is to "provide input to the Durham Transit Executive Committee on public transit matters as they relate to the provision of conventional and specialized transit services in Durham". The committee's Terms of Reference provide for each of the eight area municipalities to nominate one public transit user representing transit stakeholder groups through their use of DRT services and/or through their participation in community groups that access public.

Winter Ice Conditions

Elgin Pond

The Township of Uxbridge will be testing the ice conditions at Elgin Pond throughout the winter. A flag notification system is in place:

- No Flags** – Testing has not begun
- Red Flags** – Ice is not safe. Please stay off
- Yellow Flags** – Skate with caution

Flags are located at the north end of Elgin Pond, beside Mill St.

Please keep away from water inlets and outlets on the pond, as ice thickness is compromised.

Storm Water Management Facilities

Please keep off of all storm water management facilities.

Water levels fluctuate at these facilities and as such are not safe for skating or other activities.

Did you know...



Snowmobiles are prohibited on municipal trails, boulevards, in parks, and on sidewalks



Uxbridge man injured in police action

A 40-year-old man was taken to hospital with what was described as a serious injury following a police action in Uxbridge last Thursday.

According to police reports, Durham Regional Police attended a home in the Balsam Street/Brock Street West area Thursday evening to investigate a family dispute. At that time, the man was struck by a projectile from an Anti-Riot Weapon Enfield (ARWEN). Two other officers used their Tasers. The man sustained injuries as a result.

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) has been assigned to examine the incident.

An ARWEN is classified as a firearm. Under the Special Investigations Unit Act, a firearm is defined as a barreled weapon from which any shot, bullet or other projectile can be discharged and that is capable of causing serious bodily injury or death to a person.

The SIU is urging anyone who may have information about the incident to contact the lead investigator at 1-800-787-8529 or online at: siu.on.ca/en/appeals.php

Bruins, from page 3

net as he attempted to tuck it in from behind. Matt Gordon made the score 2-0 on a power play late in the period.

In the third, Button scored at the 24:39 mark and Cohen Mackie rounded out the scoring five minutes later.

Groff was player of the game for the Bruins and Cameron Marshall was named for the LumberJacks.

The fourth game of the series was scheduled for last night (Wednesday) in Port Perry. If a fifth game is needed, it will be played tomorrow (Friday) night at the arena at 7:45 p.m.

In the other series, league champions the Clarington Eagles look to sweep the Lakefield Chiefs as they have a 3-0 edge in games, outscoring the Chiefs 20-3. The Georgina Ice has a 2-1 lead over the North Kawartha Knights.



free!!

Community Supper

Friday, March 24

St. Paul's Anglican Church • Lower Hall

Come on over!!

Everyone welcome!!

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.....

serving from 5:00-6:30 pm

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mac 'n cheese

buns • mixed vegetables

cake and ice cream

coffee, tea and juice

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Our two cents

It could be easy being green!

We're not on March Break this week, and we're feeling the winter blahs a bit. We don't want to think about snow, or more snow. We want to think happy and green. Just in time for ... St. Patrick's Day! Let's take a moment and think on all things Irish.

St. Patrick's Day, as most everyone knows, is, on the Roman Catholic calendar, held on the saint's feast day, March 17. St. Patrick is indeed the patron saint of Ireland. According to *Encyclopedia Britannica*, he was born in Roman Britain sometime in the late 4th century, kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but returned about 432 CE to convert the Irish to Christianity. By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established several monasteries, churches, and schools.

Over time, many legends have been attributed to St. Patrick, including that he drove the snakes out of Ireland (he may or may not have, it's hard to say, but there are no snakes in Ireland!), and that he used the shamrock to explain the Trinity (an excellent teaching tool).

Ireland came to celebrate this feast day with religious services, but it was reportedly Irish emigrants, particularly to the United States, who transformed St. Patrick's Day into a largely secular holiday of revelry and celebration of things Irish. Cities with large numbers of Irish immigrants (many of whom often wielded political power) staged the most extensive celebrations, which included elaborate parades. Boston held its first St. Patrick's Day parade in 1737, followed by New York City in 1762. Since 1962, Chicago has coloured its river green to mark the holiday. According to the Canadian Encyclopedia website, Canada's first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in Montreal in 1824. St. Patrick's Day parades were banned in Toronto in 1878, after previous parades sparked violence between Catholics and Protestants. Toronto did not hold a parade again until 1988.

Interesting factoid - blue was the colour traditionally associated with St. Patrick, but green is now commonly connected with the day.

So now you have all kinds of useless trivia with which to fill your head while you dine on or drink something green this Friday. *Sláinte!*



Letters to the Editor

Snow removal suggestion applauded

Kudos to Chris Clark's letter in the March 2 issue entitled, "High snow bar a bain of existence." I couldn't agree any more with the sentiments expressed. A very well-written opinion with substantiated facts to support the argument.

I also find it "interesting" how snow is cleared under the cover of darkness, while most people are in a deep slumber and therefore unable to witness such work.

I believe, in reference to Mel Lastman's snowploughs in North York and how he embraced the technology to clear a snow bar back in the day, that such a plow required one person to manoeuvre the flexible arm that followed another person using the first blade. I'm going to go out on a limb and say that no municipality nowadays will pay a second salary for the arm's role because it would provide great assistance to its taxpayers. Instead, municipalities choose to waste our hard-earned tax dollars in many other useless ways that they certainly won't admit to (so much for transparency and "working for the people").

Thank you for writing an excellent and pertinent letter on a subject that a lot of us complain about every winter.

**Kevin Stiles
Goodwood**

In response to Chris Clark's March 2 letter regarding snow removal, I too expressed myself to Ben Kester at Public Works by phone, and to

Bruce Garrod by email in 2019.

I am located on a street with many seniors who are trying to stay in their homes. Whenever there is a snowfall, the plow comes around the corner and dumps sand, snow, ice, etc., from the road onto the driveways. Needless to say, it's too heavy to shovel.

This happened to us after they cleared the road, while waiting for an ambulance. The paramedic had to shovel a path through the snow-bank, as there was no way to get the ambulance onto our driveway. They had to carry my husband out on a chair to the ambulance situated on the road. On top of all the stress, how do I get the car out to follow ambulance to hospital?

Corner houses must keep the sidewalk cleared parallel to the street. A senior was called stating this had to be done. Now she has hired someone to keep it cleared. Good grief - we all pay taxes to have these services. That is an extra expense out of her pocket, plus yearly taxes. The town should be clearing the sidewalks!

The answer from the township was that we should hire somebody to come and remove snow from the bottom of the driveway, and that it's too much money to hire workers because clearing would be slowed down if the blade was lifted at every driveway. The trucks used in Toronto are expensive. So it all comes down to money.

You would think that all the new builds in Uxbridge could help with the tax dollars they pay. Nope. Any suggestion fell on deaf ears.

I too moved from North York and

remember the "Bad Boy" mayor Lastman. He introduced some great services in his time, and as I age I have regrets as our taxes were the same here as in North York, with many other services, and medically convenient.

**Fran Hurteau
Uxbridge**

Regional plan needs local stall

After last fall's election, several councillors seem to have forgotten the people who put them in their powerful and well-paid positions. I say this because I attended Durham Regional council last week to ask that a motion proposed by the mayor of Ajax (and supported by every environmental agency and Pickering Airport opposition group Land Over Landings, and a long list of citizens) be passed. The motion simply asked that approval of the Region's new Official Plan be delayed until the effects of Doug Ford's move to destroy the Greenbelt, as well as defunding many items required by local municipalities, would be considered by the experts on staff and reported back BEFORE the official plan is passed.

The new plan is part of a long-term plan to govern into the second half of this century. What will your grandchildren have to put up with? I have not even read the entire plan, as parts are still being reported on, but the planning commissioner wants it finalized by June of this year.

Why the hurry? You will likely be

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.



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9,600 copies of the Cosmos are published each Thursday in the Township of Uxbridge and delivered by Canada Post.

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Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Time for a mid-winter festival

If you are like me, you've just about had it with this seemingly never-ending winter. Sure, it started out well enough: relatively mild, little in the way of precipitation, but now it's dragging on with cold temperatures, bitter winds and more than enough snow to satisfy even the most avid skier.

Following the hectic days of Christmas and New Year's, we've been plunged into a drudgery of grey skies, snowy sidewalks and, for the most part, people hunkering down in their homes. We had Family Day in February, but it's really just another day: no special celebrations or activities and the only benefit is a day off work or out of school. There is nothing in March to get us excited (unless you count St. Patrick's Day, and the only way one can get that off is to call in sick) and Easter doesn't arrive until early in April. So, basically, we have three months of nothingness.

Is it any wonder people get the blues at this time of year, especially in February? Maybe it's time this town started to look into the possibility of having some kind of weekend festival, preferably in February, to generate some old-fashioned good times, fun activities and communal gathering. The following is just a suggestion, but if it strikes a chord with anyone perhaps it could be a starting point.

I'd like to see Brock Street closed to traffic from Victoria Street to Main Street for a full weekend so that a wide variety of activities could take place. For example, a long toboggan ride down the hill from Toronto Street to Bascom. Such a run could be constructed easily and quickly and removed after the fact with little difficulty. How about sectioning off an area for a full-scale ball hockey scrimmage open to everyone of all ages? A fleet of food trucks stationed around the downtown, interspersed with vendors selling their crafts. Musicians, dancers, jugglers, magicians, entertainers of all sorts. Lord knows, we have enough talent in this town. A petting zoo. And, if the weather turns nasty, a couple of warming stations.

The Roxy could run an afternoon of kids'

cartoons and the library could run a bunch of kids' programs. There could be ice and/or snow sculptures and even a snow castle. The possibilities are endless. How about free snowmobile, horse-drawn carriage or dog sled rides in Elgin Park or snowshoe races in Centennial Park?

Such a festival would, of course, need the hard-working volunteers of the Lions Club, Rotary and the Optimist Club to take leading roles, as well as the BIA and the township. But the Lions and Optimists already show us what they are capable of with their Art in the Park and Fantasy of Lights presentations and the BIA's Christmas Holiday Trail in the downtown area is always a hit.

Such a festival could bring lots of extra (pedestrian) traffic to the downtown, which could be good for the retailers, who would be encouraged to set up sidewalk tables. It could even be an attraction for tourists, because any such festivals are few and far between in the GTA at this time of year. And it could be a spirit-lifter at a time when our spirits seem to sink.

Let's face it, we have enough opportunities during summer and fall to lift our spirits. The Victoria Day weekend is followed pretty closely by Canada Day, which is followed by the August civic holiday, which precedes Labour Day in September and Halloween in October, which has evolved into more than just one night's fun. November is rather dull, but since the Christmas period now starts as soon as Halloween is finished, there's plenty to do. However, between New Year's and Easter: nada, zilch, nothing. Oh, I suppose one could talk about the March break, but apart from some kids' programs run by the library there isn't a plethora of organized activities or events. It's just time off school.

It seems to me that a mid-winter festival full of fun activities would do a lot for the community's general mental health and give this town a much needed boost in morale. But here's the big "but:" it would only work if the community as a whole supported the idea.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Retail life cycle

One day last summer, I shared a walk with several of my grandsons. They wondered about an empty storefront on Toronto Street. "What did it used to be?" they asked.

"Ballinger's store used to be there," I told them. "You could buy clothes and shoes and all sorts of dry goods there," I said.

"What's dry goods?" one of them asked.

"Just about everything you'd ever want to buy that's not food," I said.

"You mean like on the internet?"

Well, you can imagine where the conversation went after that. The boys talked about buying video games, books, headphones, clothes and everything else online and having Amazon deliver purchases to their house a day or two later. Discussions such as these – in the 21st century – seem an awful long way from the days when shopping was an excursion, not click-and-enter on a keyboard, when customers interacted with expert salespeople, not anonymous corporations, and when one actually touched and tried something on before buying it.

I got to thinking about the radical changes in retail this week as I read news that Nordstrom was closing its operations in Canada. Launched in Canada in 2014, Nordstrom established 13 stores, and at the time of the closing announcement, employed about 2,500 people in this country. And it's closing in yet another tenuous retail platform – Toronto's Eaton Centre, a stretch of Yonge Street that for a century and a half functioned as the heart of retail in Canada, where the big three – T. Eaton Co., Robert Simpson Co. and the Hudson's Bay Company duked it out for retail supremacy for over 100 years. Such stores led the marketplace for serving entire families, entire cities with everything they ever needed under one roof. And not only could shoppers buy anything and everything from around the world, so could customers enjoy such advances in people-moving as elevators and escalators. And even if they never bought a single dry good, any excursion in front of its massive street-front display windows supplied an entertaining day of "window shopping."

Shoppers in our own community enjoyed similar experiences – albeit mostly on a single floor – in the heydays of department store shopping. Beginning right after the Great War, William Hochberg operated Dominion

Dry Goods store on the south side of Brock Street, west of Bascomb. His "Going Out of Business Sale" sign stretched nearly half a block in 1961. Nick Homan stepped up and bought it a couple of years later. Downtown Uxbridge in those years also sported the newest concept in food shopping experiences in the 1950s, when Evelyn and John Hockley opened the IGA "supermarket" at the corner of Toronto and Brock.

"The new IGA store," wrote J. Peter Hvidsten in his book *Uxbridge: The Good Old Days*, "offered 4,000 square feet of shopping space, with four 45-foot merchandising aisles and four full-automatic check-out counters. There was 36 feet of refrigerated self-service counter ... and 36 feet of refrigerated space for produce."

Like most thriving Ontario communities with one foot in urban development and the other in the farmyard, in the 1950s and '60s, Uxbridge enjoyed all kinds of shopping options – the downtown Williamson car dealership, first-run movies at the original Roxy, a local creamery, the Co-op farm-goods store, the Mansion House Hotel and our very own Coca Cola bottling plant.

Department stores gave members of my family valuable employment during the Depression. After she'd graduated from a stenography college in New York City in the 1930s, my mother earned valuable family income as a sales clerk at Macy's department store in Manhattan. She remembered dressing with the best her wardrobe offered, because she was representing the store and serving the public every day. And that meant selling on her feet, wearing her stylish but debilitating high-heeled shoes, through every eight-hour shift. The bunions on her feet remained a vestige of her department-store career for the rest of her life.

I told my grandsons about their great-grandmother's experiences selling dry goods in a department store. They seemed suitably impressed by her work ethic and history, but kept reminding me that it's sure a lot easier "buying stuff online." I guess when the world literally seems at your fingertips, saving the era of retail in a department store doesn't have nearly the appeal.

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



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Destination Uxbridge

by Conrad Boyce
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The first two articles in the *Cosmos*'s series on Uxbridge's tourism industry looked at the results of a survey the *Cosmos* conducted of 50 average Uxbridgers. First, what did they see as Uxbridge's top attractions, and 'undiscovered gems'? Second, what did they think were the challenges to future tourism development? The third piece looked at the various players, governmental and private, who develop and promote tourism in Uxbridge; how do they work together, and what do they cost the taxpayer?

This week the *Cosmos* examines one of the key joint efforts of those players: an official plan for bringing more visitors to the township. With the primary partnership of Central

Counties Tourism, an agency of the provincial government, the last plan was drafted in 2019, and adopted by Township council later that year (pre-pandemic) as a blueprint for action beginning in 2020. Subsequent to last fall's municipal election, a new council, the Tourism Advisory Committee and a lead staff person (the part-time tourism coordinator), will update the plan this year. But for now, let's examine the elements of the 2020 plan, and the progress made in meeting its objectives.

First, a review the challenges mentioned by survey respondents; how does the plan propose to tackle them? They are grouped here under eight key themes:

1. Lack of accommodation
2. A less than attractive downtown

Uxbridge tourism: The Plan

3. Need for greater cooperation among visitor-oriented businesses
4. Need for greater diversity of restaurants and shops
5. Need for more events
6. Need for more volunteers
7. Build on what's working
8. Think outside the box in marketing

The 2020 plan, was developed by a working group including reps from Central Counties Tourism, Durham Tourism, Township council, the Tourism Advisory Committee, the BIA, the retail and restaurant sectors, and key attractions like the heritage railway, the Lucy Maud Montgomery Society and the Historical Centre. The plan has four core objectives:

1. Maintain and enhance the physical municipal infrastructure to complement the 'Trail Capital of Canada' visitor experience and prepare for growth.
2. Support and enhance existing tourism assets/products to drive additional visitation.
3. Engage businesses/organizations and residents to collaborate and embrace a visitor-centric approach to strengthen the

social infrastructure supporting tourism development.

4. Collaborate with tourism-related businesses/organizations to collect visitor data to provide a clear view of the number of visitors and the quality of visits.

The first objective, maintaining or enhancing physical infrastructure to attract visitors and ensure they have a positive experience, would appear to address the first two challenges: the lack of accommodation and a downtown in need of an extreme makeover. The plan also talks about the need for more parking at key attractions, and for public restrooms both downtown and at the trailheads.

The Township's downtown revitalization plan, which includes tourism as a key driver, will be the subject of the next article in this series. The proposal to build a hotel on the Wooden Sticks golf course site is a great encouragement, with the cautionary note that accommodation needs to be priced to appeal to a wide range of visitors. As for public restrooms, the ones at the library are now available to all visitors, not just library patrons, and the library hours in the summer will be extended with that

in mind. Porta-potties are now installed at many trailheads in the southern forests, and with the encouragement of the Township, the owners of those trails are now asking visitors to pay for parking in order to recover the costs, which also cover other improvements like benches and increased snow clearing. Many survey respondents questioned this strategy; will the fees turn away more visitors than these amenities attract?



The Countryside Preserve
Photo from Discoveruxbridge.ca

The plan's second objective, to support or enhance existing tourism assets, would appear to address challenges 4 and 5 in the list above: the need for more events, and for a greater diversity of shops and restaurants. The plan also talks a lot about marketing and how it's designed, which brings up the eighth challenge above, the need to think outside the box in promotion. Uxbridge may have worked hard to become the Trail Capital of Canada, but it's so much more than that. Our survey respondents, in their listing of 'undiscovered gems', cited our historical attractions as being the most neglected. The Lucy Maud Montgomery site in Leaskdale has received a lot of attention from Central Counties in the last few years, but the same cannot be said of the Foster Memorial, a unique architectural attraction, or the Historical Centre, which has a multitude of period buildings and artifacts to be discovered. The Lucy Maud Montgomery Trail, accompanied by a podcast developed in 2021, does include the Foster and museum among its stops.

In the *Cosmos* article on the challenges facing Uxbridge's tourism development, it was suggested the Music Hall and the events occurring within it, as elements deserving more promotion. A recent community theatre production there, *Rent*, attracted hundreds of visitors over a two-week span, mostly because of relentless social media marketing by the theatre group itself. Perhaps the municipal and regional tourism organizations could help similar groups and organizations understand how they too can broaden their marketing

...continued on next page

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Ted Croxall





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12 noon - 4pm











The Plan, from previous page

reach to achieve such high attendance results. The Central Counties web site, for example, includes a short course in social media marketing.

The plan's third objective, to encourage businesses, organizations and residents to develop a more visitor-oriented vision and strengthen the social infrastructure, is relevant to challenges 3 and 6 above: the need for better cooperation among

Many Uxbridge attractions and events rely almost exclusively on volunteers for day to day operations. Lucy Maud Montgomery's home in Leaskdale, as an example, has long used summer students to conduct tours and research exhibits. But it has never had a full-time, year-round staff person. The site is an international draw, with the possibility of attracting many more visitors than it does. What would be the pros and cons of adding such a person? Several years ago, the York-Durham Heritage Railway

Uxbridge. He might rethink that statement today. But what exactly is Uxbridge's potential, and how can it be achieved?

That segues to the fourth objective of the plan, to collect verifiable data not only on the numbers of visitors to Uxbridge, but how they feel about their visit, every aspect of it. It's very difficult to plan in a vacuum. One might start by defining "visitor" or "tourist." In the first article, the *Cosmos* simply reiterated the dictionary definition, someone who makes a "jaunt or excursion." The word excursion implies a trip of some distance. But how long a distance?

The provincial government defines a tourist as someone coming from more than 40 kilometres away. Forty kilometres from where? A visitor from the northern reaches of Markham would not be 40 kilometres from the Walker Woods, but she's definitely that far from the Leaskdale Manse. A less confusing definition might be to call anyone who's not a "local" - a local being someone who resides and pays taxes in the township - a visitor or tourist. So if you bring in money from beyond our municipal boundary, even if you're just in Clarendon or Pefferlaw, and you leave that money here, you're contributing to the tourist economy. That seems pretty black and white. In any collection of quantitative or qualitative information, the first question asked is where they live. If it's anywhere else than the Township of Uxbridge, the respondent is a visitor.

Despite being thrown a curveball by COVID-19, the 2020 plan laid a strong foundation for future action, and progress appears to have been made on a number of fronts. But work will begin soon on an update to it, what Central Counties calls a "refresh." Who contributes to that effort will be very important.

In their brainstorming, the members of the 2019 working group came up with an impressive array of solid ideas for the development of the Uxbridge tourism industry. But the membership of the 2023 group could be even more comprehensive.

For example, no one from the agricultural sector was included last time. Or from the travel industry itself. Uxbridge has two busy, long-established travel agencies. Admittedly, they deal mostly with outgoing tourists, but they might have some very good ideas about the incoming trade as well.

Uxbridge has the potential to be a significant beneficiary of the upcoming post-pandemic boom in tourism, from nearby and far away.

For a full copy of the 2020 Uxbridge Tourism Plan, please visit thecosmos.ca



The Leaskdale Manse, home of author Lucy Maud Montgomery, is one of Uxbridge's top tourist destinations. *Cosmos file photo*

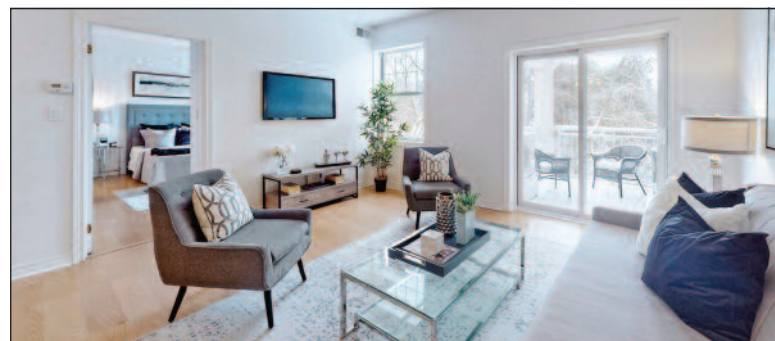
businesses and attractions, and the need for more volunteers.

To take the second issue first, it's important to note that the tourism plan was adopted just before the pandemic ground almost everything to a halt. Predictably, trail usage went up, way up, as did participation in a lot of outdoor activities. What other choice was there? But once they'd walked the trails, visitors had nowhere else to go. All other attractions and businesses suffered badly, and some closed for good. During the pandemic, in an attempt to keep businesses afloat, some events like the Holiday Trail featured curbside pickup. Things rebounded somewhat late in 2021, and much more last year, but still haven't reached pre-pandemic levels. And that's particularly true of volunteerism.

deliberately pivoted from a volunteer-run organization to a staff-led business. It is now a top tourist attraction in the township, but the change has not come without controversy.

An annual volunteer fair, where interested citizens could talk to all the various organizations looking for help, could perhaps restore the current deficit. And more public recognition of volunteers would also aid the cause.

With the Township's relatively recent, but now very strong focus on tourism, Uxbridge stands on the cusp of fundamentally changing the nature of the municipality's economy. Only a decade ago, a prominent member of council stated in public that he doubted tourism would ever play a significant role in



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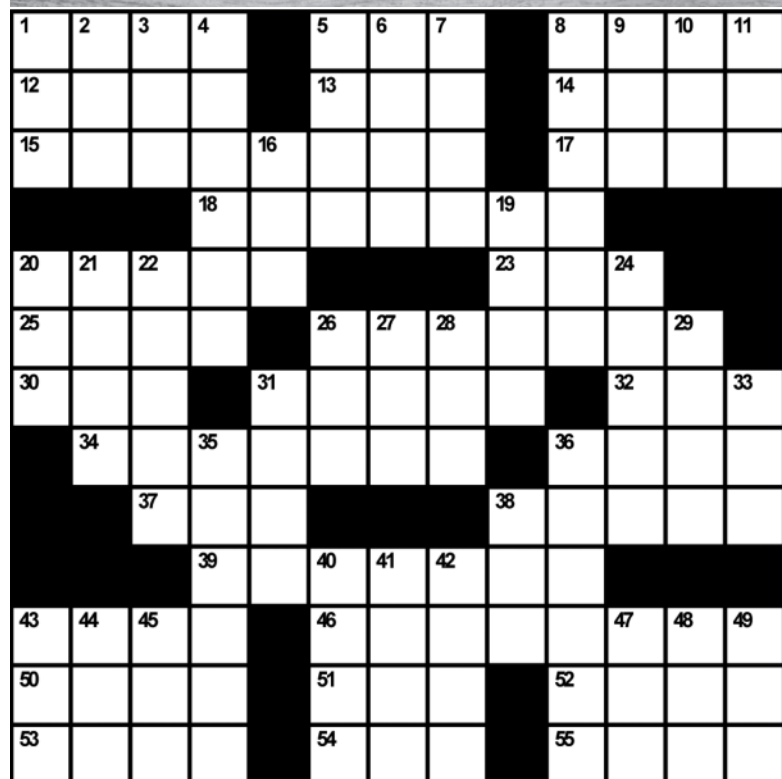
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The Uxbridge Music Scholarship Trust is grateful for the support of the community. With your assistance we have been able to award \$92,950.00 in scholarships to 65 students over the past 23 years. Music students under the age of 25 who intend to or are pursuing musical studies at the post-secondary level are encouraged to apply for one of our scholarships. Adjudication takes place on May 27, 2023 in Uxbridge. Our application deadline is **May 15, 2023**. Please visit our website www.UxbridgeMusicScholarshipTrust.com for application information and details of award criteria. Music will always remain important for our society and we hope to continue to foster this art form. Please continue to practice and nurture your performance abilities. 🎵🎵🎵

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- Across**
- 1 Former cash, in Milan
 - 5 Clumsy person
 - 8 Flimsy, as an excuse
 - 12 Penultimate fairy tale word
 - 13 Regret
 - 14 Romantic couple
 - 15 Church official's clothing
 - 17 Latest information
 - 18 Photographic film
 - 20 Song container
 - 23 70's rock group
 - 25 Small stream
 - 26 Ancient Egyptian paper
 - 30 Cassowary look alike
 - 31 Inner-city, for instance
 - 32 Goes with coke
 - 34 Remove stuff
 - 36 Carpentry joint
 - 37 Flipper
 - 38 Toy plane wood
 - 39 Bag
 - 43 Snappy
 - 46 Dessert wine
 - 50 New Zealand apple
 - 51 Do poorly
 - 52 Plane, e.g.
 - 53 Object of devotion
 - 54 Ribonucleic Acid
 - 55 Rancher's concern
- Down**
- 1 Bulgarian coin
 - 2 ___ got a secret
 - 3 Ado ___, loves
 - 4 Cunning
 - 5 Cream in the middle cookie
 - 6 Bee to Andy
 - 7 Greek salad cheese
 - 8 One-dimensional
 - 9 Dug in
 - 10 Make a cat sound
 - 11 Hesitant expressions
 - 16 May honoree
 - 19 Welsh girl's name
 - 20 Nirvana song "Come as you ___"
 - 21 Star car
 - 22 Poker pretense
 - 24 Country
 - 26 In favor of
 - 27 Bank routing number
 - 28 Shoulder protection
 - 29 Clothes washing bubbles
 - 31 Arm bone
 - 33 Extinct bird of New Zealand
 - 35 Financial
 - 36 Hebrew's 4th letter
 - 38 Put chips in the pot
 - 40 Nicholas II was the last one
 - 41 Biblical murderer
 - 42 Hawaii tourist dance
 - 43 Special effects type: (abbr.)
 - 44 Suffered from
 - 45 UN org concerned with labour interests
 - 47 Beluga yield
 - 48 Neither's partner
 - 49 Antiquity archaically

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Letters, from page 4

surprised that *the environment and global warming are very seldom given notice or space in the discussions.*

All the excitement in the plan deals with industrial nodes and links between new industrial development and preferred residential development to support the hundreds of thousands of new residents.

Last fall I had a sign on my lawn for one of these people. I will not next time.

I knew our mayor was a hard-nosed Tory, but I did not think he would betray the people of Uxbridge and Durham to become an enabler of the enemy who starts his speeches with "Folks... just let me tell you.."

*Doug Moffat
Uxbridge*

Ramifications of traffic light delay

It's frustrating when new rules/ideas/plans are put in place with no thought for all of the township as one community, and no thought of how these rules/ideas/plans will impact other taxpayers.

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Discouraging trucks in the downtown is something residents have wanted for a long time, but by increasing wait times at the main intersection in town, this plan will negatively impact the residents along Hwy. 47 and in Goodwood, due to the fact the gravel truck drivers are not paid by the hour, they are paid by the load. Now they have to make up time and wages for the delay at the lights.

Could we possibly send the trucks along Brock Road and not through Goodwood? That means the residents along 47 from Uxbridge downtown will still have speeding trucks trying to make up time.

Sending the trucks along Durham 21 is not any better. And in Goodwood we already are enduring the commuters speeding

through the hamlet to make up that extra minute with school buses stopping.

I do believe we have insulted the residents of Goodwood and Durham 21 with the lack of respect shown by these changes, and with our local councillor's lack of interest we don't stand a chance at anything improving.

Gravel is this township's economy, and whether we like it or not, they employ a large number of residents and pay to support sports teams and other local charities.

So what is the plan to address these issues? It would be nice to see an answer in writing to the newspaper please.

*Bev Northeast
Goodwood*

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100 Women Who Care come back post-pandemic strong

A small group of women has resurrected The 100 Women Who Care Uxbridge Chapter after a couple of years off during the pandemic. The group is growing and has made three donations to three local charities since starting up again. The Uxbridge Youth Centre, the Uxbridge-Scugog Pet Food Bank and North House (pictured at right) have been the recent recipients of the ladies' donations.

100 Women Who Care started in Jackson, Michigan, in 2006, by Karen Dunigan, who wanted to find a simple and quick way to raise money for local charities. In 2013, a local group of ladies including Andrea Scowcroft, Mimi Brown and Janet Fitger,

founded the Uxbridge Chapter of 100 Women, and began meeting four times a year with the goal of having 100 members donate \$100 each to local charities. There were no meetings during the pandemic, and a new group of ladies became the new Executive in 2022. The 100 Women are not quite back to 100 members yet; however, each meeting yields new faces, and raises more money each time. 100 Women is always accepting new members to join as a team or an individual. Details can be found at 100womenuxbridge.ca The next meeting May 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the Uxbridge Legion.

Submitted photo

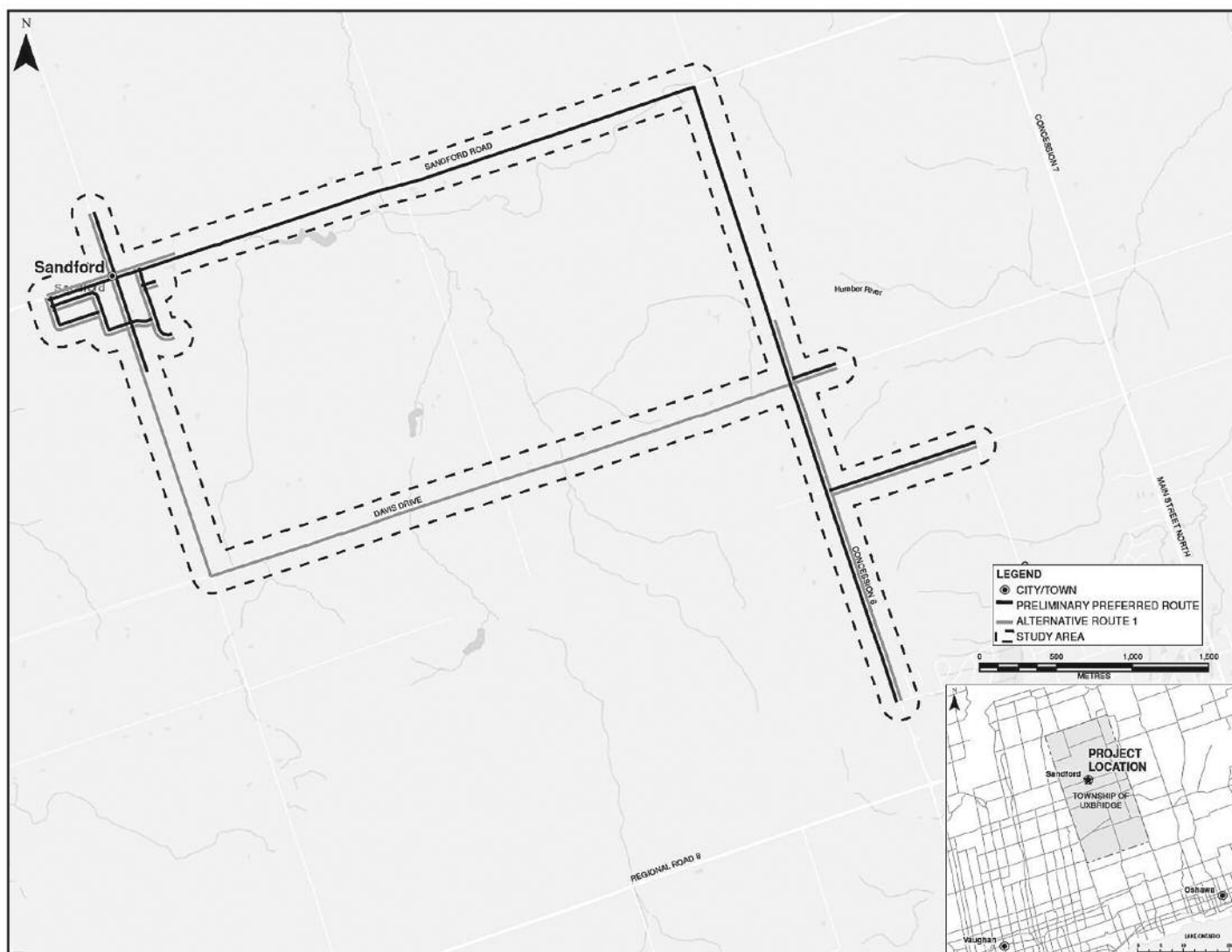


ENBRIDGE GAS INC. NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT AND VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE PROPOSED SANDFORD COMMUNITY EXPANSION PROJECT

Project Overview

Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas) is proposing to construct approximately 13 km of a combination of 4-inch and 2-inch natural gas pipeline to supply the community of Sandford with access to natural gas services.

There are two routes being considered for the project. These include the Preliminary Preferred Route (PPR) and the Alternative Route (AR). Both routes are located in the Township of Uxbridge. The PPR and AR would begin at the intersection of 6th Concession Road and Bolton Drive and would travel north along the 6th Concession Road to Davis Drive. The PPR would continue north along 6th Concession Road to Sandford Road, and then west along Sandford Road toward the community of Sandford. Alternatively, the AR would extend west along Davis Drive to Concession Road 4, and then north along Concession Road 4 toward the community of Sandford. Both the PPR and AR include servicing portions of Davis Drive and Ball Road. To accommodate the increased supply of natural gas, the project may also involve the building of a new distribution station at the intersection of Concession Road 6 and Bolton Drive, the proposed location of which is to be determined.



Environmental Study

Enbridge Gas has retained WSP to undertake an environmental study for the project. An Environmental Report will be prepared in accordance with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) *Environmental Guidelines for the Location, Construction and Operation for Hydrocarbon Pipelines and Facilities in Ontario, Seventh Edition (2016)*. Upon completion, Enbridge Gas will file an application for a leave to construct with the OEB. If approved, construction is anticipated to begin Q1 2024.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the environmental study or the project, if you are unable to access the virtual open house, or would prefer an alternative format of the virtual open house materials, please contact:

Kevin McGillicuddy
Project Manager
WSP Canada Inc.

Kelsey Mills
Environmental Advisor
Enbridge Gas Inc.

Virtual Open House

Indigenous consultation and public engagement are fundamental components of the study. Input received from Indigenous communities and stakeholders will inform the study and identification of site-specific mitigation for the project. Enbridge Gas will host a **Virtual Open House** to provide information about the project and to present an opportunity for interested stakeholders to ask questions and provide feedback. We want to hear from you!

Virtual Open House Active Dates:
March 20, 2023 9:00 AM – April 2, 2023 5:00 PM ET
Website: www.SandfordEA.ca

For additional information about the project, please visit the Enbridge Gas project website: www.enbridgegas.com/SandfordCE

Project Email:
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Telephone: 416-565-1537



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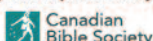
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Focus on Finance with Tammy Scuralli, Edward Jones

Here's your 'recession survival' checklist

It's unfortunate, but recessions are a fairly normal part of the economic landscape. When a recession occurs, how might you be affected? The answer depends on your individual situation, but regardless of your circumstances, you might want to consider the items in this recession survival checklist:

Assess your income stability. If your employment remains steady, you may not have to do anything different during a recession. But if you think your income could be threatened or disrupted, you might want to consider joining the "gig economy" or looking for freelance or consulting opportunities.

Review your spending. Look for ways to trim your spending, such as cancelling subscription services you don't use, eating out less often, and so on.

Pay down your debts. Try to reduce your debts, especially those with high interest rates.

Plan your emergency fund. If

you haven't already built one, try to create an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account.

Review your protection plan. If your health or life insurance is tied to your work, a change in your employment status could jeopardize this coverage. Review all your options for replacing these types of protection. Also, look for ways to lower premiums on home or auto insurance, without significantly sacrificing coverage, to free up money that could be used for health/life insurance.

Keep your long-term goals in mind. Even if you adjust your portfolio during times of volatility, don't lose sight of your long-term goals. Trying to "outsmart" the market with short-term strategies can often lead to missteps and missed opportunities.

Don't stop investing. If you can afford it, try to continue investing. Coming out of a recession, stock prices tend to bottom out and then rebound, so if you had headed to the investment "sidelines," you would have missed the opportunity to benefit from a mar-

ket rally.

Revisit your performance expectations. During a bear market, you will constantly be reminded of the decline of a particular market index, such as the S&P/TSX index. But instead of focusing on these short-term numbers, look instead at the long-term performance of your portfolio to determine if you're still on track toward meeting your goals.

Assess your risk tolerance. If you find yourself worrying excessively about declines in your investment statements, you may want to reevaluate your tolerance for risk. One's risk tolerance can change over time — and it's important you feel comfortable with the amount of risk you take when investing.

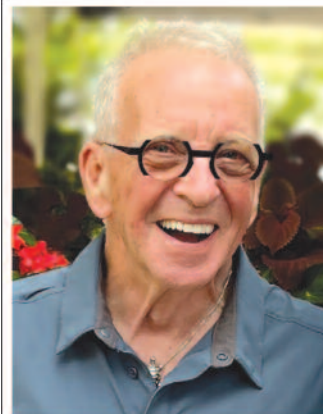
Keep diversifying. Diversification is always important for investors — by having a mix of stocks, mutual funds and bonds, you can reduce the impact of market volatility on your portfolio. To cite one example: Higher-quality bonds, such as Treasuries, often move in the opposite direction of stocks, so the presence of these bonds in your portfolio, if appro-

priate for your goals, can be valuable when market conditions are worsening (keep in mind, though, that diversification cannot guarantee profits or protect against all losses in a declining market).

A recession accompanied by a bear market is not pleasant. But by taking the appropriate steps, you can boost your chances of getting through a difficult period and staying on track toward your important financial goals.

This column, written and published by Edward Jones, Member Canadian Investor Protection Fund, presents general information only. Insurance and annuities are offered by Edward Jones Insurance Agency (except in Quebec).

For more information, please contact Tammy E. Scuralli, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones, at 905-852-1244.



Kenneth Croxford

10 April 1947 - 8 March 2023

Kenneth John Croxford, the original self-proclaimed "fat tire flyer". Born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, son of John and Dorothy Croxford Of Trenton, Ontario. Oldest of five: Ray (Patricia), Bruce (Murielle), Valerie Hamilton (Richard) and Carol Wade (Mark). Ken was raised on various Canadian military bases in England, Alberta and Ontario.

Ken found and married Agnes McDonnell from Stratford while working as manager at an A & W restaurant. He was the proud and loving father of two children, Katherine and Joseph (married to Katelyn Badcock), and grandfather of Connor and Charlie, who especially appreciated his quirky sense of humour.

He finished high school as a mature student and attended Carleton University before embarking on a career as a Design and Technology teacher in Toronto for 27 years. After retiring from teaching, he started a second career working in bike shops in Toronto and Canmore, Alberta.

Ken discovered cycling in his 30s, and it became his mission to share his love of biking with everyone he met. Not a conversation to be had with him that didn't involve bicycles. He pioneered many cycling programs in the City of Toronto for disadvantaged kids, school groups, adults, commuters and police. His cycling philosophy guided him through many adventures, some rockier than others.

He continued to give back to the sport he loved by helping to build/maintain many trails in Uxbridge and volunteering on the Active Transportation Committee. "Gotta pay to play!"

His journey came to an end surrounded by family and comforted by tales of his biking escapades.

Join the family for a celebration of Ken's life at the Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main St. south Uxbridge, Ontario on Sunday, March 19, from 2-4 p.m.

Memorial gifts can be made to the Sunnybrook Hospital Foundation, Toronto or the Oak Ridges Hospice, Port Perry.

Online condolences can be made at lowandlow.ca



To place a death or in memoriam notice

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Paul Francies

December 8, 1947-March 8, 2023

Born in Middlesex, England, Paul moved to Canada in 1990 and worked for many years with Rogers. His true love, however, was the stage, and he was a regular at Herongate Barn Theatre.

Paul leaves behind his beloved daughter Nikki, her partner Gary; stepsons Tomas (Amanda) and Alexander (Karen), and his three step-grandchildren, Bronwyn, Garrett and Piper. He will also be missed by his partner, Christine, as well as by many friends.

Paul brought brightness to others in every way, whether through a smile at his outlandish, flashy fashion, a sense of joy experiencing his zest for life, a laugh induced by his infectious chuckle, or being enthralled by his stage presence.

A Celebration of Life was held at Herongate Barn Theatre on Tuesday, March 14. In lieu of flowers or cards, we ask those so inclined to please make a donation to Oak Ridges Hospice in memory of Paul. He spent the last days of his life there with care and dignity. www.oakridgeshospice.com/donatetoorh

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