

"13 Ways" Installment #1 - The more things change, the more they stay the same

by Roger Varley

"We don't just want to come up with a list of what's wrong and who is to blame." - Cosmos editorial: Aug. 10/17

With that quote from a recent *Cosmos* editorial in mind, an example of living in the past and rejecting everything new played out at the seniors' centre last week. It could be said the past was rejecting the future, while the future is in part responsible in terms of the upcoming replacement of the Brock Street culvert.

The culvert project means the demolition of the building housing the Uxbridge Youth Centre. A search for replacement quarters led to the seniors' centre and the possibility the youth centre could take over one of the three rooms that the seniors use.

At a meeting last Friday at the Uxbridge Seniors' Centre, a number of those in attendance made it clear they were not happy with having to share space with the youth centre. They were not tempted by the possibility of interaction between the two groups, including the fact the youth could help the seniors learn the intricacies of computers, smart phones and other electronic devices. They wanted things left the way they are, to stay as they have been. One person offered that, rather than share space with the youth, he would prefer to pay higher taxes by having the township turn over the old fire hall to the youth instead of raising money for the new fire hall by selling it.

However, it seems it is not just seniors opting for the status quo. Government, while not necessarily living in the past or rejecting everything new, appears to drag its feet when addressing the future and new technology. In August, Ryan McCutcheon approached Uxbridge council with a proposal to allow low speed electric vehicles (LSEV) to operate in the township, pointing out that the vehicles, with a top speed of 40 kmh, would result in parking space efficiency, reduction of the local carbon footprint and speed reductions.

In a later report on the subject, Public Works director Ben Kester said it would be premature to pass a bylaw allowing the LSEVs on township roads until the Region of Durham allows them on regional roads. Without the region's participation, LSEVs would not be allowed to use or cross regional roads in the township, limiting their usefulness.

Along the same lines, Mayor Gerri Lynn O'Connor said on Monday

that the township applied to the province for two electric car charging stations two years ago. To date, nothing has happened.

On that particular front, the township appears ready and willing to adopt the new technologies and not reject them. Yet, through its

Wedge Brewing Co. is the first brewery in the township; Nexus brought the urban chic specialty coffee shop to town; Eat It Forward offers a new approach to healthy food products; and the Divine Sisters have brought an eclectic mix of essential oils, gem stones, crystals,

the Uxbridge BIA's Win This Space competition of a couple of years ago, which The Second Wedge Brewing Co. won.

"Win This Space was an effort to try something new," she said. "Not everything you try is going to work, but you have to give the BIA credit

Mr. Garrard said the influx of young families is going to change the way the retail sector operates.

"Any new business that comes in and breathes new life into the downtown is a good thing," he said. "It doesn't mean we have to become this modern downtown. You can still have these businesses fit into the feeling that Uxbridge is. A new business can move into an old building and still have a cool feel to it."

Arthur Field, owner of Nexus, asked about his choice of urban chic for his coffee shop and how it fits in with the downtown style, said he doesn't believe downtown has a style.

"I don't really see a common thread through it," he said.

Mr. Field said he doesn't think the town is dying "but I think it has withered."

He said new businesses opening have to determine whether what they are offering is indispensable in the future, regardless of change. He said the number of empty stores in the downtown is not necessarily due to bylaws or heritage signs, but more to do with rental costs.

Asked whether the opening of non-traditional outlets such as those mentioned above is an indication that Uxbridge residents are looking for new products to spend their money on, he said it's an indication of the stores' owners' belief in the town.



Downtown Uxbridge - a rainbow arcs over the centre of town, showing off heritage buildings that contain modern new businesses, and a promise for the future.

Photo by John Covers

Heritage Uxbridge committee, is the township clinging to the past when it comes to new retail businesses opening downtown? Store signs must be lit with gooseneck lamps, not backlit, and retailers are encouraged to adopt the town colours in their signage wherever possible.

Councillor Gordon Highet said the signage requirements are not a case of living in the past.

"We're trying to create a commonality, even though (the downtown) is not technically a designated historic district," he said.

He said the signage requirements are not detrimental to attracting new businesses.

"I think most of the people looking to locate in the downtown are looking for that heritage aspect," he said. "They want to be in the downtown, which is primarily historic buildings. Port Perry has a designated historic district and I think that's something Uxbridge needs to look at."

He said a store selling electronic devices downtown need not have modern or futuristic signage because an overall heritage look would draw people to the area anyway.

Mr. Highet may be correct. New businesses opened in recent months and years indicate a trend away from the traditional small-town retail models of the past. The Second

soaps, books, incense and Canadian wilderness teas.

Joanne Richter, who owns The Second Wedge Brewing Co. with her husband Rob Garrard, lauded

for trying something never tried before. We have a lot of new families moving into the area, a lot of young people, and we need to be able to shape the future."

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Letter from the Publisher

This little newspaper is not known for shying away from the issues that grip our community. Its mandate, in fact, is to address only those issues that have a direct influence on what occurs in the Township of Uxbridge. To that end, the *Uxbridge Cosmos* is embarking on an exciting campaign that will explore some of the issues our town now faces, and then inspire those who live, work and play here to respond based on what we've learned.

In November, a press release arrived via email regarding a book entitled "13 Ways to Kill Your Community," by Alberta author Doug Griffiths. Griffiths is a self-proclaimed "community therapist" who is passionate about helping communities reach their full potential. I received a sample copy of the book, and while reading it, I found myself highlighting sentences, paragraphs, whole chapters even. I quickly realized that Uxbridge may well be victim to some of the "ways" presented in the book.

Beginning next week, and running bi-weekly, the *Cosmos* will feature one of the 13 ways (chapters) we may, or may not be, killing our community. We will run a column written by Griffiths, which gives an overview of the issue being addressed that week. To complement his perspective, we will feature an article, written by local journalists, who will attempt to show whether Uxbridge does indeed suffer from the affliction outlined or not. These articles will feature township business owners, volunteers, local personalities and those from whom we've never heard before. They won't be the *Cosmos's* take on things; they'll be the people's take on what we're exploring.

We will publish Doug Griffiths's columns, and the accompanying articles, between now and April next year. Then we will meet Griffiths when he visits Uxbridge on May 23, 2018 (watch the *Cosmos* for details!).

Next year is a municipal election year. We hope that those who plan to run for public office again, as well as those who are thinking of running for the first time, take the time to explore "13 Ways to Kill Your Community" and to contemplate their relevance to Uxbridge.

We hope to inspire those who have wanted to do something in or for the town, but didn't know how, until now.

We hope to inspire the entire township into realizing that Uxbridge has so much to offer, both to those who live and work here, and to those who visit. We're kidding ourselves if we think everything is OK here. And, as always, the *Cosmos* will endeavour to present each issue as fairly as possible.

If you have any thoughts, ideas, comments – anything that you want to say about the series as it unfolds, please email me, either privately or through a Letter to the Editor.

We hope this initiative generates a lot of talk in town, and prompts new ways of thinking. If it does, Uxbridge will be the talk of Ontario.

Thank you for reading the *Uxbridge Cosmos*. I can't wait to see how Uxbridge residents respond to this open discussion of our future.

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove
Publisher
The Uxbridge Cosmos

"13 Ways to Kill Your Community" is available for purchase at the *Cosmos* office at 38 Toronto St. N. for \$27.50, tax incl. You can also purchase it online at amazon.ca

Uxbridge veteran receives Legion of Honour

by Roger Varley

After receiving the France's highest honour, the Legion Medal of Honour, in a ceremony at Uxbridge Secondary School on Tuesday morning, veteran Roy Mesure said he was "a little overwhelmed. I didn't expect this."

He was referring to the large number of people who filled the school library to watch him receive the medal from French Consul-General Marc Trouyet, a crowd made up of other veterans, members of council, USS history students, an army cadet colour guard and general well-wishers.

After being piped into the library by piper Jay Stewart, the diminutive Mr. Mesure sat with M. Trouyet as teacher Tish MacDonald ran the proceedings. Ms. MacDonald, well known for her work bringing students and veterans together and for launching Uxbridge's veterans banner campaign, became involved when Mr. Mesure, who had applied for the medal, asked her to follow up on his request.

"Any time we have an opportunity to bring students and veterans together is a blessing for all of us," Ms. MacDonald said.

M. Trouyet said he was excited to be holding the ceremony in a school, because it connects generations.

"It is never too late to remember, never too late to say thank you," he said. "The French people will never forget the bravery of Canadians."

As he pinned the medal on Mr. Mesure's lapel, the veteran stood ramrod straight, even when the consul-general kissed him on both cheeks. One of his veteran friends whispered: "Looks pretty, Roy."

The medal is a civilian and military decoration, instituted in 1802 by the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, and is conferred upon men and women, either French citizens or foreigners, for outstanding achievements in military or civil life.

Following the pinning of the medal, Mr. Mesure paid tribute to Ms. MacDonald.

"She does so much for the veterans, she deserves a medal," he said.

Mr. Mesure joined the Royal Navy in 1943 as a 16-year old boy living in

Uxbridge, England, after serving in the sea cadets. This despite the fact that Uxbridge was home to a major air base and his older brother was a pilot. He served on the destroyer HMS Brocklesby in the Mediterranean, Adriatic and North Seas as a telegraphist.

Asked why he had joined at such a young age, Mr. Mesure's answer was short and direct: "King and country."

Mayor Gerri Lynn O'Connor said it was a privilege to watch the ceremony.

"This is a community with a large, caring heart for our veterans," she said. "Uxbridge Secondary School has played a major role in remembering our veterans."

Mr. Mesure is not the only Uxbridge resident to have received the Legion Medal of Honour. Fred Barnard was presented with the medal in 2007. He had been in the first assault wave on Juno Beach on D-Day.

To get see what Mr. Roy Mesure's Le-

gion Medal of Honour looks like, visit thecosmos.ca



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Our two cents

Stuck going backwards won't move us forward

This is Week 1 of our "13 Ways" series, and for this installment only, we're going to be combining two of the chapters. "Live in the Past" and "Reject Everything New" seemed to us to have common elements, so we decided to put them together and explore their shared messages.

"Live in the Past" is chapter 8 in Doug Griffiths's book "13 Ways to Kill Your Community." Griffiths points out in this chapter that there are two ways people can reveal that they live in the past. One is by holding on to the perceived glory days of bygone eras. These people are nostalgic for "the good ol' days," and they rarely see the good in what is going on around them *now*. And, as Griffiths puts it, "such people are most adept at changing the conversation from the search for solutions for the future to a sterile fixation on the glory of yesterday, often a romanticized distortion of what the past was actually like."

The other way people can show they live in the past, according to Griffiths, is by harbouring grudges against past wrongdoings. These people, he says, contain long-held anger about some injustice that occurred long ago, and they cannot move forward until that injustice is somehow righted - an often impossible task.

These two types of past-dwellers could also quite easily fall into the same crowd as those who reject all things new. ("Reject Everything New" is chapter 10.) Griffiths has rather humourously given these nay-sayers various acronyms for their affliction: you have the NIMBYs (Not In My Back Yard), the NOPEs (Not On Planet Earth), the CAVEs (Citizens Against Virtually Everything) and the BANANAs (Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anything). Finally, there's the FEARS (Fire-up Everyone Against Reasonable Solutions). He says they're the worst: "Fighting FEARS is necessary if you are to succeed, while letting FEARS take over is a sure path to failure."

We all know that change is inevitable. But it's necessary. Every day presents new realities, new technologies - we have to adapt and move with them if we want to stay in the game. As far as Uxbridge is concerned, we need to ask ourselves, are we one of the types of people mentioned above? Do we know people who fit any of those descriptions? What do we do when we encounter one of these people, or a whole group of people who think the same way? And how are their existing attitudes holding Uxbridge back from what it could potentially do or become?

Being a newspaper, we can safely say that we have witnessed pretty much all of the above. We know of people who long for a repeat of the success of Spring Water Days. Just last week we witnessed a blatant case of NIMBYism. Everyone has an opinion, and everyone is entitled to that opinion. But are our opinions getting in the way of our success? Our individual, as well as our collective attitude towards our past is a huge indicator of our definition of success, and whether or not we want to achieve it. Likewise, shutting out any and all possibilities for the future is an attitude that also indicates whatever likelihood for success there may be. The attitude that likely leads to the most success is the one that is willing to close the door on what is done, and open to taking risks trying new things and ideas. Letting go of the status quo, that's the way our town can grow. Hey, that rhymes. A new slogan, perhaps?

The Uxbridge COSMOS

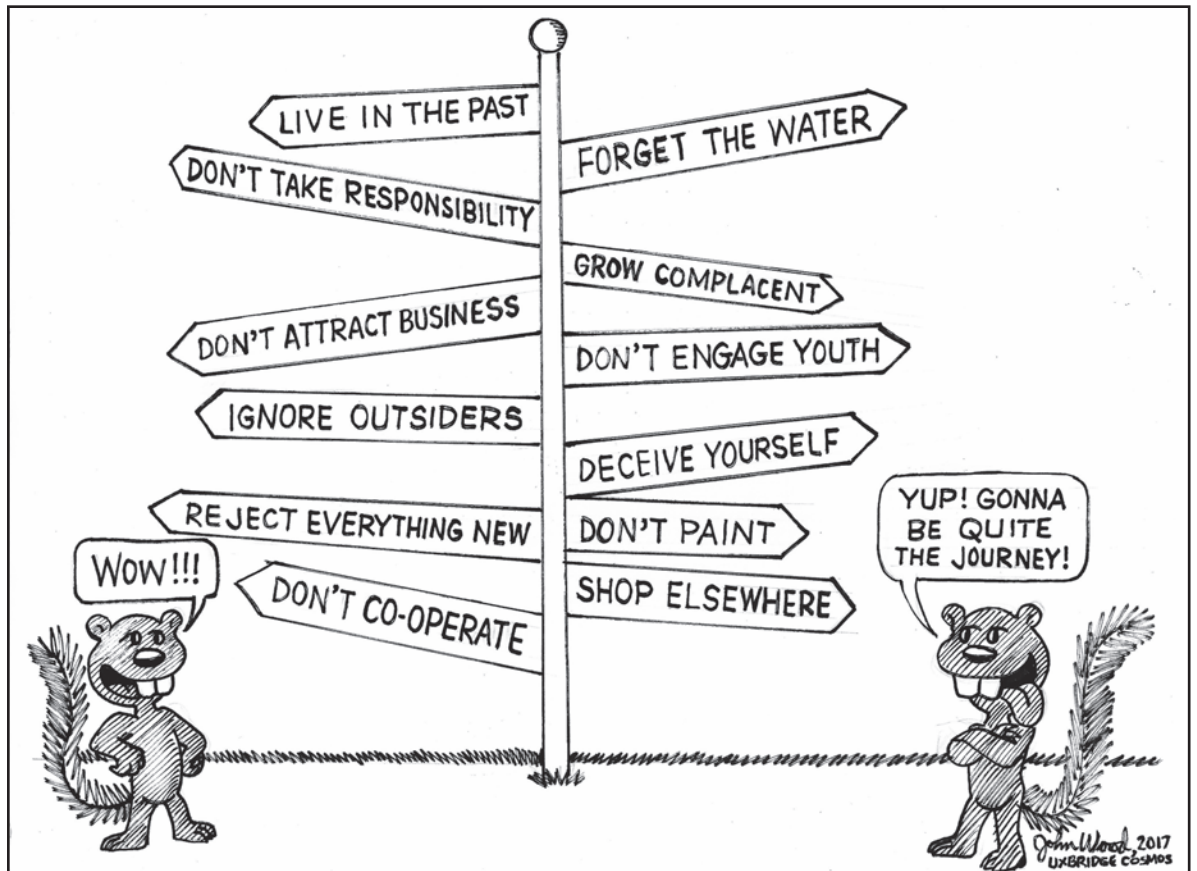
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Letters to the Editor

With reference to the Council's discussions of the LED sign at the southern entrance to Uxbridge, I'd like to THANK council for installing the sign for everyone to see.

Prior to this sign, there was no good way for a small organization, or a theatre group, to advertise their event so it was widely seen. Yes, the *Cosmos* gives us the best deal they can on print ads, but some misguided people do not read the paper.

There was a posting on Facebook, which was seen by over 400 people, according to the survey results. When I tried to do the survey, it was already closed. But that shows that 400 people know about the sign, and have read it. People we would not reach otherwise!

Yes, the messages need to be short, so they can be read quickly - ads that have more than three lines are too long. Graphics that take time to load are too long. Regardless, they are still better than the old cloth banners that twisted in the wind. So now that you know people are actually reading the sign - use it!

*Chris Musselman
Uxbridge*

Since last week was Municipal Awareness week, I thought I would take the opportunity to respond to a letter written by David Geene and published in last week's edition of the *Cosmos* challenging my authority as mayor, along with misinformation regarding several issues.

Under the Municipal Act as mayor, I am accountable for the actions of Council and Council only! The Chief Administration Officer is responsible for staff, hiring and firing and staff performance and action. Two very separate roles that do not cross.

When I walked past the Treasury Department where Mr. Geene was standing I asked "How are you?" to

which he replied "Annoyed because I just got my second ticket." I replied, "Sorry, that is not my department," and proceeded to speak to another member of staff. As I left the area, I said something along the lines that I hope Friday the 13th would be better for him in the hours ahead. At no time did Mr. Geene ask to speak to me about the ticket. If he had, I would have directed him to the STAFF person. As far as I knew he was waiting in line to pay the fine.

The second point raised was the truck traffic in the downtown core. The Township, Region of Durham and the industry are working together to try and find a solution that everyone can live with.

Council is not and cannot be held responsible for the deterioration of some of the buildings in the area of Brock Street East. The absentee landlords are responsible. They collect high rents and put little or nothing back into the buildings. Again, it is not the majority but the minority that can destroy the look for everyone. Absentee investors have recently purchased four or five stores, and I have been told that they are requesting high rent increases. This should be a concern for all residents of the municipality. We all want to see a vibrant downtown core.

Council will see the new culvert development begin late spring 2018. Until such time as that work has been completed there is no way to begin the revitalization of this section of Brock Street East. However, in saying that, it doesn't mean that the planning hasn't started. It should be noted that it took five years of planning before the revitalization work of Brock Street West commenced. During this period of time regional councillor Susan Self and I worked very closely with the Region Works and Finance Departments. Neither Regional Councillor Self nor I were

sitting on council for the construction of this project. The same process will be followed for Brock Street East.

Council does not "induce big box in the south end." It is called free enterprise. Council does not control what stores come to Uxbridge, whether franchises or independent, large or small. If the zoning permits it then Council cannot stop it.

As far as "blocking the little guy with paper work, fees, high taxes for minimal services," I can only say that all development - retail, commercial, industrial, residential, big or small should pay the cost of doing business. It should not/cannot fall on the back of the residential taxpayers.

There are "a lot of things that drive me nuts" also, Mr. Geene. Perhaps the time spent writing your condemnation of the municipal government system and myself as mayor would have been better spent researching and understanding the issues in question. As you are a retired educator, I would have expected a more knowledgeable criticism.

In closing, if you park in an area posted no parking, then one has to expect to be ticketed if the bylaw staff go by.

*Gerri Lynn O'Connor
Mayor*

In your October 12th edition, Mr. Varley created potential confusion with regards to the matters involving our property at 50 First Avenue (a.k.a. "the Sam Sharpe house"). Since this article was featured on your front page and was presumably read by most if not all of the recipients of your excellent local paper, we feel compelled to try to set the record straight.

In regard to our severance application, Mr. Varley failed to mention

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"13 Ways" Installment #2 - Taking a good hard look at ourselves in the mirror

by Roger Varley

This is the second "installment" in a series of columns and articles inspired by a book entitled "13 Ways To Kill Your Community."

Chapter Four of Doug Griffiths' book "13 Ways To Kill Your Community" discusses how communities can deceive themselves about their real strengths and weaknesses.

In essence, Griffiths says it is easy for communities to say they are doing well, but it's harder to say what needs fixing. Even harder still is not blaming others for the failings.

Following Griffiths' advice, the *Cosmos* approached a number of well-known Uxbridge residents with some simple questions: What do you think about Uxbridge? What makes the community great? What needs fixing?

Pat Higgins, owner of the Canadian Tire store, says Uxbridge is a great place to live, with helpful, sociable people and a large number of volunteers.

"Oh, it's the people, definitely the people," he said. "They want to be part of what's going on in our community, whether its the arts, sports, or just giving back and helping people."

Regarding the third question, Mr. Higgins suggested that people in Uxbridge need to become "more progressive thinkers."

"We need to be realistic about the fact that growth is inevitable and we need to let it happen," he said. "This is the only area in the GTA that's left to grow. Sometimes there are hurdles and sometimes the long-term people want to keep it a nice little town. Those days are gone. You have to let things happen. When WalMart came to town, I didn't lock my doors and run away. We expanded because they attracted that many more shoppers to the community."

He said that, as a community, we need to change our way of thinking. And, if it was left up to him alone, he would attempt to remove the barriers that prevent the town from growing.

"If we keep letting businesses in without population growth, that's not healthy," he said.

John McCutcheon, a local philan-

thropist and volunteer, thinks Uxbridge has terrific potential.

He also pointed to "the broad volunteer contingent at all levels, overflowing with talented people" as something that makes the community great.

As for fixing things, John McCutcheon feels that, "We need strong leadership in promoting the potential for business in the community," he said. "People have felt discouraged at being able to develop forward-looking economic opportunities. We need a full-time economic development director."

Mr. McCutcheon offered that the township needs to bring tech companies such as Scarsin (whose head office is in Uxbridge) together to form a nucleus in order to attract other tech companies to Uxbridge. He also said the culvert replacement on Brock Street, slated to begin next year, would be a great opportunity to look at the downtown area and do something imaginative.

Most of the other respondents zeroed in on Uxbridge's people as what makes the community great:

Bev Northeast, former councillor: "Great caring people, generous people, people that will share with each other."

Wynn Walters, artist: "The vitality of its residents."

Brian Evans, financial advisor:

"Volunteerism."

Doug Moffatt: "If it weren't for the volunteers, this would be a less attractive town and have less spirit."

But when it comes to things that need fixing, they had a few different ideas.

Ms. Northeast said a major problem is the number of gravel trucks rumbling through the township, particularly the downtown core. She said the truck traffic is not only hurting shopping in the downtown, but also "destroying" family life in some of the more rural areas.

"The Township needs to bring the Region (of Durham) in to solve this problem, as they created this mess and they need to fix it," she said.

For Wynn Walters, fixing the downtown area comes first.

"Downtown revitalization has been studied and discussed forever, but with little visible result," he said. "What's needed is a visionary plan to give the downtown more of a focus, most likely in the form of a community plaza or park in the centre of town. Part of a visionary plan would include additional residential development in the centre of town, hopefully including some affordable housing - we need to keep our young people here by providing housing they can afford."

Mr. Evans' fix-it was much simpler: more recognition for the volunteers.

Mr. Moffatt was more aggressive in his assessment of what needs fixing.

"I firmly believe our elected people really don't give two pins for the real heritage features of our town," he said.

Realtor Wayne Cordingly was asked why do people look to buy homes in Uxbridge?

"We tell them about Uxbridge, because it is a great community," he said. "I've lived here all my life - 61 years - and I'd never move away. The friendly people, the friendly business people, Uxbridge is just so unique."

He listed the number of sports and activity facilities and the small-town feel of Uxbridge as draws to potential buyers. He also noted the relative lack or low level of crime in Uxbridge as one reason people want to move away from more populated areas.

"We're still that nice little community that people are looking for," he said. "They want their kids to grow up in a safe environment."

He did acknowledge that most new

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Herrema family receives top agricultural award in Durham

A multi-generational Uxbridge farm family was celebrated last Thursday evening at the fourth annual Celebrate Agriculture Gala, which was held at the Scugog Community Centre in Port Perry.

Each year, Durham Farm Connections acknowledges an intergenerational farm family with a history of progressive achievements and community service, and this year the Herrema family got this recognition. The 2017 Durham Farm Connections Family Farm Award went to Herremas because of their history of progressive achievements and community service through public services and rural leadership.

The Herremas have an open door policy at their farm and have hosted several public tours at their farm property to highlight the diversity and value of agriculture. Two generations of the family have been involved in public service of some form, ensuring that a perspective on agriculture was always present when decisions were made at municipal and regional government.

4-H and Junior Farmers clubs, the Plowmen's Association and the Uxbridge Fair are also some of the recipients of the family's leadership skills and their commitment to the betterment of their community.

With a recent major expansion of dairy barn facilities, the youngest generation is committed to continuing the farm operation.



Herralea Farms accepts the 2017 Farm Connections Farm Family Award at a gala on Thursday, October 26. From left: Helen, Howie, Liz and Brigitte Herrema; Perri Reesor from CIBC; Gerrit Herrema, and Steve Ritchie from CIBC. *Submitted photo*

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Mirror, from page 3

residents will commute to the city for work, adding there are not a lot of employment opportunities within the township.

Asked if there is anything that needs

fixing, his answer was to the point.

"There's always something that needs fixing," he said, adding that truck traffic through the downtown core is the biggest problem.

"It would be really nice if we could eliminate that," he said.

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"13 Ways" Installment #3 - Attracting and keeping business in Uxbridge

by Roger Varley

This is the third "installment" in a series of columns and articles inspired by the book entitled "13 Ways To Kill Your Community."

The *Cosmos* gave readers a rest from its ongoing "13 Ways" series last week, and this week tackles an issue that is at the fore of many conversations occurring in and around the township.

In Chapter 2 (jarringly entitled "Don't Attract Business") of his book "13 Ways to Kill Your Community," author Doug Griffiths outlines that it's just as important to retain existing businesses as it is to attract new ones. And, as noted in the column on page 2, it's just as important to cater to the people that will be catering to those businesses. So how is Uxbridge doing on all these fronts? The answer would appear to be mixed.

In Monday's council meeting, Chief Administrative Officer Ingrid Svelnis offered a report on the 2018 version of the township's Community Improvement Plan (CIP), designed to encourage business owners to upgrade their facades and signage with some funding provided by the township. The program has been in effect for a couple of years now, but Ms. Svelnis admitted that, so far, no business owner has applied for such funding. Business owners often demand help from the township to meet signage requirements and expectations, yet appear to not be availing themselves of financial opportunities that are available to them.

Earlier this year, council expanded the parking lot in Centennial Park in order to address parking problems faced by the employees of Scarsin, a hi-tech company housed in the office building at the corner of Main and Brock Streets. With a healthy growth in the number of company employees, all on-street parking near the Main Street/Brock Street intersection was effectively taken up by Scarsin. More parking in behind the building was to offset this problem.

A couple of years ago, the Uxbridge BIA ran a successful "Win This Space" contest, aimed at attracting new businesses into the downtown

area by offering the winner free rent for a year in the available space of their choice. The winner, the Second Wedge Brewing Co., has since established itself as a popular and generous business in the town.

Both Scarsin and the Second Wedge Brewing Co. are proof that Uxbridge can be a desirable location to own and operate a business, both on a local and global scale. At the same



time, however, new retailers face hurdles. The proprietor of MT Hangers, a resale store on Brock St., was ordered by the bylaw department, incorrectly, to undergo a police background check before opening.

It is, by now, well known that there are restrictions on the type of signage owners can erect over their places of business. An example of the extent to which these restrictions reach was found at Café XXVIII, a restaurant that has since gone out of business. Its sign at 28 Toronto Street South was intended to be the calling card of a possible chain. The sign showed bubbles streaming from a coffee cup on the left-hand side. The Heritage Committee, which oversees store signage in the downtown area, wanted the cup placed in the centre of the sign instead, with the bubbles flowing in both directions. This, along with the committee's preference for



signs that feature Uxbridge's heritage colours, that are lit by goose-neck lamps and use various fonts, can throw a spanner into the works of a retailer attempting to establish a brand image with his signage.

The long arm of council and committees can extend far beyond signage. Recently, when a developer unveiled his planned architectural design for a new plaza in the com-

mercial area at the south end of town this summer - a plaza which would include a Wendy's and a Starbucks - not a word was said by council about the look of the proposed buildings (which, it was noted, did not in any way portray or resemble a "heritage" look, but rather represented a more generic style of building). However, on Monday, in a report from chief building officer Brian Pigozzo, council was told a building permit application has been received from KFC to renovate the interior and exterior of the old Country Style restaurant across the road from the aforementioned plaza. His report included the following: "Council must approve the colour, texture, construction detail and architectural design of the building." That he recommended council approve the design submitted by KFC does not alter the fact that council can demand changes in a design which might have cost a business a lot of money.

In the same chapter mentioned earlier, Mr. Griffiths says local residents have a major role to play in attracting new business. "They know what businesses are available . . . and they know what is lacking," he writes.

Residents have already told the *Cosmos* what type of businesses they

would like to see come into town through a survey that was performed late last year, the results of which were published on March 23, 2017. To start with, 80 per cent of those who responded to the survey said they were in favour of the township offering incentives to bring new businesses to town. There was an overwhelming call for a grocery store in the downtown area, as well as for clothing stores for the whole family, boutiques and gift shops, an outdoor activities store, and even a call for such major outlets such as Old Navy, Winners and Toys R Us. And some wanted more restaurants. Since the survey came out, the downtown area has seen the opening of Sushi Park and Laura's Casual Kitchen, as well as the health food store, Eat It Forward, and the Divine Sisters Metaphysical shop. Yet at the same time, the town has seen Mad Millie's close, as well as Frankie's Ristorante and a couple of other retailers.

Shopping and stores are not the only things that can keep a town alive, though. But when it comes to growth in industry, the Township of Uxbridge is limited in what it can accommodate. Industrial enterprises are restricted to the two industrial parks. The Green Belt Act and the Oak Ridges Moraine Act prohibit the construction of any industrial

plants anywhere else in the township.

Uxbridge wants to be vibrant and viable; it needs to examine whether the current system draws both potential business owners and residents here, or pushes them away.

"13 Ways to Kill Your Community" is available for purchase at the *Cosmos* office at 38 Toronto St. N. for \$27.50, tax incl. You can also purchase it at Blue Heron Books.



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"13 Ways" Installment #4 - The pros, and myths, of shopping locally

by Roger Varley

This is the fourth "installment" in a series of columns and articles inspired by the book entitled "13 Ways To Kill Your Community."

Shop locally. It's a phrase everyone uses, but who actually heeds it, lives by it? Chapter Five of Doug Griffiths' book "13 Ways to Kill Your Community" talks about shopping out of town instead of using local retailers or service suppliers, and this installment intends to take a look at how Uxbridge fares in the shop locally department.

In small communities such as Uxbridge, it isn't reasonable to expect local businesses to meet all of the residents' needs; therefore those needs have to be met by visiting out-of-town locales. Sometimes it is because the goods or services required are just not available in town or because there isn't enough variety. However, in a survey conducted by the *Cosmos* late last year, 34 per cent of those responding said they only shop downtown occasionally - or never.

Many people in Goodwood, for example, prefer nipping down to Stouffville for their shopping, opting to put up with that town's congested Main Street rather than drive an extra two kilometres to Uxbridge. In Zephyr, a lot of residents do their regular shopping in Newmarket. Even in the town of Uxbridge, many residents would rather drive to Port Perry to make their purchases.

There are a number of reasons for these choices. Better selection, lower prices, more choices, saving money and, in some cases, dissatisfaction with local businesses.

But shopping out of town can affect residents in ways they might not think about. Take the Uxbridge Bruins, for example. The Bruins carry sponsors' logos on the backs of their sweaters: most of them carry two logos. That's about 40 sponsorships

and the sponsors are almost entirely businesses - including the *Cosmos* - who pay annual amounts to support the Bruins. Without such sponsorship, the team would have difficulty making ends meet. But it's not just the Bruins who rely on sponsors. Most of the youth sports in town rely on sponsors. And if it wasn't for Canadian Tire and its JumpStart program, a good many local youth would not be able to afford to participate in sports at all.

By shopping at the local stores - and using local services - residents can ensure that the sponsorships continue.

It's local merchants' willingness to display numerous posters in their store windows that help community groups promote their concerts, bake sales, bazaars and the like. That includes the Uxbridge Youth Theatre and Vocally Inspired Performers, two theatre groups for youth. Many local businesses, such as Wixan's Bridge, The Second Wedge Brewing Company and Blue Heron Books, often run events in support of local causes.

On Monday, council approved the accounts for the first half of this month, almost \$700,000 in payments. When asked if the township has a policy regarding shopping locally, Mayor Gerri Lynn O'Connor said the township tries to get the lowest price for anything it purchases and has no policy regarding buying locally. She added, however, that council will be debating its purchasing policy next month.

Council, of course, has to be prudent in spending taxpayers' dollars and seeking the best price when purchasing goods and services is commendable. And not all of that \$700,000 was spent on goods and services. Some of it went to refunding developers' performance bonds, insurance, streetlights and payments to other levels of government. Yet, \$8,300 went to the Brampton Painting Company for painting at the Music Hall. When questioned about

the expense, Public Works Director Ben Kester said the painting job had been tendered and Brampton Painting came in with the lowest bid.

However, if Uxbridge had a shop-local-where-possible policy, that could provide a shot in the arm for the local economy.

Shopping locally has other benefits. It provides employment for friends and neighbours, it relieves congestion on highways, it attracts new businesses to town and it can also connect people more closely with the community in which they live. As Mr. Griffiths states in his column this week: "Our downtowns have always been about socializing. Business, trade, and commerce activities were what brought us downtown, but the underlying desire was to socialize and engage with each other. Our downtowns are the social core of our communities."

That element was not lost on BIA

members at their annual general meeting Tuesday when they discussed how to encourage more people to shop locally. One businessperson actually talked about "building the community and bringing people together."

And some business owners practice what they preach. When Frankie's Ristorante was operating at Main and Brock, the van Veghels regularly purchased meat products from the Meat Merchant across the street and purchased as much locally grown produce as they could. Cheryl Hinz of Sugar FX and Mary Taggart of M.T. Hangers joined forces to try and help other businesses at the east end of Brock to spruce up their part of the downtown retail sector.

Elaine Leigh, former chair of the BIA and now its facilitator, said the organization hopes to conduct some

...continued on page 9



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Bruins' fluid style keeping them in top spot

by Roger Varley

Six Uxbridge Bruins players had a multi-point night at the arena on Friday as the local lads crushed the lowly Georgina Ice 9-1. The lone Georgina goal came with just 1:36 remaining in the game, robbing goalie Jake Joosten of his first shut-out of the season.

Damien Heinle led the points parade with a hat-trick and an assist, while Noah Donaghy and Matthew Hunter both had four assists. Cameron Moffitt scored two goals and an assist, while Simon Feig notched two goals and Tyler Hutchinson had two assists.

The game started out with a fast-paced, end-to-end first period, as the Bruins once again reverted to a loose, fluid style of play. The Uxbridge squad survived a two-minute, two-man disadvantage near the midway mark as Moffitt was handed a double minor. Just over a minute after the penalties ended, Michael Rennie opened the scoring, assisted by Hutchinson and Hunter.

In the second period, the Bruins went on a scoring rampage, scoring

seven goals in the stanza and forcing starting goalie Jacob Lebel out of the game. Feig scored two within the space of 30 seconds at the beginning of the period, assisted on both markers by Donaghy. Defenceman Thomas Sheedy made it 4-0 with a power-play goal at the midway mark, assisted by Hunter and Aiden Reilly and two minutes later Moffitt notched a short-handed goal, assisted by call-up player Nolan Kellachan. Then, in quick succession, came two goals by Heinle, assisted by Hutchinson and Moffitt on the first and by Donaghy and Hunter on the second. Moffitt closed out the period, assisted by Donaghy and Hunter.

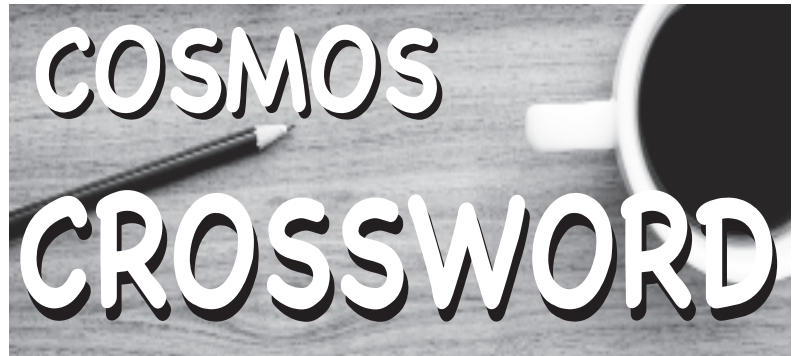
With Aidan Rye now in the net for Georgina, the Bruins' attack slackened off somewhat in the final period, with Heinle scoring his third goal at the midway mark, assisted by Daniel Wu. Joosten was finally beaten on a goal by Georgina's Chris Mitchell with less than two minutes remaining in the game.

The third period saw another in recent spate of questionable calls by the officials. Aiden Reilly received a two-game suspension for inciting an opponent and abuse of officials. Those

calls came after Georgina's Spencer Waters rode Reilly along the boards trying hard to tempt Reilly into a fight. Reilly resisted, even when Waters pulled off his helmet. Yet the officials still sent him to the penalty box and handed out the suspension. Waters was handed four penalties for cross-checking, grabbing the face mask, removing the helmet and inciting an opponent. He was given a one-game suspension.

The Bruins return to action at the arena tomorrow at 7:45 p.m. to host the Lakefield Chiefs, with whom Uxbridge and the Port Perry Mo-Jacks share first place in the seven-team PJHL Orr Division. On Saturday night, the Bruins visit the last-place, winless Little Britain Merchants and then they travel to Clarington on Thursday night to face the fourth-place Eagles.

Bear Pause: The Bruins instituted a new feature at the end of Friday's game, naming the game's three stars. The organization handed the first star to Moffitt, the second to Heinle and the third to Feig.



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| 58 | | | | | 59 | | | | | | 60 | | |

Goodwood News

with Bev Northeast

It is that time of year again time to feed the birds; after all, they did entertain us all summer.

This year's version of the Fantasy of Lights will soon be aglow in Elgin Park, and the Goodwood Baptist Church will have a display, so support your local Optimist club and take the tour.

The Goodwood Baptist Church holds Sunday service at 11 a.m. and all are welcome to attend. Ladies' meeting this month is Saturday, November 18 at 9 a.m., so come prepared to bake cookies for shut-ins and Sunrise mothers. This will be followed by a pot-Bless luncheon at 12 noon.

The Candlelight Service is December 17 at 6:30 p.m. and

all regular programs will continue until mid-December – check the church website for all particulars. www.goodwoodbaptistchurch.com

Please remember to shovel your sidewalk so the residents are not walking on this very busy road, and thank you to those who drive at the speed limit.

As the saying goes "If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant!" (Anne Bradstreet)

Shopping locally, from page 3

type of survey next year to find out why some residents don't shop locally.

"Half the battle is knowing why, because we're always open to ideas," Ms. Leigh said. "The other half is getting them in the habit. It makes a huge difference to the local economy."

The BIA tried its best to encourage shoppers this year, including running a Halloween event that saw 60 businesses participating in trick-or-treat. It still has a couple of Santa Claus events planned for December and next year's plans include events for Valentine's Day, Easter and Halloween again.

"13 Ways to Kill Your Community" is available for purchase at the Cosmos office at 38 Toronto St. N. for \$27.50, tax incl. You can also purchase it at Blue Heron Books.

Across

- Turkey seasoning
- Lock site
- Step follower
- It's found in banks
- "La Bohème," e.g.
- Solitary
- Woman's secret
- Express
- Hardly numerous
- Takes a break
- Wine holder
- Dorothy Parker quality
- It may be high in the afternoon
- Clear-cut
- Kind of bean
- Monopoly piece
- Guys
- Arborist's concern
- Dismal
- Looks into
- ___ Zeppelin (rock group)
- Place for a ring, of a sort...
- No longer dirt
- Comes (to)
- ___ Ta Be my girl
- Genies ___ wishes
- Jazzman
- Isaac Newton prefix
- Like a beaver
- Frozen dessert
- Stable diet
- White
- Morning moisture

Down

- Lion's warning
- Drive
- Some contests
- Relative
- Appropriate
- Mosquito protection or profit?
- "Who ___ we kidding?"
- The "L" of XXL
- Davenport
- Singles
- CNN output
- Blink
- Type of light
- Fearful
- Stretched tight
- Accomplished
- Detergent brand
- On behalf of
- Highest rating score, often
- Line made with a compass
- Dog lover
- I will
- Bakery fare
- Barely beats
- Encouragement
- Largest of seven
- Utter
- Battery corrosive
- Athlete's concern
- Cook by slow boil
- Moved fast
- Of yore
- Recent

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Saturday, November 25 against Little Britain Merchants Little Britain 7:30 p.m.

"13 Ways" Installment #5 - Where are the younger generations - the future?

by Roger Varley

This is the fifth "installment" in a series of columns and articles inspired by a book entitled "13 Ways To Kill Your Community."

Where are the young people?

Doug Griffith's topic this week is on engaging youth in the community, and it is worth noting right off the top that, as he points out in his book, "13 Ways To Kill Your Community," when he talks about youth he is talking about those 35 years of age and younger.

If he had meant youth in the terms most of us understand, it could be argued that, in Uxbridge, youth are not only engaged but are engaging. Witness the entrepreneurial spirit of Leo Gallard, a young man who, for the last three years, has brought a food, music and arts festival to Elgin Park with successful results, results that have led to plaudits from council when he appears in front of them.

Then there is Adrian Giacci, another young man who made major contributions to the establishment of the skate park at the Fields of Uxbridge and then went on to launch his own landscaping business.

Teenagers Josh Morrison and Hayden Prince have likewise been applauded for their charitable work, helping to house and feed the needy. Many people know of the work of a large number of Uxbridge Secondary School students in honouring and supporting our veterans to the point they have become an integral part of the township's Remembrance Day activities.

However, when Doug Griffiths includes 35 year-olds in the equation, things look a lot different. For example, most, if not all, of the township's service clubs have a decidedly grey look to them. The number of service club members under the age of 40 could probably be counted on one hand.

Councillors Pat Molloy, Gord Hight and Fred Bryan all agree that attracting younger members has been a perennial problem for service clubs, and not just in Uxbridge. Mr. Molloy has also pointed to the dearth of members of that age group in volunteer groups or on councils of committee. They just aren't there.

Councillor Hight has the opinion that people in the 25-to-35-year-old age bracket are too busy raising their families, working and looking after their own needs (not selfishly) to become involved outside the home. Councillor Bryan did offer that a number are involved in coaching hockey, baseball and soccer. However, that number is not likely to be a large percentage of that age group.

Even on council, with the possible exception of Councillor Dave Barton, all members are well over 35

years old. Youth is such a rarity on municipal councils that when Jacob Mantle was elected to Uxbridge council back in 2010 at the tender age of 23, the news spread across the GTA and beyond. Mr. Mantle brought the youth experience to council in tangible ways, leading his fellow councillors into the age of computers and other electronic gadgetry.

Addressing the issue of youth in the community as a whole, youth need to know they are valued and have contributions to make. This is not the message they received when seniors balked, unsuccessfully, at having the Uxbridge Youth Centre housed in the seniors' centre after they lose their current home on Brock Street due to construction of the new culvert, which is to begin later this year.

At council's budget meeting on Tuesday, there was a request to install a security camera in the hallway of the seniors' centre. Mayor Gerri Lynn O'Connor said the seniors often feel ill at ease in the evenings when there might be only three or four of them engaged in quilting. Wouldn't the presence of a few youth give an added sense of security?

It has often been remarked that Uxbridge is home to a large number of remarkably talented young people. Maybe it is time for council to consider forming a youth committee, and for service clubs to examine the possibility of setting up youth wings. Engaging youth, as we know them, and younger adults in the community just likely might be the solution to seeing young people leave town and not returning.

In "13 Ways," Doug Griffiths' does point out that it is wise, and even necessary, for young people to explore the world, to go away to school or to work and to "have adventures," as he puts it. It isn't about keeping youth from travelling beyond the township borders. It is, however,

about showing those in that age bracket what is good about the community in which they have likely grown up. If, before they head out into the big wide world, the youth are positively educated on the possibilities that await them in their own communities when they return from their adventures, then the likelihood of them returning and being the next generation of a thriving, successful community is much greater.

"The future of your community is dependent upon providing all of them with a reason to want to come home when the adventure is over," writes Griffiths.

Uxbridge has no shortage of young individuals who can not only identify the challenges that face them in this community, but can also a) provide the ideas that could lead to solutions to these challenges, and b) be the leaders in implementing these solutions. It is true that the pressures of school, family and career do take a lot of valuable time up in the lives of those under the age of 35. But

leaving everything up to the "older generation" doesn't infuse a community with new blood or ideas. The success of a community lies in the

commitment of everyone, at every age, to participate in some way. The future of the successful community depends on it.



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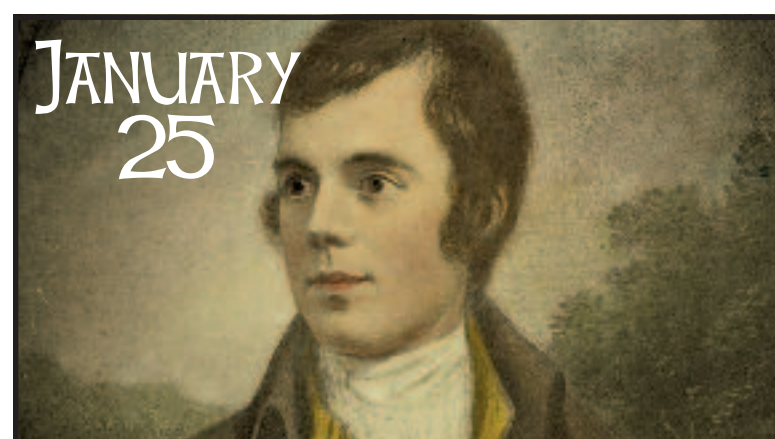
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"13 Ways" Installment #6 - seniors a going concern in Uxbridge

by Roger Varley

This is the sixth "installment" in a series of columns and articles inspired by a book entitled "13 Ways To Kill Your Community."

Chapter 9 of Doug Griffiths' book "13 Ways to Kill Your Community" is entitled "Shut Out Your Seniors," and says that seniors are rarely considered when it comes to a community planning its future.

Look at the community of Uxbridge, however, and this appears not to be the case. Several seniors' residences already exist within the urban area, including Trinity Manor, Butternut Manor, Shobrook Gardens, and the newly constructed Douglas Crossing in the south end of town. In recent discussions on a proposed development on Elgin Park Drive next to the Wooden Sticks golf course, Mayor Gerri Lynn O'Connor told the applicants she would rather see construction of bungalows suitable for seniors rather than the townhouses the developer wants to put in.

However, on the down side, some seniors who still own their own homes are finding it difficult to keep up with property taxes.

Lynda Knapp, president of the Uxbridge Seniors Club, said that property taxes are one of the main issues of concern to retirees. Knapp pointed out that she herself had to leave Uxbridge to live in Sunderland because she could no longer afford Uxbridge's taxes.

"Money is a big issue," she said. "I can't afford to live here."

"We need more rent-geared-to-income, low-rise housing," she added, suggesting that the current site of Uxpool and the Uxpool ball diamond would be ideal for such housing when a new swimming pool is built at the Fields of Uxbridge.

The other main issue, Knapp said, is public transit. She said a lot of seniors have to give up driving because of advanced age and diminishing driving ability.

"We need more taxis, some of those little shuttle buses," she offered. "They still have to go shopping and get the groceries home."

The scarcity of public transit in Uxbridge is a problem to be laid at the feet of the Region of Durham, the larger community. Local in-town transit is sporadic and serves only a small portion of the urban area, leaving seniors who have to rely on buses to travel to the grocery stores in the

south end of town with the task of checking schedules to see when they can go shopping. Knapp said many seniors have to rely on other people to drive them or use local taxi service, which she says is slow.

Apart from those two issues, Ms. Knapp said, the club's 250-odd members don't have many complaints. But these people are important to a group that overwhelmingly supplies volunteers, as evidenced by the membership of the Cottage Hospital Auxiliary, Community Care, committees of council, service clubs and other groups.

The township and others do offer numerous opportunities for seniors to remain active. The library, for example, puts on a number of programs for seniors, including educational programs on such topics as landlord-tenant issues, fraud and wills, which library staffer Corrinne Morrison says are well-attended. The library also offers tech workshops to make seniors more comfortable with computers and other electronic devices.

"Seniors are the cornerstone of our patrons," she said. "A number come in just to sit in the lobby and read newspapers and magazines."

The library also offers book deliver-

ies to the senior residences.

Uxbridge Secondary School opens up its long corridors to seniors who want to walk for exercise during the winter months. Recently, when a woman wrote to council asking that the pathways in Elgin Park be groomed to make it easier for seniors to enjoy outdoor exercise in the winter, Mayor O'Connor suggested council look at providing the service next year "if it is not cost prohibitive."

During recent discussions on the future of Uxbridge's parks and green spaces, calls were made for the township to build pickleball courts, a sort of cross between badminton and tennis that is ideal for seniors. Whether the calls will be heard remains to be seen.



Budget, from page 1

on the weekend, said attendees were told that out of every tax dollar collected in Ontario, 47 cents goes to the federal government, 44 cents goes to the province and nine cents goes to the municipalities. She also said attendees at ROMA were warned that, over the next decade, annual property tax increases of eight per cent will be needed to sustain infrastructure.

"We're going to have to be careful in the future," she said, noting that a one-per-cent increase in the HST with the proceeds going to the municipalities, would help.

Councillor Molloy offered that Uxbridge is keeping up with its infrastructure, not falling behind.



Jennifer O'Connell


Member of Parliament

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"13 Ways" Installment #7 - Cooperation is a key to success

by Roger Varley

This is the seventh "installment" in a series of columns and articles inspired by a book entitled "13 Ways To Kill Your Community."

Don't Cooperate. That's the title of chapter 7 of Doug Griffiths' book "13 Ways to Kill Your Community." In chapter 7, Griffiths says research has shown that municipalities work better when they willingly co-operate with each other and even when they are forced to do so. When this theory is applied to Uxbridge, it quickly becomes apparent that there are examples of both willing and forced co-operation.

For years, Uxbridge has willingly co-operated with Scugog, Whitchurch-Stouffville and East Gwillimbury to provide fire services in the outer reaches of the township, where neighbouring fire departments can reach the scene faster than the Uxbridge firefighters. They are reciprocal arrangements that have worked well for all concerned.

On the other hand, Uxbridge, Scugog and Brock were more or less forced into a co-operative venture to address sustainability in the three townships. The arm-twisting came from the federal (Harper) government which demanded the three municipalities form a sustainability committee in order to receive funds from the federal gas tax. Mayor Gerri Lynn O'Connor says that, in the long run, municipalities received the gas tax anyway, but the sustainability committee appears to be working well.

Other examples of co-operation include the Uxbridge-Scugog animal shelter. For years, the shelter has served both communities, with the facility located on the edge of Port Perry but run

by Uxbridge. That co-operation has continued, to a degree, with the development of a new animal shelter, which is scheduled to see construction begin later this year. Scugog has co-operated in the form of municipal funding to match that of Uxbridge. However, most of the heavy lifting has been done by Uxbridge. Until the end of last year, Ginger Jackson, a resident of Scugog, headed the new animal shelter fundraising committee, but now the new board is almost entirely made up of Uxbridge people. And, as Mayor O'Connor pointed out, the majority of people attending the various galas, golf tournaments and other events have been Uxbridge residents. Since the township took the project over last year, it now falls on the shoulders of Uxbridge Township clerk, Debbie Leroux.

Nevertheless, the funding is in place, the new shelter will be opened later this year and both townships will share in the plaudits for the badly needed new facility.

Perhaps one of the best examples of municipal co-operation came when dozens of municipalities, including Uxbridge, banded together a couple of years ago to seek changes to the Ontario Municipal Board, an exercise that resulted in drastic changes to the OMB.

On a more local level, the minor hockey associations in Uxbridge and Port Perry decided to amalgamate their operations to better serve the hundreds of children enrolled in their programs and help lower costs.

There are several, perhaps less obvious, examples of local co-operation. A small knot of storekeepers at the west end of Brock Street regularly work together to

help each other remain successful, and Cheryl Hinzel and Mary Taggart have been joining forces to try and bolster shopping at the east end of Brock Street. Without the co-operation of Uxbridge Shooting Sports, young Hayden Prince's fund-raising events for the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank and for mental health would probably not have been as successful as they were.

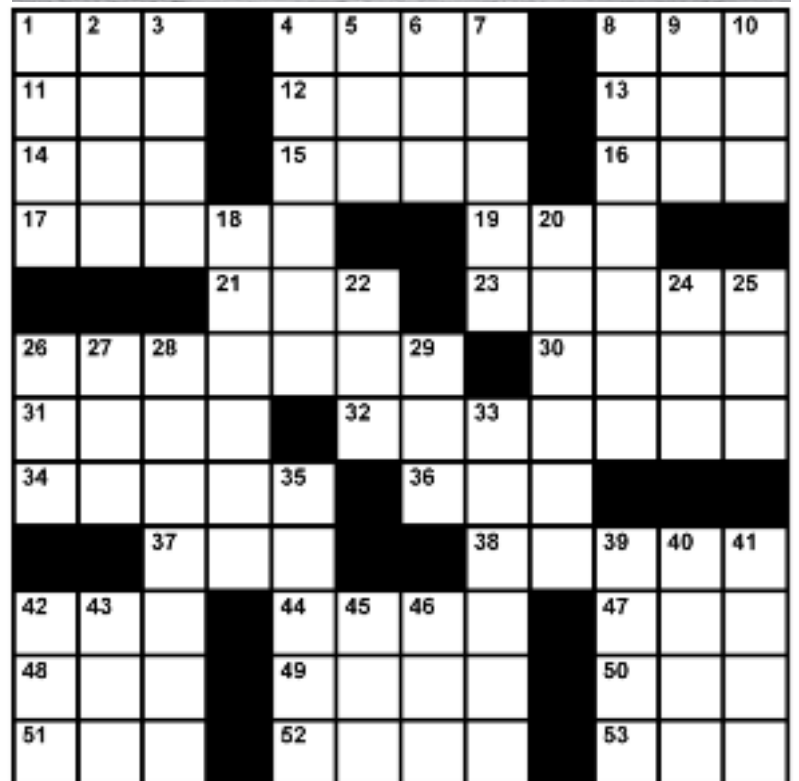
There are a number of examples around town where the township co-operated with local residents to make improvements. The off-leash dog park at the museum grounds was a joint venture, albeit at times strained, between Uxbridge and local dog owners, as was the skate park at the Fields of Uxbridge.

As is often the case, however, there have been a couple of moments recently where co-operation was met with opposition. When it was decided to move the Uxbridge Youth Centre to the seniors' centre to share the facility with the seniors' club, there were a few voices raised decrying the move. At council this week, councillors could perhaps have tried a little harder to accommodate a request that the pathways in Elgin Park be cleared in the winter

to allow seniors to walk safely. Instead, they opted to observe that salting the pathways would be too expensive and noted that the park is officially closed in the winter. The township also could have perhaps co-operated with the people operating the Dreamfeather volleyball camps and games in a completely empty barn on Brock Road to find a way to keep it running instead of using a single complaint from a neighbour a half-mile away to shut it down.



COSMOS CROSSWORD



Across

- 1. Beverage
- 4. Credit card enticement
- 8. It may be snowy or spotted
- 11. Battle
- 12. Mideast ruler
- 13. Pastry choice
- 14. Load from a lode
- 15. Whistle it!
- 16. Author's last word
- 17. Wind
- 19. "___ Duke": by Stevie Wonder
- 21. Frosty
- 23. Loses it
- 26. "Red" seafood
- 30. Discontinue
- 31. All ___
- 32. Group with common interests
- 34. Earth's oxygen producers
- 36. Senior to junior
- 37. Query
- 38. Last Commandment
- 42. Edit out
- 44. "___ she lovely?"
- 47. Important historical time
- 48. ___ blond
- 49. Not fake
- 50. ___ behind the ears
- 51. "Akeelah and the ___" - spelling movie!

- 52. It may be at the finish line
- 53. Seat of a religious office

Down

- 1. Braces
- 2. Bring in
- 3. What a surveyor surveys
- 4. Discern
- 5. Flightless bird
- 6. Trash can
- 7. Rapunzel feature
- 8. Work
- 9. Gain victory
- 10. Was out in front
- 18. Some chocolates
- 20. Within
- 22. "Absolutely!"
- 24. Honey holder
- 25. Keep watch
- 26. Sanction
- 27. Skull
- 28. Yoga command
- 29. Curtain fixture
- 33. Ranch roamers
- 35. Bypass
- 39. Weather goes with it
- 40. Willow, for example
- 41. An intense emotion
- 42. City transport
- 43. "___ as directed"
- 45. It may swell or have swells
- 46. Sleep



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"13 Ways" Installment #8 - Painting the town...any colour

by Roger Varley

This is the eighth "installment" in a series of columns and articles inspired by a book entitled "13 Ways To Kill Your Community."

This week's look at Doug Griffiths' "13 Ways To Kill Your Community" focuses on the chapter titled "Don't Paint," in which he says failure to paint, dust, sweep, wash windows and perform a host of other beautification tasks can lead to a community's demise.

In his accompanying column on page 2, Griffiths states that "beauty is important to the future of your community. Its appearance reflects its soul, but that's more than buildings. (Its soul is) people, values, sentiments and character." Here, the *Cosmos* looks at the way Uxbridge "paints" to make improvements to how it looks, which is always a balm for the soul.

The township, often criticized for the appearance of the downtown area, particularly the lower end of Brock Street, does appear to be working to improve the look, but it can't do it alone. For several years the township has had a Community Improvement Program that seeks to assist merchants and landlords in the downtown to improve the look of

their buildings. In past years, the township offered loans of up to \$5,000 for anyone wanting to improve their façade or their signage or outside lighting. But to all intents and purposes, there were no takers.

This year, the township revised the program to offer grants instead of loans, with a total of \$30,000 offered. Again the maximum available to any one applicant is \$5,000, provided the applicant applies matching funds. And any work covered by the CIP has to be completed this year. Yet to date, says building inspector Brian Pigozzo, there have only been a couple of inquiries about the CIP.

"It could be used by merchants to put up nicer signs or even improve the building's interior," Mr. Pigozzo said.

The CIP is supposed to be split in two parts: one offered to the downtown area and the other to the Toronto Street South corridor, but the southern program has not yet been initiated.

The program is not restricted to upgrading facades and signs. There are also grants available for redevelopment and rehabilitation, grants in the form of lower fees and grants in the form of tax incentives to restore brownfields.

However, few seem interested in taking part. Chief Administrative

maintaining several flower beds in the downtown area and the BIA takes care of all the hanging flower baskets along downtown streets. On the private front, a number of downtown businesses do their best to beautify their immediate areas: Rutledge Jewelers and BDO are good examples, even though the CIP does not cover landscaping.

Councillor Pat Molloy thinks more could be done. He says he would like to see something done with the rear of buildings on the north side of lower Brock to make a vast swath of grey walls more appealing. He

mused about the possibility of large painted murals, or at least some colourful paint.

"It's about cleaning up the downtown, making it nicer," he said.

But there is also the other side of the coin. Mr. Molloy said there are no beautification plans attached to the reconstruction of the Brock Street culvert this summer. Complaints continue about the dusty, littered look of lower Brock, the regularly

overflowing litter containers and the unkempt look of several empty stores. A couple of years ago, a few merchants on lower Brock attempted to give the area a little pizzazz by placing brightly coloured flowerpots along the sidewalk, with whimsical cartoons adorning them. After a while, the township ordered that the flower pots either be painted black or be removed.

The area of Main Street North between Toronto Street and John Harvey Road is a depressingly scruffy, unattractive stretch with no evidence of landscaping of any kind.

Moving the focus away from the downtown for a moment, the southern entrance to town continues to stir controversy. Several plans have been brought forward over the years to beautify the south-eastern corner of Highway 47 and Concession 6, but none came to fruition. The recently installed electronic message sign at that corner has received some plaudits, but also a lot of complaints.

As one might say to a painter: "Good job, but you've missed some spots."

Copies of "13 Ways To Kill Your Community" by Doug Griffiths are available at the Cosmos office and at Blue Heron Books.



Downtown Uxbridge

Photo by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Officer Ingrid Svelnis opined that "we can probably do a better job of promoting it."

On the plus side, the township has, over the years, promoted the installation of public art, with a number of impressive sculptures scattered around the downtown and a statue of Col. Sam Sharpe ready to be installed in the near future. The horticultural society does a good job of

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COMING UP

THIS WEEK

Thurs., March 8: Seniors' Health Forum - How to stay out of the Emergency Department, or be prepared for it. 2 - 3:30 p.m., Shobrook Gardens, 1 Elgin Park Dr. Refreshments provided.

NEXT WEEK

Mon., March 12: Oak Ridges Trail Association Hike, 9:30 a.m. Countryside Preserve. Slow to moderate 2hr. hike. Well mannered dogs welcome. Meet at conservation parking lot behind Wal Mart at south end of Uxbridge off Hwy 47. Contact: Brian & Wilma Millage 905 853 2407

Fri., March 16: Oak Ridges Trail Association Hike, 9:30 a.m. Glen Major West. This is a fast pace, 10 km, 2 hr., loop hike or snowshoe with some hills. Meet at the parking lot on the east

side of Conc. 6, 0.6 km north of Uxbridge Town Line or 5.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21. Contact: Russ Burton 905 830 2862

Sat., March 17: Oak Ridges Trail Association Hike, 7 a.m. Al Shaw. 1 hr., 5+ km moderate pace hike; Join us for breakfast after the hike. You might need snowshoes or icers. Meet at the roadside parking on the west side of Conc. 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21. Contact: Joan Taylor 905 477 2161

UPCOMING

Mon., March 19: Keeping it Green, Keeping it Beautiful. Join the Claremont Garden Club for a presentation by Sean James, an eco-consultant, garden designer & teacher. Refreshments start 7:10 p.m., meeting at 7:30, Claremont United Church. Visit claremontgar-

denclub.ca for further details. Free for members, \$5 for guests.

Tues., March 20: Uxbridge Senior Citizens' Club Ham & Scaloped Potatoes Luncheon. Catered. 12 noon, Uxbridge Seniors' Centre. Tickets available starting March 7 on Wednesdays & Thursdays, 9:30 - 11 a.m. and 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members. New memberships available, \$10.

Wed., March 21: Oak Ridges Trail Association Hike, 9:30 a.m. Walker Woods West. 10+ km, Fast, 2+ hr. hilly loop hike. Snowshoes or icers a must have. Meet at parking lot on east side of Uxbridge Conc. 6, 2 km south of Durham Rd. 21 at Allbright Rd. Contact: Joan Taylor 905 477 2161

Thurs., March 22: Lunch 'n Learn, St. Paul's Anglican Church, noon - 2 p.m. Doctor of Audiology Shira Miller will present & answer questions about what happens to your hearing as you age. Pay-what-you-can lunch catered by St. Paul's Take-A-Break and Anglican Church Women groups. Call 905-852-7016 to reserve a seat.

Sat., March 24: Uxbridge Lions Annual Pancake Breakfast. 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Uxbridge Arena. Serving freshly made pancakes with real maple syrup, bacon & sausages. Gluten-free option available upon request. Cost - donation, all proceeds support local community projects.

Sun., March 25: Cantorei Sine Nomine Chamber Choir sings Lamentations of Jeremiah by Tomas Luis de Victoria. 7:30 p.m., Greenbank United Church. Directed by Stu Beaudoin. No tickets required.

ONGOING

Uxbridge Legion Open Mic. Every Sunday Afternoon from 2 - 5 p.m. Everyone welcome. All styles of music are encouraged. For more, call 647-428-7760.

Community Soup Lunch at St. Andrew's Chalmers Presbyterian Church Hall. Every Wednesday, 12 - 1 p.m. Pay what you can to support Loaves and Fishes Food Bank. Delicious soups & desserts supplied by various churches & service groups. For information contact 905-852-4753

COMING UP is a FREE community bulletin board. If you have a community event for a charity or non-profit organization that you'd like us to mention (AS SPACE PERMITS), please contact us at thecosmos@powergate.ca or 905-852-1900. The deadline for our next issue is 12 noon Tuesday.

"13 Ways" Installment #9 - Water is the soul of the Earth

by Roger Varley

This is the ninth "installment" in a series of columns and articles inspired by a book entitled "13 Ways To Kill Your Community."

That heading, a quote by the poet W.H. Auden, cannot be disputed and leads us to look into the soul of Uxbridge.

The opening chapter of Doug Griffiths' book "13 Ways To Kill Your Community" deals with the issue of water and what happens to communities whose water supplies are put at risk. Not surprisingly, he zeroes in on the tragic events of May 2000 in Walkerton, Ont., the scene of the worst case of E-coli contamination ever in Canada. As many might recall, almost half the town's population

comes from three municipal wells ranging in depth from 58 metres to 76 metres. It is treated, disinfected and monitored constantly and if a problem is detected, an alarm sounds and the wells are immediately shut down. It takes 60 kilometres of water mains to distribute the water to residents. The region constantly checks for chemicals in the water and its latest report shows none are above the maximum acceptable concentration.

Further protection comes from the province in the form of the Oak Ridges Moraine Act, which prohibits any sizable development on the moraine in order to protect the aquifer from possible contamination. The quality of the water in the aquifer perhaps can be attested to by the fact that many people, some travelling from as far away as



Toronto, visit the Chalk Lake spring near the Ski Lakeridge resort to fill their containers.

of 5,000 fell ill and seven people died because of negligence by the town's Public Utilities Commission in treating the water supply.

Mr. Griffiths says that, while such a scenario is unlikely to happen again, communities across Canada are often being put under "boil water" orders. But, while due diligence is always advised, it seems Uxbridge is unlikely to see such an order issued here.

Uxbridge's water supply is managed by the Region of Durham. It

Yet many residents continue to purchase bottled water from their local supermarkets. Zehrs has an aisle almost completely devoted to bottled water. Presumably, the purchasers of bottled water want their H₂O to be pure and free of additives. Yet one of the Nestle brands lists on its label that the contents contain calcium, chlorine, sodium, magnesium, potassium and fluorine. None of these, of course, are harmful, but it puts the lie to people who don't drink tap water because it contains fluoride and chlorine.

Griffiths claims in his book that he can go into any community, blindfolded, drink a glass of water and tell by its taste the state of the community. He does state, however, that "there is no assurance a town with quality water will be a raging success. There are many towns I have helped over the years that have quality water but still struggle to find ways to achieve enduring prosperity."

We look forward to offering him a glass of Uxbridge tap water when he visits our community in May.

Copies of "13 Ways To Kill Your Community" by Doug Griffiths are available at the Cosmos office and at Blue Heron Books.

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"13 Ways" Installment #10 - Welcome to Uxbridge

This is the tenth "installment" in a series of columns and articles inspired by a book entitled "13 Ways To Kill Your Community."

by Roger Varley

This tenth installment in the *Cosmos*' analysis of Doug Griffiths' book "13 Ways To Kill Your Community" and how it may or may not apply to Uxbridge explores the chapter entitled "Ignore Outsiders." Griffiths' himself nicely sums this chapter up in his column "Your Welcoming Little Lie," which can be found on page 8.

While the *Cosmos* has made every attempt to remain neutral on the

subjects it has presented during this series, it admits some bias with regards to this particular topic, and suggests that it is not a lie to say that Uxbridge is, in fact, a welcoming community.

There is plenty of evidence for this at the *Cosmos* itself. The newspaper's founder, Conrad Boyce, came into town like a whirlwind, quickly taking over directorship of the Uxbridge Youth Choir and starting up Uxbridge Musical Theatre, which eventually merged with the Uxbridge Players to become OnStage Uxbridge. Not only was he welcomed into the arts community, he married an Uxbridge lady. He then went on to start the *Uxbridge Cosmos*

with the help of a number of what could only be described as "old-time Uxbridgians." He was welcomed.

When writer Roger Varley arrived in town, he quickly became involved with the 1st Uxbridge Scouts and the Uxbridge Players and eventually became a writer for the *Uxbridge Times-Journal* and, later, the *Cosmos*. He wrote in March 2009: "I've finally made it! After 20 years, I can now consider myself to be a real, honest-to-goodness Uxbridgian."

He went on to say: "It was through Scouting, the theatre and my newspaper work that I met an amazing number of wonderful people, people who literally cared about me and welcomed me into their homes and

hearts." He was welcomed.

A few years ago, the *Cosmos* ran a series of interviews called "A Cup of Coffee With..." which profiled local people from all walks of life, including many newcomers to town. Invariably, the subjects were asked what brought them to Uxbridge. Their answers generally ran along the lines of they liked what they saw here and, just as invariably, that they had been made to feel welcome here. The *Cosmos* ran about 250 of those interviews. That's a fair number of welcomed people.

Local real estate agent Kathy Clulow says she always gives a welcome package to new homeowners moving into town. The package is full of in-

formation about the services, facilities and organizations available in town to help the "outsiders" feel comfortable in their new community. Elaine Leigh, the BIA facilitator, does the same thing for new businesses opening in town, as does the township. Colleen Baskin, the township's communications officer, said the township and its economic development officer, Stacey Jibb, try to get involved with new businesses by offering helpful information and even setting up, when wanted, ribbon cuttings by the mayor.

"We don't necessarily know they're here before they open," Baskin said. "We could help them more if we did."

Nevertheless, she said the township's goal is have a more comprehensive program.

"It's a work in progress," she said. Almost 40 years ago, Uxbridge welcomed the Banh family, refugees fleeing the war-torn country of Vietnam. Such was the welcome that two of the sons, Vi Tu Banh, born in Vietnam, and Michael Banh, born here, returned to Uxbridge after university to set up shop as an optometrist and dentist respectively. Just recently, Syrian refugee families were welcomed into town. The Banh brothers offered their services to the new arrivals and also donated substantially in terms of cash.

On a smaller, more intimate scale, Rev. Mark Kinghan of St. Paul's Anglican Church welcomes anyone who cares to join him for a drink and a chat at Wixan's Bridge every fourth Monday. Rev. Kinghan doesn't care what denomination people are, how old they are or what their social standing is: everyone is welcome.

This isn't to say that the township of Uxbridge is one big open-armed hug waiting to take in the world. Cliques and closed doors do exist. The editor of this newspaper grew up in Uxbridge, moving away for a few years for education and travel. When she returned, she decided to attend a popular local church with the hope of eventually joining. She was virtually ignored by the congregation for almost two years before finally leaving the church altogether.

A few years ago, the aforementioned Conrad Boyce wrote a column which contended that many newcomers to town, particularly those living in the Quaker Village area, never strayed east of the railroad tracks into downtown Uxbridge proper, preferring to cocoon themselves in their neighbourhood.

It may not be the "everyone knows everyone" town of yesteryear, but Uxbridge is, overall, a pretty friendly, welcoming little place. Just ask Thomas the Train - he keeps coming back!

Copies of "13 Ways To Kill Your Community" by Doug Griffiths are available at the *Cosmos* office.



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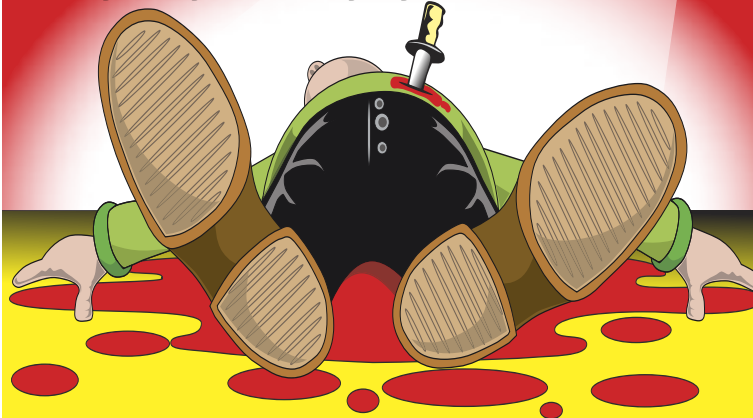
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"13 Ways" Installment #11 - Sustain the status quo

by Roger Varley

book entitled "13 Ways To Kill Your Community."

This is the eleventh "installment" in a series of columns and articles inspired by

Are Uxbridge residents comfortable

with the way things are in their community? If they are, they could be living dangerously. So says Doug Griffiths, author of "13 Ways To Kill your Community." In the chapter entitled "Grow Complacent," Griffiths talks about how relationships can become stale and unworkable simply because those involved will drift apart through complacency, a comfort with the way things are, until it's too late to fix it.

Determining whether a community is complacent is difficult. Many Uxbridge residents will say there is nowhere else they would rather live because they like their town the way it is. Is that complacency? Is that living in denial of change, such as the fact that a new development could come into their neighbourhood in future years? There have been various examples recently of residents becoming upset because of new housing changing the neighbourhood.

Many retailers in the downtown core, with a few notable exceptions, do extremely little in the way of promoting their businesses, even by changing their

display windows. Are they happy just maintaining the customers who already regularly frequent their stores? Is that complacency?

One Uxbridge resident said even a small thing like changing window displays on a regular basis would make the downtown more vibrant, make shoppers eager to see what's new. Another said absentee landlords of a large number of downtown buildings could be part of the problem because there is little incentive for merchants who rent their space to try and upgrade their look.

Then there are annual events such as the Fall Fair, Canada Day and the Santa Claus parade. Although their themes may change from year to year, any changes in the way they are presented are usually minor in nature. It could be that the organizers of these events know just what the public wants or it could be that they see no reason for changing what has worked in the past. In either case, is that complacency?

Uxbridge residents will be voting in the municipal elections later this year, but, for the most part, the vast majority of voters have never even been to a session of council. They really have little knowledge of their councillors, the issues council deals with or how council arrives at its budget every year. It could be argued, perhaps, that this is apathy rather than complacency, but it can lead to complacency on council's part as it continues to do business the same way, year after year, with little in the way of innovation.

Griffiths says that community leaders often fail to train someone to take over whatever organization they are in-

involved with, either because they are unwilling to give up "the reins of power" or because there is no-one else willing to take over. That, too can lead to complacency and even, in the case of service organizations, a drop in membership.

In the book, Griffiths takes a hard look at "sustainable" communities, claiming that in many communities "sustainability" merely translates into "maintaining the status quo," another form of complacency. He proposes that many communities with "sustainability plans" simply end up with reports that gather dust and no action. However, Uxbridge's Chief Administrative Officer Ingrid Svelnis disagrees that such is the case in Uxbridge. She points out that council is working on rezoning issues to be able to take advantage of coming change: for example, being ready when the township is able to expand its industrial parks.

"We're anticipating change so that it falls into place," she says. "It's positioning us to survive change, to prepare for what's coming next."

Talking about the sustainability committee formed with the townships of Scugog and Brocks about five years ago, Svelnis says it gives the communities an opportunity to see what others are working on and "share our thoughts." But rather than just coming up with reports, she says, the North Durham sustainability committee has dealt with issues such as greenhouse gases and energy conservation - ("We've done a lot of work on this") - has held Building Business forums and has tapped into Durham Region for

...continued on page 4

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Our two cents

Tricksters, tourists and taxes

We had SUCH a good time writing last week's April Fool's story (the one about the tunnels running underneath the town. Yeah. That wasn't real!) And we've had even more fun getting messages and emails from all the various readers we fooled. We at the *Cosmos* like to try and inject a little levity into the everyday. One of our readers/advertisers, Axis Chiropractic, had a good one - they announced that they were going to offer a giraffe chiropractic service, starting Monday morning. We told them we'd bring all our giraffes to them right away. Good fun. Our film critic, John Foote, left a sombre note on Facebook saying that, effective immediately, he was no longer going to "criticize film." Several people in the thread offered heartfelt condolences. We, however, called him out on it, and he gave us a virtual high-five for our keen insight, and said he'd never quit, he'd critique films till the day he died!

All we can say is, with this spring weather being the pits like it is, we need a bit of a smile and levity, or we'll all float away. Oh no! A flood! In the culvert! And into the tunnels...

One April Fool's stunt that should have been a joke but isn't is the new tourism tax that Toronto put into place. Effective April 1, "transient accommodation and short-term rentals" are now subject to a four per cent tax (pre-HST). That means hotels, motels (only the ones that you stay at for more than four hours), AirBnBs and the like. This paltry four per cent is supposed to add up to around \$16 million more for the city's coffers, and go towards promoting tourism and Toronto to the world.

While it's understandable that we who live just 45 minutes from the city don't really need to worry about said tax because we likely don't stay downtown all that often, we're a little worried that this plan may backfire on itself. Sure, they'll spend lots of money on getting people to come to Toronto, and those people will surely come. Then they'll realize they're being taxed up the wazoo and go tell all their friends that although the CN Tower was a lot of fun and the Ripley's Aquarium is a blast, Toronto is blinking expensive city, and you have to pay so many taxes just to stay there. What is this tourism tax, they'll ask? What is this HST, they'll ask? And you want tips, too? We no come back.

Niagara Falls is even worse. They, too, have a "Destination Marketing Fee" and it's so inconsistently used there are online lists available outlining who charges the tax, how much (it's supposed to be three per cent - some places charge four, some places charge six, and one hotel charges 10 per cent), and some stores even have signs outside their doors announcing they are DMF-free. To make it even better, before January of this year, the city didn't even have a third-party organization in place to oversee and collect all of this extra money. For all intents and purposes, any restaurant or hotel could collect it and keep it; no one was checking. Some establishments did say that you could request the extra tax be removed from your bill, but now many hotels, etc., have decided that the tax is mandatory to their establishment. Not for the city, just for them. So they happily collect extra money that may or may not go towards a fabulous fireworks display over the Falls on July 1.

Looks like April Fool's is year-round. And the tourists and taxpayers are the butt of the joke.



Letters to the Editor

Re: Food Bank Robbed, Thurs., March 29 edition

I was very upset when I read about the break-in at the Uxbridge Loaves and Fishes Food Bank. It is really a sad time for our society when the mind-set of certain individuals allows them to do this kind of stuff.

I am also very concerned, however, about why there was \$5,000 in usable cash/gift cards available for someone to take from the food bank petty cash and gift card supply. This seems to me to be an unacceptable amount in any business to be left unsecured in a "commercial" location.

We are supporters of this food bank

and will continue to be so, but please come up with some different way of making sure this money and gift cards are properly secured, perhaps off-site.

Glenn Schaeffer
Uxbridge

100 Men Who Care Uxbridge looking for more men

"We are nice fellows. We like to get together, have a good time, and give back to our community. It is really that simple!"

That's how Francois Bessay, president of 100 Men Who Care Uxbridge, describes the group of local men he gets together with once every three months. His only concern - right now it isn't 100 men.

The men's group was inspired by the 100 Women Who Care Uxbridge group, but hasn't garnered as many members as the women's; Bessay speculates that it's because "the women are more gregarious."

Although the group numbers between 30 and 40 men at the moment, more members means more

money that can go towards local charities and causes.

Four times a year, members meet for a couple of hours and jointly vote for a local charity or not-for-profit organization. Three will be nominated ahead of time by the members. Each individual, or team (which can be two or four men), agrees to write a \$100 cheque to the selected organization, which turns into an unexpected donation of thousands of dollars for that charity.

"The women's group, they usually have more than \$10,000 they can give to their chosen group," explains 100 Men member Darren Gilroy. "With the numbers we have right now, we can give between \$3,000 to

\$4,000. That's not bad, but we'd like to do more."

Bessay and Gilroy agree that 100 Men is an ideal solution for men who want to give back to the community in which they live but don't have a lot of time to give to volunteering.

The 100 Men Who Care Uxbridge group will be meeting next Wednesday, April 11, at Uxbridge Shooting Sports on Conc. 4. Men who are interested in joining can attend the meeting, visit 100menuxbridge.com, or email quakerdental@powergate.ca to find out more.

"It's no pressure, it's just fellowship. Maybe a bit of networking. And you get to give back. It's perfect," says Bessay.

Status quo, from page 2

the part-time services of an economic development officer.

She also talked about the committee's Vibrant North Durham plan, a five-year plan developed in 2013 to "implement economic development thinking, processes and projects in north Durham." The plan represents "a co-ordinated approach to economic development" because the three communities all have similar economic challenges and opportunities, making it prudent to co-ordinate resources and eliminate duplication.

On a more tangible footing, complacency in shopping can lead to

problems. Many residents prefer to do most, if not all, their shopping in the south end of town and rarely visit the downtown merchants. But if a downtown merchant goes out of business, it can lead to a domino effect, as can be seen by the number of empty stores downtown. Taken to extremes, that can lead to the death of the downtown area and the loss of merchants who support sports teams, the arts and any number of other community organizations.

As Griffiths says about marriages affected by complacency: "They drifted, they lost focus, they became complacent about what they had."

LOL study, from page 1

The study says that, with all the different aspects considered, including longer-term leases, the annual expenditures by the farm sector and visitors on the Federal Lands would increase from \$3.7 million to \$103.5 million. Households would see an increase in property values, and all levels of government would see their revenues increase. A one-time investment to rejuvenate the area would result in a temporary boost to economic activity of \$136.3 million.

The Uxbridge COSMOS

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"13 Ways" Installment #12 - Playing the blame game

This is the twelfth and final "installment" in a series of columns and articles inspired by a book entitled "13 Ways To Kill Your Community."

by Roger Varley

Addressing the final chapter in Doug Griffiths' "13 Ways To Kill Your Community" as it relates to Uxbridge is difficult. In it, Griffiths claims the most powerful way to kill your community is to avoid responsibility. He says that avoiding responsibility is much like the game of hot potato: disavow responsibility as quickly as you can and pass it on to someone else, which will continue on and on because it is contagious. Griffiths, not a fan of the coffee shop crowd, says this crowd enjoys complaining about things but seldom offers solutions to problems because then those in the crowd would have nothing to complain about. It's also called the blame game.

In some respects, he might be right. The *Cosmos* regularly has conversations with all kinds of residents who discuss (complain about) all kinds of issues facing the municipality. Some have, indeed, offered possible solutions to what they perceive as problems, but possible solutions never get expressed to those who could be in a position to put them in place.

Then there are those complaints that appear valid but over which the

complainers have no control. One example in Uxbridge is the gravel truck traffic through the township, and especially through the downtown corridor. There seems little the average citizen can do to solve the problem other than complain to council, but those complaints are always met with the same response: it's the region's responsibility because the trucks travel on regional roads and the region has ignored the township's entreaties for years.

The township council's mandate is to provide good governance of the municipality, keep local services and roads in good order and to spend tax dollars wisely to the advantage of the population as a whole. On that basis, council appears to have done a good job. But over the years, local residents have taken responsibility for a number of items that also affect the township, such as the start of the trail system. It was started by volunteers who sought out landowners willing to allow a trail through their property, cleared and maintained the routes and sought

linkages to other systems. Eventually, council came on board, organizing volunteers and persuading developers to create in-town trails through subdivisions. But it still is up to volunteers to do most of the work. Is this a case of council rejecting responsibility or of the community accepting it?



Talking of the trail system, it was private citizens John McCutcheon and Wynn Walters who led the charge to have the township's historic trestle bridge restored after it had sat for years in sad repair.

The off-leash dog park and the skate park are two more examples of residents putting forth the effort to establish recreational facilities after

years of foot-dragging by council. The dog park backers complained for years about having nowhere for their canine companions to run free and put forth numerous suggestions about a location. When council at last decided to allow the dog park, it was left to the backers to raise money for it. The same with the skate park.

The skateboarders ran numerous fund-raising events over several years to get the project off the ground. Did council avoid responsibility or did the park backers take it on?

Then there are the countless volunteers who help run Canada Day, the Fall Fair, the Santa Claus Parade

and any number of other community events. They have taken on the responsibilities of bringing those events to their fellow residents, but that doesn't stop others from complaining about the job they've done.

Another frequent complaint about Uxbridge is the amount of litter on the streets and the piles of garbage left on the downtown streets for

pickup. Is it council's responsibility to be forever cleaning up the litter and fly-away garbage or is it the residents' responsibility not to litter in the first place and to obey the set-out times for garbage?

If it is council's responsibility to provide good governance and keep local services in good order, is it the responsibility of the township's residents to make sure they do by attending council meetings? The opportunities are there - anyone can make a deputation to council, anyone can ask questions of council. Making a deputation or asking a question can be far more effective than writing a letter. A letter can simply be "received" - meaning "thanks, we'll file it away" - whereas a physical presence has to be acknowledged and responded to. Council can be persuaded to change their stance on a given issue if faced with persuasive arguments.

We all have to accept responsibility if we want to succeed.

Doug Griffiths, author of "13 Ways to Kill Your Community," is coming to Uxbridge on Wednesday, May 23, 7 p.m., at Trinity United Church. Tickets are \$18, and are available at the Cosmos office or at eventbrite.ca. See ad on page 5 for more details. This is an evening you won't want to miss!

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13 WAYS TO KILL YOUR COMMUNITY

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove and Roger Varley

Is Uxbridge perfect? Is it a shambles? Or is it somewhere in between? The answer – you be the judge.

The *Cosmos* has spent the last seven months analyzing various aspects of the town/township, using Doug Griffiths' popular book "13 Ways to Kill Your Community" as a guide, and this is the "wrap," this is a look at how Uxbridge stacks up. Are we killing our community? The good news is no, we are not. Are we doing everything we should to make sure we set and maintain a successful trajectory? The bad news is no, we are not.

When the *Cosmos* launched this series on October 19, 2017, we were clear that we did not want to come up with a list of all that's wrong and who's to blame for it. With each installment, we wanted to look at the presented issue from many different sides, leaving readers the opportunity to decide where they and Uxbridge stand on said issue.

The publisher/editor, Lisha Van Nieuwenhove, and the main contributing writer on the series, Roger Varley, have reviewed all 12 installments (two chapters were combined in Installment #1), and have assigned a score to how Uxbridge fares. The score is out of 10 – the lower the score, the better Uxbridge rates on that issue (excepting Installment #11). **This score is solely the view and opinion of the Uxbridge Cosmos.** Readers are invited to agree or disagree, and to let the *Cosmos* know why they think or feel differently.

To reread any or all of the installments, go to thecosmos.ca

Installment #1

This Installment concerned two chapters from "13 Ways" – "Live in the Past" and "Reject Everything New".

"Live in the Past"

Uxbridge tends to lean towards keeping things the way they are, rather than changing them. For example, residents tend to reject the proposal of new housing and subdivisions. **5/10**

"Reject Everything New"

Rejection of new housing also plays into this – no one wants a view blocked, or a streetscape changed. Another example is the electronic signboard at the south end of town. It is a fact that its presence and necessity is disputed, but is it because it is truly unsightly, or is it technology that people find disturbing? 'Eat It Forward' was a new shop on the main street of the downtown that didn't last much more than a year. Was it because it was new and different, and people didn't support it? During his term, former mayor Bob Shepherd promoted vision for the downtown area but couldn't convince anyone of its benefit. Was it because it was new, and different? Many people are resistant to change. That resistance may preclude the town from moving in new, positive directions. **6/10**

Installment #2

"Deceive Yourself"

It's fine to say that Uxbridge is terrific, a great place to be, but only some are willing to take a good hard look at the township's realities; very few are willing to take on what's needed to effect change or progress. Uxbridge is a wonderful place to live and work, but who takes the time to analyze problems **6/10**

How Uxbridge Rates

0 = not guilty 10 = most guilty

| "13 Ways" Chapters | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---------------------------|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Live in the Past | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | | | |
| Reject Everything New | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | | |
| Deceive Yourself | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | | |
| Don't Attract Business | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | | |
| Shop Elsewhere | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | | |
| Don't Engage Youth | 18 & under | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | | |
| | 19 - 35 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | |
| Shut Out Your Seniors | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | |
| Don't Cooperate | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | | | |
| Don't Paint | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | | |
| Forget the Water | ● | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ignore Outsiders | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | | | |
| Grow Complacent | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | |
| Don't Take Responsibility | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | | | |

Overall Score 4.4/10

and then works at finding solutions to the problems, besides elected officials and staff?

Installment #3

"Don't Attract Business"

Business creation and retention is a predominant issue in Uxbridge. Empty storefronts and offices are a real concern, but nothing seems to be changing. Is it a matter of beautification? Is it because of the tax breaks that building owners receive (even though that's changing)? Is it because Uxbridge can't/won't support anything new (re: Eat it Forward)? Is it because rents are too high? Is it because of the truck traffic? Is it because of no cohesive vision or plan for the downtown? It is likely a combination of all of the above. Perhaps the Economic Development Officer that Uxbridge has one day a week and shares with the region can help out here. **6/10**

Installment #4

"Shop Elsewhere"

This installment followed "Don't Attract Business" because the two subjects are quite closely linked. Box **6/10**

stores and online shopping certainly play a role in why people may shop elsewhere, but why shoppers are not invested in keeping their money in town? Is Uxbridge just a bedroom community, and do people shop closer to their workplaces? Are the offerings here not diverse enough and affordable enough? 'Shop local' is an oft-quoted but not oft-practiced phrase.

Installment #5

"Don't Engage Youth"

Although this was one installment, it divided itself into two factions – youth 18 years and under, and youth between 19 and 35.

For the under 18 group, Uxbridge receives a 2/10, which is a good thing. There is plenty here for the younger generation to have and do, overall. There are sports teams, volunteer organizations, there is youth theatre, Girl Guides, Scouts, 4-H – and school keeps them busy. **2/10**

The 19 – 35 group is a bit of a missing link, and it scores a guilty 8/10. Young families, jobs and commuting definitely play a role in the **8/10**

absence of engagement by this group. Sadly, this is the group that likely has the ideas that could lead to solutions to local challenges, and they are the ones who should be looking to take over the volunteer positions that many seniors currently hold.

Installment #6

"Shut Out Your Seniors"

It appears that seniors fare well in Uxbridge, overall. They make up the vast majority of volunteers in many organizations. They are respected here, and various programs at places like the Library, Uxpool and the Seniors' Centre keep them involved. However, they have made it clear that high property taxes are forcing many to contemplate leaving Uxbridge to live elsewhere more cheaply. Poor public transit and a lack of a grocery store and other services that can be walked to downtown hinder many seniors who live in the downtown area. **4/10**

...continued on page 11

Tickets to see Doug Griffiths on May 23 available at Eventbrite.ca and on Facebook

13 Ways, from page 7

Installment #7
"Don't Cooperate"

Uxbridge is stellar at cooperating. The Youth Centre and the Seniors' Centre are operating under one roof. The newly launched Catch the Ace lottery is benefiting three different organizations. The Springtide Music Festival was a grand series of partnerships. Historical rivals Port Perry and Uxbridge have combined forces to build a new animal shelter. Partnerships is a buzzword right now; businesses and organizations all want to piggyback to get biggest bang for their buck. Uxbridge is on the right track.

1.5/10

Installment #8
"Don't Paint"

Uxbridge would be deceiving itself if it thought itself the prettiest small town in Ontario. Everyone can agree that certain parts of the town are lovely, and other parts leave much to be desired. The Uxbridge BIA does its very best; its new banners are a pleasant addition. Some store owners do their part. But the backs of the buildings that overlook the parking lots on both sides of Brock Street are not in any way attractive. The township has an excellent façade improvement program available - no one has taken advantage of it. Perhaps few know about it.

5.5/10

Installment #9
"Forget the Water"

Water is not an issue in the township. The water here is potable, great to drink, and in

0/10

terms of environmental management, the Watershed committee does a good job.

Installment #10
"Ignore Outsiders"

Uxbridge appears to be a welcoming and tolerant community. People move in their own social circles, of course, and there are cliques; some people may feel like outsiders, but they're not being deliberately excluded, it may come from their own preference and way of life.

1.5/10

Installment #11
"Grow Complacent"

The Township as a whole appears to be fairly complacent. It takes a lot to get people riled about anything, and it's usually the same group of people who do the riling. The same group of volunteers do the brunt of the work. People seem to rely a great deal on council and various levels government to do everything. What is voter turnout like? Do residents take an active part in civic duty? Are voices raised loud enough to exert change? As mentioned earlier, change is resisted, but complaining is rampant. Perhaps over-regulation makes people feel like they can't do anything so why bother trying.

7/10

Installment #12
"Don't Take Responsibility"

Shirking responsibility is like a disease in every faction, and modern society as a whole is not good at claiming responsibility for the things it can control

5/10

or change. Very few people, governments, or organizations are good at owning a situation or a problem and changing it; everyone wants to shift the blame somewhere else. This negative approach needs to change at Every. Single. Level.

As a whole, Uxbridge scores 4.4/10. It's not dead yet, but it can't afford to sit back on its haunches and hope that everything turns out alright. It isn't sustainable and the status quo cannot be maintained. Not if the township wants to grow and successfully support the residents and businesses here. Provincial legislation prevents the township from growing beyond physical boundaries. Zoning changes may help some things. Creativity may help some things. Wise decisions need to be made about the direction the town is headed. This doesn't mean that there's a final goal in sight - like the world, Uxbridge is constantly evolving; let's be collectively smart about how.

4.4/10

Doug Griffiths is coming to Uxbridge on Wednesday, May 23 for a presentation at Trinity United Church (details on page 8). He can help Uxbridge into the future by offering a knowledgeable look at changing technology, global economics, cultural shifts, and what these developments mean for our community and its leadership. Copies of "13 Ways to Kill Your Community" are available at the Cosmos office and through Blue Heron Books.

Sharon Elizabeth Bryant

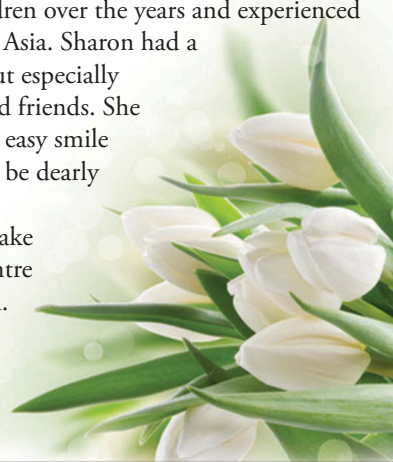


Peacefully at Northumberland Hills Hospital, Cobourg, on April 28, 2018, in her 73rd year.

Sharon Henderson, beloved wife of 51 years to Ron Bryant and loving mother of Tracy Espey (Mike) and Jeffrey Bryant (Judy). She will be greatly missed by grandchildren Matthew, Jacob, Benjamin, Sadie and Joshua Jeffrey (JJ).

Sharon was the third of four children born to the late Richard and Florence Henderson. After graduating from Uxbridge Secondary School, she pursued a Nursing Diploma from Oshawa General Hospital and worked in the medical field, first as a registered nurse and later at a family practice in administration. Sharon and Ron enjoyed travelling with their children over the years and experienced such places as Africa, Europe and Asia. Sharon had a passion for golf and swimming but especially treasured her time with family and friends. She touched so many people with her easy smile and her infectious laugh. She will be dearly missed.

A Celebration of Life will take place at the Ajax Convention Centre on May 12, 2018, from 1 - 4 p.m. In lieu of flowers, a donation to Pancreatic Cancer Canada would be greatly appreciated.



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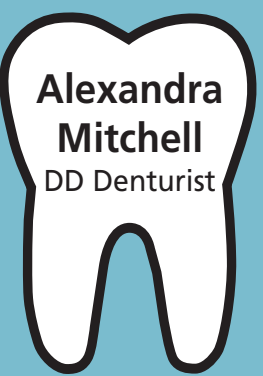
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The Uxbridge COSMOS

Volume 14 No. 37

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, September 20, 2018



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Q & A TIME - Municipal election candidates look out over a community centre filled with township residents during an all-candidates forum on Monday night. The forum, the second of two presented by the *Cosmos*, invited mayoral, regional councillor and regional chair candidates to speak to residents and answer their questions. Current Regional Chair Gerri Lynn O'Connor can be seen at the mic, upper left, posing the first question to the panel. For more, see story below. *Photo by John Cavers*

Inside this week's Cosmos
Celebrating 20 years of pet love. page 3
Bruins start season off right. page 14

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Forum series fills community centre with concerned residents

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

The Uxbridge Community Centre was standing room only on Monday night as residents from not only Uxbridge but Pickering and Scugog filled the room on Monday night to hear what candidates for the upcoming municipal election had to say. Some residents even sat on the floor as they listened to the candidates speak.

In the second of two all-candidate forums presented by the *Cosmos*, mayoral candidates Dave Barton, incumbent Pat Molloy and Diane Reilly sat alongside regional councillor candidates Gord Hight and Michelle Viney during the debate. Four of the five regional chair candidates – John Henry, Tom Dingwall, John Mutton, and Muhammad Ahsin Sahi were also present to meet with Uxbridge residents. Peter Neal had planned to attend, but was unable to be present in time.

Taxes appeared to be the major issue of the evening, with several residents posing questions to the candidates regarding the distribution of tax dollars between the region and the municipality. Residents also asked some pointed ques-

tions to the panel. Roger Varley, a resident who is running for Ward 5 councillor in the election, asked the mayoral candidates how council can afford to pay a by-law officer to patrol snow-covered streets in the winter and issue tickets to those who don't clear their sidewalks in a 48-hour time period, but not be able to afford actual snow removal. His question was met with loud applause from the audience, and no discernible solution came from the panel.

Audience reaction was also heightened when resident Matt Ottenhof asked the candidates why there appear to be no policies in place to govern the appearance of new buildings that are erected in town. Ottenhof referred to Oshawa Fire Hall 6, which looks like a barn and blends with the surrounding environment. He compared Fire Hall 6 to Uxbridge's recently completed fire hall which, he said, was "fine," but was just an industrial-looking building with no character to it. He also commented that other town buildings do nothing to keep a historical look to them. After some partial explanations and fiery words, moderator Ted Barris had to guide both the candidates and Ottenhof back to the topic at hand. Candidates

responded to Ottenhof by saying that Uxbridge does not have a designated historical district like Port Perry, for example, and therefore has no mandate to protect a heritage look, and also that council has no control over what a developer may or may not want a building to look like. Candidates also gave no indication that, during their time on council if elected, they would attend to this issue.

Several other issues were brought up by the public, including asking what candidates intended to do with regards to economic development and tourism (which included several comments regarding the need for accommodation in the area), by-laws and by-law officers, and queries regarding 2 Victoria St. and the Brock Street culvert.

For those who missed the Sept. 17 forum, it was taped in its entirety by Rogers TV and will be available for broadcast in the near future. Check thecosmos.ca or <https://www.rogerstv.com/home?rid=97&lid=14> for details as they become available.

The municipal election is Monday, October 22. Mail-in ballot kits are being mailed to residents in the Township of Uxbridge this week.

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