

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 17 No. 29

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, July 29, 2021

The news diet • Are you front page worthy? • Go native in your garden



FINALLY USING THE BUDDY PASS - Members of the Uxbridge Enforcers Lacrosse team, all aged 4 to 6 years old, take to the field for a team practice on Monday evening at Herrema Fields. Under current COVID-19 restrictions, outdoor sports leagues are permitted to play, with fields occupied at 25 per cent. *Photo by John Covers*

'Safe' stamp not a hit with all residents or business owners

by Justyne Edgell

A little green stamp, meant to promote consumer confidence while society gradually eases back to pre-pandemic life, has some Uxbridge residents and business owners worried that it will help some and hinder others.

The Safe Travels Stamp is an international symbol that was created by the World Travel & Tourism Council, and is being distributed in Canada through the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO). The Safe Travels Stamp can be publicly displayed in businesses that adopt global standardized protocols for health and safety within the travel and tourism industry.

The Uxbridge BIA recently circulated the Safe Travel Stamp information and application, gently encouraging its members to "reconsider [applying for the stamp] as restrictions lessen

and we begin to open to new business possibilities." The goal of the Safe Travels Stamp is for customers to feel safe as they re-enter in-person shopping, dining and exploring.

However, when the *Cosmos* put out a call on social media to discover any businesses that might be considering the stamp, many local residents were disapproving, saying that an initiative of this type would only cause a divide between businesses and be "punitive to those without the sticker."

Christopher Bloore, president and CEO of TIAO, says the stamp has proved to be a huge success, with close to 2,000 Ontario businesses sporting the stamp. More than 20 Uxbridge businesses, ranging from downtown shops and health facilities to a golf course and the Uxbridge Historical Centre, have the Safe Travels Stamp. Several hotel chains have adopted the stamp, as have larger tourist centres like

Ripley's Aquarium in Toronto, and the CN Tower.

"There's a lot of work being done by businesses to exhibit confidence to their customers who have been told for the last 18 months 'Don't leave your house or you'll catch this awful virus.' It shows that they're doing all what they can to make it a safe environment," says Bloore.

The stamp is a self-certification and is completely free. In most cases, the application can be done completely online. Business owners fill out a questionnaire to ensure they are following standardized health and safety practices and fit the guidelines of the World Travel And Tourism Council or one of the local campaigns run by municipal councils.

While one of the worries expressed online was that openly showing the safety of one business

...continued on page 3

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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The Township of Uxbridge

Trail Capital of Canada



MORE INFO www.uxbridge.ca

Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for August, 2021

Monday, August 9

COUNCIL MEETING, 10:00 a.m.
 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 10

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 17

B.I.A. BOARD MEETING, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 18

AGE FRIENDLY COMMITTEE, 3:00 p.m.
 COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT MEETING, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 26

TRAILS COMMITTEE, 9:30 a.m.

Proclamations for the Month of August
 Saturday, August 2, 2021
 Flight of the Monarch Day

Employment Opportunities

Details of all current positions are available at www.uxbridge.ca/careers

Parks Department – Attendant, Unskilled, Contract (Union Position)

Closes July 30, 2021

Parks Department – Horticulture Worker, Adult, Contract

Closes July 30, 2021

Uxbridge Library – Part-time Student

Closes August 6, 2021

Uxpool – Aquafit Instructors

Closes August 18, 2021

Uxpool – Lifeguards

Closes August 18, 2021

Uxpool – Swimming Instructors

Closes August 18, 2021

Public Works Department – Truck Driver

Closes August 31, 2021

Public Works Department – Truck Driver/Backhoe Operator

Closes August 31, 2021

We are an equal opportunity employer in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC). The Township of Uxbridge will provide accommodations throughout the recruitment and selection and/or assessment process to applicants with disabilities and/or needs related to the OHRC. Personal information provided is collected under the authority of The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Bids & Tenders

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

U21-27 South Balsam Trail Bridge and Boardwalk Rebuild

Closes August 26 at 2:00 p.m.

All bids must be received by the Township by the deadline stated, either electronically via the Township's website or in-person (by appointment only) at the Township Office located at 51 Toronto St. South. Public tender openings are not happening currently however bid results will be posted at uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders in a timely manner.

Uxpool is Reopening Aug. 3

Registration is required for all programs via Activenet.

www.uxbridge.ca

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The Township of Uxbridge intends to control noxious weeds along rural roadsides under their jurisdiction using Clearview Herbicide, which contains the active ingredients, Metsulfuron-Methyl and Aminopyralid. PCP Registration Number 29752 under the Pest Control Products Act (Canada), in combination with Hasten NT Spray Adjuvant, which contains active ingredients Methyl and ethyl oleate (esterified vegetable oil). PCP Registration Number 28277 under the Pest Control Products Act (Canada).

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We are control Noxious Weeds under Public Works Exemption of the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban to the promotion of public health and safety.

For more information call collect:

Township of Uxbridge
 Bill Rynard, C. Tech, CRS
 Road Operations Manager
 905-852-9087

Green Stream
 Steve Ford
 905-510-1229

2020 Consolidated Financial Statements

The 2020 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of The Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge have been approved by Council and are now available to the public on the Township's website, www.uxbridge.ca/en/your-local-government/financial-statements.aspx?_mid_=23667. A copy of the 2020 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the Township of Uxbridge are available for pick up (at no cost) upon request, at the Tax Department in the Municipal Building, located at 51 Toronto St., South in the Township of Uxbridge.

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My Uxbridge Downtown
 Building on Yesterday - Planning for Tomorrow

Closures

- Lane restrictions on Brock Street East from Nelkydd Lane to Regional Highway 47 will be in effect until the end of August, 2021 as the Region is installing underground services.
- Planks Lane roadway and sidewalks will be closed from Third Ave. to Franklin St. until September 6 to facilitate multiple ongoing service upgrades.
- Victoria Street will be closed each Sunday (7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) from Brock St. W. to King St. W., from May to October due to the Farmer's Market.

The Township of Uxbridge municipal office will be closed **Monday, Aug. 2 for the Civic Holiday.**
 Have a safe and enjoyable long weekend.



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

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

Stamp of approval, from page 1

could hurt another which may not be displayed that encourages customers into stores pressed the reminder that having or necessarily mean patrons are more ment.



“It’s just about keeping people dence, because the confidence level us to rebuild at the moment. or just going into their local down-around and do all that we can to get enjoying leisure activities.”

Uxbridge BIA chair Christina Curry says that, as chair, she proudly represents all businesses who go above and beyond in safety practices.

“At this point in time, after the last reopening, the best thing we can do is continue our safe practices and support one another and our community,” says Curry. “The Safe Travels Stamp program is the decision of the business owner(s) and it is important to note each business owner does the best they can for their individual business and the needs of that business.”

Curry says that no matter what the businesses decide to do about the stamp, “Let’s keep our bux in Ux!”

Bloore says like Uxbridge, many small towns rely on out of town visitors to keep their shop doors open, and people are being very picky these days about where they take their family and elderly parents.

“We just lived through a shared historical event and it’s not fully over yet,” he points out. “Just so that we don’t slip back into what we’ve experienced over the past few months, anything we can do to encourage the travel and tourism industry to do as much as they can on health and safety, we think is a no-brainer.”

Those who wish to apply for the Safe Travels Stamp or to learn more, you can visit them online at www.tiaontario.ca/cpages/safetravelstamp

ing similar signage, Bloore says any action can’t be a bad thing. He also ex-not having the stamp doesn’t or less at risk in that establish-

safe, and we do it for confi-is not where it needs to be for Whether it’s people traveling town. We’ve got to turn that people spending money again and



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Yours to discover

Our two cents

Would you pass the Front Page Test?

How would you feel if your actions were announced for all to read on the front page of a newspaper? Would you squirm, or would you stand proudly?

This thought-provoking question was posed to us in an email sent by a friend earlier this week, and it made us stop and think - how *would* we feel? In pretty short order we determined that, knowing what ought to go into making a story front page-worthy, our little lives weren't splashy enough to make it onto the front page of anything at all.

After safely dismissing ourselves from this potentially uncomfortable scrutiny, we expanded our thinking to other individuals that we come across in the local news business, and we could readily call to mind several instances when some "actions" were divulged on the front page of this little newspaper, and we know that the individuals who carried out those "actions" squirmed far more than stood proudly. Remember, we report the news, we don't create it.

The front page test is a handy thought experiment for your decision-making ethics. There are many ways to think about making ethical decisions: sticking to promises, considering the net good and bad consequences, considering what would happen if everyone behaved the same way, etc. The front page test is simple and cuts through a lot of the noise to how you truly feel about an action.

Of course, there people out there whose sole purpose in life appears to be all about landing on the front page of a newspaper. An odd little film just came out, called *Breaking News in Yuba County*. It stars Allison Jenkins, Ellen Barkin, Mila Kunis and Awkwafina, and is all about the incredibly awful things one woman will do to get herself noticed by the press. An interesting juxtaposition - another character will do just about anything to get the big story, the "scoop" as they say. Some people work hard to get on the front page, and others work hard putting them there.

So, if you're front page fodder, best to make sure that your behaviour will withstand the scrutiny of a thousand eyes reading and watching your every move. And if you're more one that prefers to remain on the inside pages, or out of the limelight altogether, well, you don't need to worry as much, do you?

It's still a pretty good litmus test for both ethical and behavioural decisions, though. If this were on the front page, would I squirm or stand proudly? Because there's no going back once it's in black and white.

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

Support our local businesses so they can support The Cosmos.

Because without them, we can't continue to deliver the news you want and need.

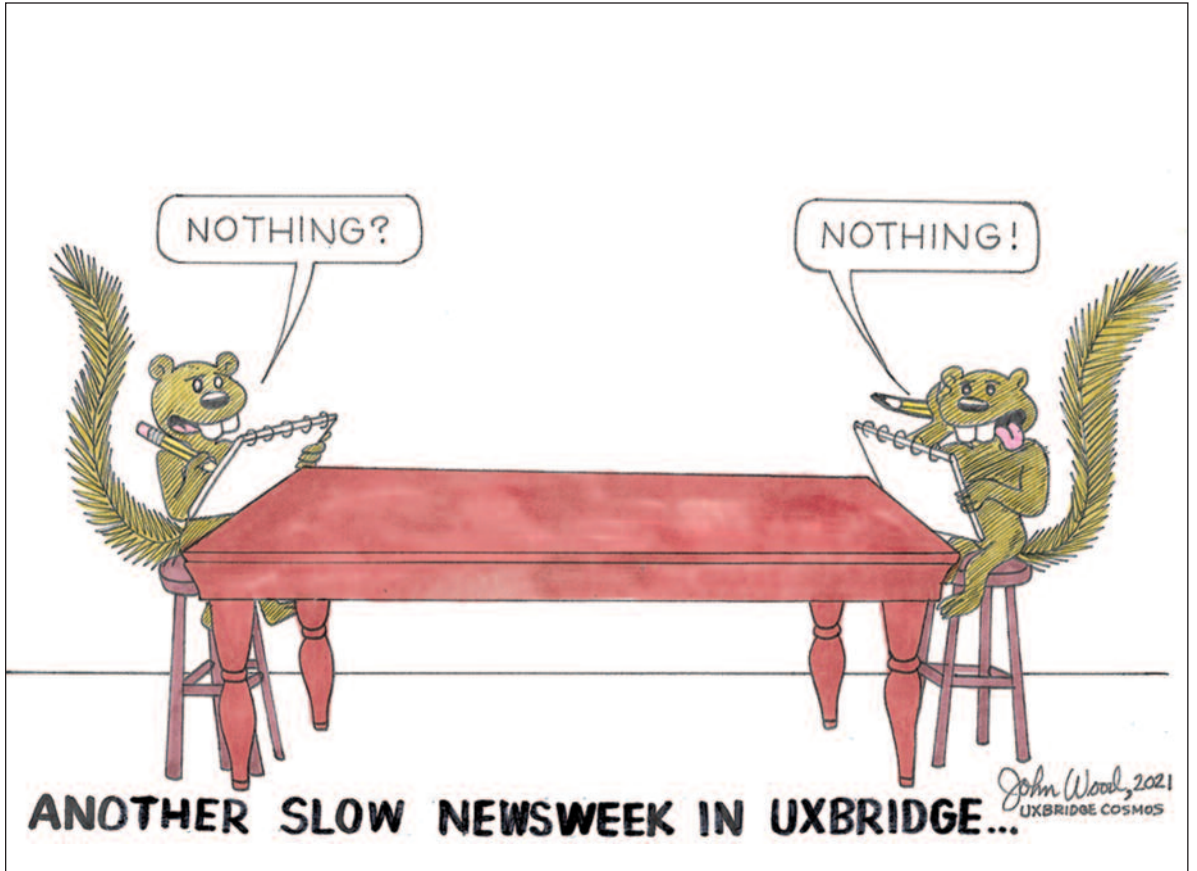
The Uxbridge COSMOS

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Letters to the Editor

Re: "The Barris Beat," July 22 edition, 'Give a cable. Take a mile'

I just read [Ted Barris's] most recent column in the *Cosmos* and I thought I'd reach out to tell you what I ended up doing when I learned about the impending loss of my Compton cable TV.

I received my notice from Rogers at the beginning of April. At first, I didn't think much of the notice as I knew Rogers owned Compton, so I just thought all that would be required of me was to switch my cable billing from Compton over to Rogers and pick a Rogers "TV package."

So I was shocked (and more than a bit angry) when told by Rogers that I would have to switch to their internet service too if I wanted to continue watching TV because I, like many others, have a different service provider for my internet and phone, and I wasn't interested in switching over those services to Rogers (for technology services, I don't want all my eggs in one basket just in case my service provider has a prolonged outage - then I'd lose everything - TV, internet, and phone and not be able to function).

After a week of calling Rogers and Compton trying to get TV services, to no avail, and being given the runaround, I decided to do a bit of research online to see if I could find out if Rogers could legally do what they were proposing because all I kept thinking was, "They can't do this!"

I surfed all over the CRTC website but eventually ended up on the Competition Bureau website and read through the legislation

there. But I still wasn't sure if what Rogers was doing was legal, even after reading through all the legislation. So I figured my best bet was to complain to the Competition Bureau and see what they thought about this issue.

I didn't hear back from them for quite some time, and then one day out of the blue, I got a response from them, along with a file number.

Maybe, if enough people complain to the Competition Bureau, like was done in 1995 to the CRTC, Rogers will be told they can't force their internet service upon us just so we can continue watching TV?

Might I suggest to *Cosmos* readers that they, too, complain to the Competition Bureau if they're as disturbed as I am by losing TV services (in particular the CBC!)? After all, there have already been a few letters to the editor regarding this same issue, so I'm thinking Ted and I are definitely not the only ones disgruntled with Rogers. And there's strength in numbers.

Even though the customer service rep at Compton told me my cable would disappear in mid-May if I didn't bundle with Rogers, I did nothing. Oddly enough, I still receive a bill from Compton and I still watch TV as I always have. So I've decided I'll just wait until Rogers flips the switch on my cable before signing up with another service provider.

**Patty Sayers
Uxbridge**

Re: Letters, July 15 edition

Ms. Freeman is quite right in her comments on Roger Varley's previous column ['Am I Wrong?' June 24]. But then, she proceeds to jump all over Prince Charles as though he was some kind of 'slum landlord'. It is not his fault that he was born into a royal family, into "massive wealth and land bestowed." He could have become a "social butterfly" like Edward VII or Edward VIII, both of whom proved unfit to rule. Instead, he stood up to his responsibilities to learn about farming and the businesses arising therefrom.

He also developed a personal interest in architecture, for which he should be complimented. He was not on the Civil List, when it still existed, and he does not receive a pence from the U.K. government, but does pay huge taxes on his land holdings and business affairs.

The economy of the region benefits from the land being kept in valuable production, businesses doing well, and good jobs available to many people. Added to these duties, both he and Prince William have taken over the Queen's obligations in her office at Buckingham Palace, a task which always consumes whole mornings. Then, thrown into this mix are his other royal duties.

What should truly be alarming to Ms. Freeman is the fact that this event is taking place at a school, an institution of learning, based on "feelings" and "gut reactions" rather than on evidence.

"Renaming the school" does not "make perfect sense."

**C.H. Diltz
Uxbridge**



Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

The cost of love

Can there be anything more heart-breaking than the sound of an animal in distress?

My heart was aching this week when I had to take my companion, Smudge, to the vet. Smudge has never been out of the apartment since I brought him home from the animal shelter almost six years ago, and it obviously was most distressing for him to find himself inside a carrier box in the car. He cried the entire trip - and I was close to tears myself. I cannot imagine how scared he must have been to suddenly find himself enclosed in a cardboard box inside an environment completely foreign to him, unable to see, hear or smell anything that was familiar to him.

Smudge has had a dry cough for a couple of weeks, but this week he went through a particularly bad spell, coughing almost constantly. So, a trip to the vet was unavoidable.

Turns out he has a form of asthma and the vet prescribed some medication for him. The weird thing is, it's close to the same medication I take.

The vet and the rest of the staff were admirable, but there's always a "but." And the "but" here is the cost of the visit: just over \$500. For a senior on a fixed income, that's a hefty slice out of my budget.

However, there is a lesson here. Apparently, during the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting shutdowns, people have been adopting pets at a fairly heavy pace. But now that restrictions are easing and more people are going back to work, it appears (in the United States, at least, I couldn't find any statistics for Canada) that this trend is reversing and animal shelters and animal rescue groups are seeing a surge in pets being surrendered by their owners.

I've said it before and I say it again: pets should not be treated like disposable commodities, especially cats. If you take responsibility for a pet, that responsibility should last for the animal's lifetime. That responsibility includes making sure it is

always fed and watered and has a secure home, not tied up to a kennel in the backyard. It includes plenty of affection, cuddles and playtime. And, at times, it includes sometimes expensive visits to the vet. If you cannot fully commit to such responsibility, don't have a pet.

A pet should be taken into a home as a member of the family, not as a passing amusement. Heaven knows, many people who have lost their small companions grieve just as much as if a relative had died. And just like any other member of the family, a pet is occasionally going to get into trouble, not because they're bad, but just because. Smudge and I have had our differences from time to time: sometimes he's out of sorts and sometimes I'm out of sorts. But you get over it and the cuddles afterwards make it all worthwhile.

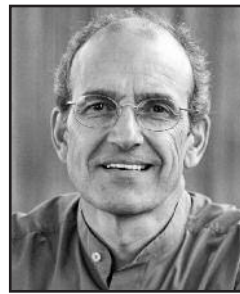
I fully expect the next session of council to feature the mid-year report of the animal control department and I make the following prediction: an exceedingly small number of the cats impounded will be reclaimed by their owners. That's not much of a prediction: it happens every time the animal control people put out their quarterly reports.

To be sure, most of the cats taken into the animal shelter are adopted, but as I've asked before: where are the owners who lost the cats in the first place? Don't they care enough to at least check with the animal shelter? Based on the quarterly reports I've been reading for more than a decade, the answer is a resounding "No."

Whatever animal is taken in as a pet, be it a dog, cat, rabbit, hamster or any other creature, its whole life automatically becomes dependent on its owner. And for the small cost of providing food - and occasional visits to the vet - they offer companionship, affection and one might even say love.

It seems to me the returns are far greater than the outlay.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Where news comes from

It's the last thing my wife and I do each night and nearly the first thing each morning. It's been that way for nearly 50 years. No, not *that*. We turn off the light at night and wake up each morning in sync with broadcasters and their newscasts. At 11:30 p.m., Lisa LaFlamme says: "That's it for us at CTV News. Have a good night."

Then, each morning at the top of the hour, we catch Nil Köksal introducing us to, "World Report..." on CBC Radio. But, we don't leave Nil at our bedside. She and her newscast stay with us for the next nine or 10 minutes, because we have them on the radio in the bedroom, the bathroom, the kitchen, the laundry room, our offices, or on our cell-phones if there's a corner of the house without a radio close by. Then, we dive into the newspapers - the *Star* daily and the *Cosmos* weekly - to fill in any blanks.

We readily admit it. We're news and information junkies. It's how we feel informed, clued in to the world, aware of the worst and best of what the day offers. There are many like us, equally craving what's going on at the beginning and end of each day. But, to our surprise, there are many unlike us, ignoring, even shunning the notion of national or international news. I guess there's been so much bad news the past year and a half, who can blame those who say, "I just don't want to know about it?"

You won't be surprised that psychologists have conducted studies on this. For example, in a 2018 survey, published by the American Psychological Association, scientists learned that more than half of Americans say "the news" causes them stress, fatigue and sleeplessness. On the other hand, about one in 10 Americans (about 32 million adults) check the news every hour and about a fifth of them (65 million of them) say they stay connected to news feeds constantly. And that was all pre-COVID! It'll be interesting to see how the pandemic may have accelerated people's shunning the news or craving it.

But I've been thinking not so much if people follow the news or not, but how they get news, or what they think is news. Most stunning for me - both as a journalist and a former journalism instructor - is how much younger generations believe what they surf on the internet is a reflection of what's happening. In fact, most of the internet is "views" not "news." In a story I followed both on radio and the papers, a reporter asked a

woman (a Canadian) how she reached her decision to not to vaccinate herself or her children. "I researched it on the internet," she said.

"You mean you heard it on radio or online news?" the reporter asked.

"No," she said. "I get the news on social media."

Social media are not news sources. None of Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, or even Facebook, can ever be categorized as reliable news sources the way mainstream newspapers, radio and television can. Why not? As I've written often in this column, trained reporters and columnists supply mainstream media with news. Every story, every commentary - whether Liberal or Conservative leaning - is vetted, edited, lawyered and then proofread for objectivity, balanced reporting, and fact-based journalism. Social media are generally unedited opinions, and only rarely challenged for veracity, unless by those with opposing rants.

From as far back as I can remember, members of my family sought out news. I can remember my Greek-born grandfather, each summer morning, departing for his garden. In one hand, his gardening tools. In the other, an unlit cigar and his Greek-language newspaper. Often, the news was weeks old, but he read it faithfully and shared what he'd learned over lunch. Similarly, my parents - the same way we do - navigated each weekday with news, current affairs, newsmagazines and news broadcasts as the signposts of the day. If Dad was home for supper, it had to be finished by 6:30, because (being former Americans) for my parents the world stopped at that hour as we heard: "Here's Walter Cronkite with the CBS Evening News..."

As addicted as my wife and I are to our news and news sources, we've recently come to realize that such habits are not automatically handed down - like my grandfather's reading of Greek newspapers and my father's date with Walter Cronkite every night. Recently, with adult family members vaccinated and relatives allowed back inside our house again, one grandson noticed a new radio in the corner of our living room. There was a newscast on.

He listened and asked, "When did you get the news box?"

Appropriately named, we thought.

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

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Watching Things Grow with Heather Hunter

Native Plants

In the shady areas of my garden I

grow a few of our native Ontario plants. Some of my favourites are Sweet Woodruff, Solomon's Seal,

Jack-in-the-pulpit, Wild Ginger, Coral Bells, Lupins, the Canadian anemone (*A. canadensis*), and the White Turtlehead. These are plants that are indigenous to this

region and existed in southern Ontario prior to European settlement.

Rob Messervey and Karen Abrahams run a very interesting business in Claremont at 4965 Westney Road N., called Native Plants in Claremont (NPIC). This nursery specializes in provid-

ing seed-grown, native perennial flowers, grasses, woodland plants and ferns, shrubs and small trees.

Rob tells me that native plants are important for several reasons. They restore our natural systems; they have adapted to our climate and require less watering; they provide food and shelter for our essential pollinator species such as butterflies and moths, birds and bees. They are beautiful and add texture and colour to our landscape.

The nursery grows a large variety of plants for different habitats and different garden areas such as full sun, full shade, and varying soil and moisture conditions.

In a woodland habitat area, one could grow Wild Leek, Trillium Berry Bladder Fern, Wild Ginger, or Blood Root. Hepaticas flower in the very early spring and are beautiful growing under trees and shrubs.

If you have a garden pond, or just an area that is damp, you might choose Swamp Milkweed, Large Blue Flag Iris, Cardinal Flower, and Blue Vervain.

Plants for fields and meadows will thrive in open sunny parts of your garden. They might include Butterfly Milkweed, Big Bluestem, Ironweed, Indian grass, or the Compass Plant. Ironweed is very tall and looks good at the back of a flower bed. The purple flowers are spectacular in September.

For dry shallow soils, you might grow Prairie Smoke or Hairy Beardtongue.

The nursery displays plants in demonstration gardens with self-guiding signage and information tags about each plant. They are also happy to help you with garden design.

Native Plants in Claremont welcomes customers seven days a week, starting the beginning of May.

Another source of native plants: North Durham Nature is holding a fundraiser, providing packages of seeds of native plants at \$4 each. For more information check out their web site at north-durhamnature.com



Happy 50th Anniversary to Theo & Cindy D'Hollander.

Two high school sweethearts reached this golden milestone. Thanks for your example of love. Love always, Michelle, Sean, Ethan, Connor, and Rhian

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VISSER, Januarius (John) Cornelius

June 13, 1941 - July 21, 2021

John will be lovingly remembered by his four children & their spouses, Julie, André (Lisa), Ashley (Aimee), Abbie (Barry) and his six grandchildren, Charlotte, Jack, Kieran, Poppy, Abigail and Josephine, as well as his four siblings Catrien, Paul, Mary and Peter, and an abundant circle of family and friends.



John was born in Hamilton Ontario and predeceased by his parents Dorothy and John Rudolph Visser.

John lived a very full life and had countless adventures; whether it be on his motorcycle trips, airplane excursions, travels and story-telling, with his colourful presence through it all he was very proud of his children and grandchildren.

Our family would like to thank the team at Hillsdale Estates in Oshawa for their exceptional care during his final chapter.

A celebration of life will be held at The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 459 in Whitchurch-Stouffville on Saturday October 9th between the hours of 12:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations in John's memory are welcome to The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 459 in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

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