



Uxbridge Scott Historical Society Newsletter

April 2020

Welcome to Spring!

We know that this finds each and every one of you dealing with challenges in your life. The COVID-19 pandemic is something none of us have ever dealt with before, and although it's difficult to see now, it is an event that will most certainly become a part of the history books.

We hope that you are doing everything you can to ensure that you and those you share a living space with remain healthy and safe. Although we are all socially and physically distanced right now, we *will* get through this together.

Important News

There are a few important things that we must relay to you, our membership.

Firstly - the Annual General Meeting that was scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, has been postponed until further notice. We will certainly keep you informed as to when this meeting will occur.

We had promised that local historian and author Allan McGillivray would be a featured guest speaker; he has confirmed that he will make himself available to speak with us at a future date. Dr. Laura Peers, who was to present at the AGM, has also confirmed that she, too, will visit Uxbridge to make her presentation when activities in the Society return to normal.

Secondly, it is with profoundly heavy hearts that we announce that Heritage Day 2020 will not take place this year. Planning for this amazing event starts in January, and with so many unknowns swirling about at this time, it is simply impossible to tell whether we will be able to coordinate all the talent and resources necessary to put on Heritage Day as it deserves. So, for the first time in 50 years, there will be no Heritage Day at the end of the Summer. You can be sure that Heritage Day 2021 will be an event to make up for time lost!

Finally, Uxbridge Historical Centre curator Pat Neal recently confirmed that, due to the COVID-19 threat, the museum will not be opening in June, as previously announced. Another date will be determined and announced in the future. Until then, the programs and events that were planned and scheduled are on hold.

Socially Fantastic

The USHS Board would like to extend a huge thank you to Eve-Lynn Swan, who coordinated a fantastic social for the Society on February 21. Over 30 people attended that Friday evening, and we had a blast, playing get-to-know-you/get-to-know-the-township games, looking at odd artifacts from the area, and browsing books written about our fascinating past. The evening was so successful, in fact, that we are encouraging Eve-Lynn to put on another one when we're permitted to gather again!

Horseshoe Update

As part of the Durham Senior Games, the Uxbridge Historical Centre was to play host to the 55+ Horseshoe Tournament on May 28. However, the Games have been cancelled, and so the Horseshoe Tournament will take place next

year.
The Horseshoe Club was to begin meeting on Tuesday, May 12, but this, too, has been postponed until further notice.

Paving the Way

Town Council has chosen a company to do the paving of the lot and paths at the Historical Centre, and work is tentatively scheduled to start later in the Spring. However, the completion of this project at this time does hinge on whether the paving company is considered an essential service, and whether it will be permitted to work during the coronavirus pandemic.

Membership

The USHS currently a total of 129 members, all of whom should have been issued a membership card. If you do not have your 2020 card, please let Bob Kirvan know, at rkirvan@interhop.net

If you haven't applied for your 2020 membership, or need to renew, please visit the USHS website at ushs.ca

We would like to take this opportunity to wish Society founding member Muriel Nesbitt a very Happy 99th Birthday this May! We wish her continued health and happiness!

The Society has also lost three members in the past few months: John Canavan, John Kennedy, and Olive Stephenson. We offer our sincere condolences to their family and friends, and will miss their contributions to the Society.

Historical Quarantainment

Feeling stir-crazy inside? Is nice weather beckoning you outdoors? Here are a couple of history-minded activities you can pursue **while maintaining physical distance from others**. The website discoveruxbridge.ca features an informative 4.5 km, two-hour long guided walking tour of downtown Uxbridge and some of the surrounding neighbourhoods. **Put on a mask and your walking shoes** and download this tour, which takes you from Library to the old Commercial Hotel (now the Hobby Horse Arms) to Trinity United Church to the Music Hall. There are 37 points of interest on this walking tour, and each one features a short description of the site you're visiting.

If historical homes are your thing, the Township of Uxbridge website offers a list of the homes in the township that have been given historical plaques. Some of the addresses have a description of why the home was awarded historical designation, others just list the homeowner's name. The list is quite extensive - go through and pick out the ones you'd like to visit, either by foot or by car. Got to uxbridge.ca/properties_plaques_under_heritage_uxbridge for the complete list.

If a driving tour is more your speed, then start your engines and visit the township's points of interest from the comfort of your car. You can drive by the sites mentioned in the Discover Uxbridge feature, but you'll also have the luxury of heading further afield. Head north and take in the exterior beauty of the Thomas Foster Memorial and Cemetery. head a little further north and visit Lucy Maud Montgomery on her bench outside the Historical Leaskdale Church, then pop across the road to read the plaque outside her former home.

On Conc. 6, find the oldest house still standing in the township. Not to be confused with the Quaker Meeting House, which is also on Conc. 6 - it's the oldest building in the township, built in 1820.

If you're heading south on Conc. 6, see if you can spot the red sand that was used for on-location filming of the popular series "Road to Avonlea." The land is private property, so no trespassing allowed - but it is fun to imagine you're in Prince Edward Island for just a moment or two...

*No matter where you roam, please remember to practice physical distancing, protecting yourself and others.
We want COVID-19 to become a part of history, not you.*