

Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley



I can see clearly now

There is a documentary on YouTube, made by National Geographic some years ago, that chronicles a Nepalese eye surgeon's visit to North Korea, during which he performed over 1,000 cataract removal operations in just 10 days.

The documentary shows patient after patient delirious with thanks after the bandages are removed and they can see again, sometimes for the first time in years. The only problem is, the thanks were all directed at portraits of then

leader Kim Jong Il. Not one single patient thanked the doctor himself.

But the human disgrace that is the North Korean state is not the subject of this column: it's about cataract removal.

Last Thursday, I had my second such surgery in four months and now I have new lenses in both my eyes and clear vision. The difference from what was in staggering.

I attended the Uxbridge Bruins' final game of the regular season the following night and could not believe how much the colours of the team uniforms popped and how sharp and clear the

numbers and logos were. It was rather like going from watching an old colour television to viewing a 42-inch screen in HD. Another analogy: it was like looking at the world through a window that had suddenly been cleaned for the first time in five years.

As Johnny Nash sang in his 1972 hit song, "I can see clearly now."

And I was profuse in my thanks to the doctor who performed the surgery and the staff at South Lake Medical Centre in Newmarket. The care and treatment was first-rate and the operations themselves were remarkable.

Each procedure took only about 15 minutes to perform and I was on my way home an hour after arriving for the surgery. Not only that, but I didn't even have to take my shoes off, which was a bit disconcerting because my mother would never allow shoes in bed.

I was concerned about what my reaction would be as I watched a scalpel heading towards my eyeball, but I needn't have been. All one sees during the operation is bright light, nothing else. The only irritating thing about the procedure came just as they strapped my

head in place and loosely tied my hands down: my nose started to itch fiercely and I couldn't scratch it.

It is astonishing what one takes for granted until it is taken away. For some time before the surgery, stars were a blur and the moon was double, then triple and finally a circle of moons. The Christmas lights were all star-bursts rather than bright pinpoint and driving at night was becoming almost impossible. Now, the stars are as they should be, the moon sails through the heavens in solitary splendour once again, and the tree lights along Brock Street are a brilliant collection of hundreds individual points of light.

There are a couple of drawbacks, however. The face staring back at me from my mirror is also now in sharper relief and that is not attractive. And I think I'm starting to bore people with my continual outbursts of "Wow, look at that!"

There is one serious note I need to mention, though. During my initial evaluation by the doctor, I was told the government pays for a \$100 procedure to test the thickness of one's own lenses

so that the new lenses inserted will be as close a match as possible.

The doctor said there was an even more accurate test available, but it cost \$250. When I said I couldn't afford it and would go with the standard test, he offered the better test for \$150 and then quickly knocked that down to \$125. If he could offer the better test for \$125, why did he want to initially charge \$250? Is this part of the reason our health costs are soaring? And if there is a better test than the standard and it apparently can be done for only an extra \$25, why doesn't the government pay for it?

I remain grateful to the doctor and all the associates who helped restore my sight to normal, but it seems to me that it would be beneficial to all if patients didn't have to make a choice between two tests based on their financial standing.

Tell me, am I wrong?



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

Welcomes you to our

PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 12, 2013 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Adults/Teens \$7.00
Children Gr. 1-8 \$4.00
Preschoolers FREE



AND come join us the following evening (Wed. 13th) for our special Ash Wednesday Service at 7 p.m. Begin preparing for Easter with this deeply meaningful spiritual practice. All welcome!



THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Township Summer Day Camps are looking to hire students for Summer 2013! ALL Resumes Must have a Cover Letter stating the camps you are interested in and addressed to Camp Coordinator Rebecca Harman. Uxbridge Summer Camps hire the "best of the best" every year! We are looking for potential staff that are versatile, organized, a caring adult, friendly, punctual, flexible and creative! Working with children and sharing their experiences for an entire summer is something you will never forget! Any questions, please call the Uxpool @ (905) 852-7831 or Email Camp Coordinator Rebecca Harman - camps@town.uxbridge.on.ca

CAMP COUNSELLOR (16 YEARS +):

- Assist in daily activities and routines. Must also develop versatile lesson plans that can be applied to call camps.
- Must be mature, responsible, enthusiastic, versatile, and have an interest in working with a variety of people and as a TEAM member!
- All staff are required to have current Standard First Aid and CPR "C".
- Weeks worked are dependent on registration numbers.

ASSISTANT CAMP COUNSELLOR (15 YEARS +):

- Applicants must be mature, responsible, enthusiastic, and able to adapt to many new Assistant Camp Counsellor Roles.
- Must be able to assist in lesson planning, daily activities and routines.
- All Staff are required to have Standard First Aid and CPR "C"
- Preferred but not mandatory: Certificate in Counsellor In Training and/or Leadership program.
- This is a paid Counsellor training position.
- Weeks worked are dependent on registration numbers.

Due Date: March 31st, 2013

**Please Drop Your Resume off at:
UXPOOL, 1 Parkside Dr.**

ARENA AND PARKS DEPARTMENTS

The Township of Uxbridge is seeking mature summer students to fill positions in the Arena and Parks Departments. Preferred qualifications include tractor experience, gardening, lawn maintenance, landscaping, painting and general carpentry. A valid G2 driver's licence is required accompanied with a driver's abstract. This position is 40 hours per week and the applicant must be willing to work weekends when required.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Township of Uxbridge is seeking one (1) student labourer to perform a variety of tasks related to road maintenance and construction. Applicants must have a valid "G2" driver's licence accompanied with a driver's abstract. Applicants should submit a cover letter together with a detailed resume containing experience, background, past employment, references and work related skills, experience and training. Students in a University/College Civil Engineering co-operative education program may apply.

Applicants should submit a cover letter along with a detailed resume to the attention of Ben Kester, C.E.T., CRS-S, Director of Public Works and Operations, 51 Toronto St. S., PO Box 190, Uxbridge, ON L9P 1T1 no later than February 15, 2013.
Please ensure the position being applied for is clearly marked on the application.

SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

The Township of Uxbridge is accepting applications for a Summer Student placement within the Clerk's Department. An applicant should be currently enrolled in a post-secondary education program and returning to continue their education in September, 2013.

Position Summary:

- Assists with File maintenance, including laser fiche scanning & index up-dating
 - Provides main receptionist relief, including mail processing
 - Completes various tasks as assigned by the Clerk and Deputy Clerk
- #### Minimum Qualifications:
- Excellent oral, written and communication skills
 - Superior customer service skills & ability to deal with the public & staff in a courteous & tactful manner
 - Proficient in the use of computers & current related software
 - Self-starter with demonstrated strong time-management and organizational skills
 - Must possess valid Driver's Licence
 - An interest in Public Administration

Interested candidates are invited to submit a cover letter together with a detailed resume outlining experience and detailing how the minimum qualifications are met, identifying the position being applied for and marked "Confidential" to the attention of: pshipway@town.uxbridge.on.ca or the undersigned no later than 4:30 pm, Thursday, March 28th, 2103.

Township of Uxbridge

**ATTN: Paul Shipway, Deputy Clerk
P.O. Box 190, Uxbridge, ON, L9P 1T1**

We thank all applicants for their interest, however only those being considered for an interview will be contacted.

Leaskdale News

with Helen Harrison

Who could blame Warton Willie for returning to bed? Cold and windy weather is continuing again this week...

Belated congratulations to Elsie Taylor, who marked a very 'special' birthday at the end of January. Best wishes, Elsie, for a good year, and many more...

Leaskdale W.A. will meet at the church on Wed. Feb. 20 @ 1:30 p.m. Group 2 is in charge. Nancy Loraine will speak on the recent mission trip to Hainomosa D.R. If you wish, please bring donations of Pancake Mix (group 1) and pancake syrup (group 2) for the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank..

Stan Taylor has launched his new book 'Taylor's Pneumatic Toys', complete instructions for building toys using wood. These books are available at Leaskdale Country Store, and at Blue Heron Books in Uxbridge...

Our best wishes to George Paisley, who is celebrating his 'special' birthday with an Open House at St. Paul's Leaskdale Church, this Sat. Feb. 9, 1 - 4 p.m. Many happy returns, George, and we hope you will have many more enjoyable years...

We are sorry to hear of the death of Rev. Frank Conkey of Pickering. He was often supply minister at St. Paul's Church during pulpit vacancies some years ago...

The Annual General Meeting at St. Paul's Leaskdale Church will take place on Sun. Feb. 24. Beginning at 12:30 with a hot lunch, with the meeting to follow. This will be a great time to connect with people, and note what is happening at the church.

The Township of Uxbridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

If you require accommodation at any time throughout the employment activities process, please contact us at: 905-852-9181 ext. 209, accessibility@town.uxbridge.on.ca or by visiting www.town.uxbridge.on.ca and we will make every effort to provide appropriate assistance pursuant to the Township of Uxbridge Employment Activities Accommodation policy.