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## **Editorial:**

***Roe vs Wade***, the American law enacted in 1973, broadened the choices American women have in regard to their pregnancies. The US Supreme Court will be reviewing and reconsidering retention of the law this summer. In lieu of our regular editorial, we are publishing an American woman's story and commentary relative to that legislation:

### ***The stories that tell the story...***

My eyes were opened to the reality of abortion the day I was offered one while pregnant with our fourth child. A handsome doctor in a pristine hospital setting, suggested that I did not have to continue to full term. It was my choice. Even though I chose life for our son, the experience brought shock and many questions.

On January 8, 2019, my husband, Bob, and I witnessed the joy of choosing life and the impact on future generations. The son, whose life we'd chosen to keep, held in his arms his newborn son, our grandson. Three generations.

I knew that I needed to tell my story and the stories of countless others to reveal truths that might be buried unless we tell them.

Robin's is one of those stories that has touched my heart. Following is a small but significant part of her post-abortive experience:

Excitement grew as the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women conference was to begin. The 2021 motto was: Speak Out and Don't Be Silenced.

With hesitation to speak, I joined my small group. A man from Nigeria told us he was there in support of safe, legal abortion for women in his country. He described how it was going to change his country's economic issues, health care problems, population control, and violence against women. Every cell in my body wanted to scream, "NO. STOP!"

My heart raced as I began my introduction "My name is Robin Hengel from the United States. I feel drawn to this stage to speak the truth about the devastating consequences of abortion for the female population globally. For fifteen years, I carried the painful effects

of my abortion in silence.

Women suffer, never acknowledging that their abortion had not been the simple solution they'd been promised but was the beginning of a lifetime of new and often more terrifying problems than being pregnant. Suicidal thoughts, addictions as a release from their pain, self-destructive behaviors, emotional deadening and more.

“So, sir, when you make it sound like safe, legal abortions will solve your nation’s problems, have you considered the aftermath that the consequences of abortion will bring, and, if so, what has been put in place to handle those issues? Some women, who have faced unthinkable rape, describe getting an abortion as being just as violent as the rape. What will you say to them, to us?”

He thanked me for sharing my story and said he had never heard anybody talk about the traumatic aftermath of abortion but would do more research.

Although others were not as kind as he was, I continued telling my truth often to jeers, taunting, eye-rolling, and finally being silenced by leadership that cheered other people telling their truths, as long as they had like-minded beliefs.

From my own experience and listening to countless others I have counselled, we would join together to declare that legal abortion is not safe but carries with it devastation that can last a lifetime. We must find our voices and let the world know the ugly side of abortion.

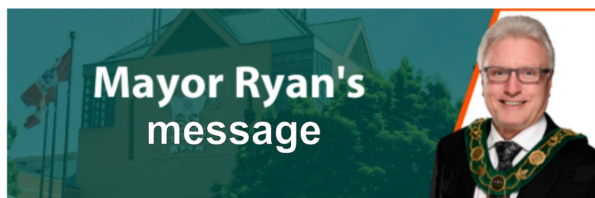
Robin continues to tell her powerful story in hopes that others will find healing from their silent pain and that choosing abundant life for their children, as well as themselves, will become the new generational norm.

***Robin Hengel,***

*in collaboration with **Ruth Coghill***

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## *The City . . .*



Mayor Ryan has announced his retirement as mayor of Pickering.

He is a personable and affable man who helped Pickering a lot in its growth and development. As he is a politician, he faces opposition and criticism regularly but he has been Pickering's longest serving mayor helping the city become one of the most vibrant and dynamic municipalities in southern Ontario. That says a lot about the man, about the politician.

We wish him well in his retirement. May he and his four-legged buddy, Ryan, walk the neighbourhood with gusto and energy for many more years.

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### **Councillor Maurice Brenner City Councillor Ward 1**



Councillor Brenner is still busy helping neighbours clean up the mess after the horrendous storm of Saturday, May 21.

Maurice Brenner

## ***Councillor Christine Doody-Hamilton writes...***

**Councillor Christine Doody-  
Hamilton**

City Councillor Ward 2



[cdoody-hamilton@pickering.ca](mailto:cdoody-hamilton@pickering.ca)

### ***May 21st, 2022: I will remember this day.***

Saturday, May 21st started out as a lovely day. My husband and I enjoyed a pleasant morning walk around the neighbourhood, I ran a few errands, had a nice lunch, and had just hunkered down to answer some emails, when I got an amber alert on my phone. I caught my breath, knowing what these amber alerts usually mean.

The message surprised me: ‘Severe weather warning. Take shelter’. My husband got the same message on his phone. We looked at each other, then opened the front door and looked through the screen door out into the street. It was overcast, a little windy, definitely felt like rain was coming.

And then suddenly, it came! The wind was howling, the rain was thick as a sheet, and pea-sized hail was pelting the road. We watched the trees bending, leaves and debris flying everywhere. The show lasted for about ten minutes, and then it diminished, until finally, it was just a steady rain. We thought the worst was over. But then the power went out.

Our power always seems to go out when there's a big storm, and our neighbourhood always seems to be one of the last to have power restored. We puttered around for the rest of the afternoon, trying not to open the fridge or the freezer.

We went for a drive that evening to see where power had been restored, and sure enough, the neighbourhoods around ours were lit up, but when we pulled into our immediate neighbourhood, all was still dark.

We went to bed, fully expecting that power would be restored by the time we woke up. And happily, for us, our power was back on by the next morning. But as a City Councillor, I was quickly made aware that large areas of both north and south Pickering were still without power, and had suffered serious, even catastrophic, damage. I spent the next three days on my phone and on my computer relaying information to residents and alerting City staff and Elexicon staff to outages and damages still to be assessed, and people, including seniors, single parents and the disabled, who still needed help.

On Sunday afternoon, I visited the Bay Ridges area: Lublin, Baladon, Bem and Krosno – and saw for myself the devastation: large trees fallen on people's homes, sheds and fences, and hydro lines taken down with them. I went there to reassure residents that they wouldn't be forgotten, and that I would do everything that I could to get their power restored as soon as possible.

I will never forget that day, but not just because of all the damage and devastation. I will also remember that I was inspired by the many people I met, or spoke to, or exchanged emails with; people who stepped up to help when they saw their neighbours in need; people who checked in on the seniors on the street to make sure they were okay; people who shared their generators so that wheelchair batteries could be recharged.

There are real live heroes living in Pickering, and I met a lot of them that day. Thank you, to all of you.

Sincerely,

***Councillor Christine***

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**Councillor David Pickles**

Regional Councillor Ward 3



[dpickles@pickering.ca](mailto:dpickles@pickering.ca)

***Gardens and Election Signs Popping Up***

Richard always wants me to muse more about personal rather than political subjects. So today was our first hot humid day, I enjoyed it, went for my first bike ride and did some gardening. You likely have seen Facebook posts on my rides and gardens. I prefer a hot day to a cold day. My comment is ‘I enjoy winter, less and less each year’. On the hottest day of the year, I just think of being knee deep in that wet snow shoveling my driveway and then I am fine with the heat. My wife, Brenda, and I were sitting on our back deck having dinner this evening thinking that it seems days ago that we had the last snow and now the trees are in full leaf and the gardens green and with flowers and vegetables (fruit too counting the tomatoes). Looking forward to fully enjoying the season.

My other thought today while driving around the city was on the art and science of provincial election signs. First those with short names are blessed, you can have big fat visible letters. The longer the name the smaller the letters. Some colours of signs are obvious (red liberal, conservative blue). It’s curious that the new blue party’s (I never heard of them either) signs are yellow. I see one candidate has several catch phrases on the signs like ‘for children’, I laughed when I told my wife I don’t want anymore children. I see some signs have wooden stakes (get vandalized more) or metal re-bar (stolen more). Materials, the plastic or chloroplast signs stand up best, I still have and use some of my signs from my first election 25 years ago, but they cost more. I remember one candidate using cardboard signs stapled to wood stakes, first rain they all ripped and slid down the stake. And then there are candidates that post big signs too close to the road blocking drivers views but the wind from the big trucks passing by usually takes care of those, knocking them down. It’s both an art and a science. Remember, **June 2**...cast your vote in this provincial election.

Sincerely,  
**Councillor Dave**

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### **The Storm**

Every resident of the region from Ajax to Uxbridge will remember Saturday, May 21st. Just about lunch time, residents of the region experienced one of the worst storm surges in memory. It did not last long but it was devastating. Homes were seriously damaged, mature trees uprooted damaging surrounding areas, cars flipped over. Power outage occurred throughout the entire region and full restoration took more than a week.

Though insurance may cover repair costs for many people, the clean up and restoration of homes and properties will take weeks, if not months and even longer for some things like the many mature trees that were destroyed. Thankfully there were no lives lost at the direct impact of the storm.

We hope every resident of the region is safe and able to reset their life to as close as possible to where they were before. All the best everyone.



Uxbridge



Uxbridge





Ajax



Ajax

## The *POLITICAL* Page . . .

The material presented on this page is my opinion, and mine alone. As do many others, I enjoy watching the game of politics with all its dynamic parameters (B\*\*\* S\*\*\*).

This provincial election has been a real bore. The Conservative Party intended it so. Their campaign philosophy been “don’t rock the boat” or “bore the daylight out of electorate.” That way the electorate is not disturbed into considering an alternate vote to voting Conservative. The fewer the number of voters, the less likely the chance of changing the status quo.

For more election related material, click: [ELECTIONS](#)

**VOTE** **JUNE 2 but...**

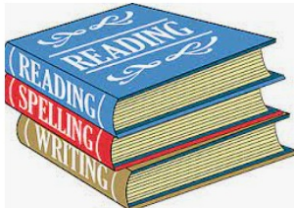
<b>Vote</b> <b>June 2</b>	<input type="radio"/> <del>Conservatives</del>
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <b>Liberals</b>
	<input type="radio"/> <del>New Democrats</del>
	<input type="radio"/> <del>Green</del>

I am not the only one opposing the re-election of Doug Ford.

Read Toronto Star columnist, HEATHER MALLICK and her reasons for opposing his re-election: [HEATHER](#)

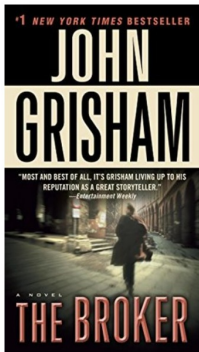
On the other hand, you could read MARTIN REGG COHN, and really get an eyeful of the crap that each party leader is promising. Read: [MARTIN](#)

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## BOOKz, TVz:

### Richard reviews:



John Grisham usually writes very readable, very enjoyable books.

*The Broker* is different.

*The Broker* is dry, written for accountants rather than the kind of readers who usually enjoy John Grisham.

Click [REVIEW](#)



This is the repeat appearance of struggling lawyer, Jake Brigance, who made his debut in *A Time to Kill*.

It's court room drama, although in this story there is more behind the scenes legal action than court room.

A good read.

Click [MERCY](#)

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## TVz

Regular television, commercially sponsored, can drive one crazy with advertising. Long ago, commercials were entertaining, informative and promotional. Today, for the most part, they are



idiotic, absurd and adverse to their goal of developing patronage for the sponsored product.

However, **streaming TV** is a fair-priced alternative to regular television. *Netflix*, *Disney*, *Crave*, and others streaming services cost about \$10 a month for a each subscription but what they offer is commercial-free viewing of popular shows, movies, documentaries and such. A lot of choice and all *commercial-free*.

## *Netflix*

We have subscribed to CRAVE and NETFLIX and both offer a wide selection of shows we like. Two of Netflix's most popular choices are mentioned here.



## *Ozark*

This is a 4 part, multi-episode crime series about money laundering. The series is well-acted, cinematographically well-shot, and suspenseful every episode. The stars, Jason Bateman, Laura Linney and Julia Garner are engaging in every scene. Even Barack Obama praises the series highly.



## *Suits*

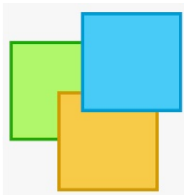
Interested in seeing Meghan Markle, wife of Prince Harry, doing her Hollywood thing? Watch "Suits," a very entertaining though slightly dated legal drama. Sarah Rafferty playing secretary Donna, steals every scene in which she appears. She is a delightful channeling of Nicole Kidman.

You'll be eagerly clicking to the next episode as you conclude each one.

Meghan Markle may not deserve an Emmy but she does a commendable job with her role as a paralegal in a large law firm. Maybe there's motive in her returning to California with Harry.



## Computer Stuff



### *Notezilla*

I keep touting and promoting *Notezilla* simply because I think that highly of the application. I receive nothing from the company but I have been using the app for a few years now and find it to be very useful in keeping me organized and productive. I highly recommend trying their free trial version to see how it suits your computer needs.

Read my full review at [notezilla](#)



*Quora* is a social question-and-answer website based in California. It was founded in 2009. Users can collaborate by editing questions and commenting on answers that have been submitted by other users. A very worthwhile subscription that is free.

Click to access: [QUORA](#)

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## **Writers' Stuff**

I am taking a little detour from the regular “*Writers' Stuff*.” I am fortunate to network with a number of writers and one of them traded links with me, links to good writers and good websites.

**Heather Cox Richardson** is a Pulitzer prize winning New York Times columnist who writes daily commentaries relating to life in the United States mostly. Her columns are informative and educational. One learns a bit of history, some politics and more about the American mentality from her perspective. She is a history professor at Boston College and a political and news junkie. She likely never sleeps as evidenced by her comprehensive daily columns that are mother-lodes of thought-provoking, educational tidbits, superbly written, loaded with information and filled with material that will make you pause in thought.

A super author who provides great material daily. Subscribe to her free daily column at [HEATHER](#)

*(Thank you Ginger K.)*



***FUN STUFF***

### ***How old's your brain?***

Want to know how old your brain is? These brain games analyze the age of your brain. Fun stuff that will give you some reassurance that you're still doing just fine ! (Mine is 36 years old.)

Click [\*\*BRAINGAMES\*\*](#)

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## Commercial Stuff

### OUR SUPPORTERS PAGE



Publishing all this material is expensive and I underwrite all expenses personally. If you can donate a little, it would help us in this work.

Visit “Our Supporters Page” at [Supporters](#)



### Writers Tool kit

Every writer should have a tool kit. We offer you access at our “Writers Kit” at [WRITERS TOOL KIT](#)



### “WILL-mate”

A few years ago when my mother-in-law passed away, this “WILL-MATE” (ESTATE ORGANIZER) was a *Godsend*. All the contact information, the needed professionals, the essential services and the ‘must-do’ items were all in one place, easily accessed and convenient. It really was tremendously useful assistance. Get more information about the “WILL-mate” (Estate Organizer) at

[Estate Organizer](#)





*“Cancer road”* ...I am on the road: prostate cancer.

I am writing about this journey, not to be morbid, but to increase awareness about cancer and cancer treatment currently.

Cancer today is not the death sentence it was seen as being years ago. Oncologists insist and results confirm that early diagnosis increases the odds in favour of cancer patients. Talk to your doctor. Insist on a full examination and have it done regularly, especially in middle age and beyond.

Read about my journey on the “Cancer road” at [cancer-road](#)

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## ***LETTERS and COMMENTS***

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"Thanks Richard for the information you provide and for the work you are doing in helping seniors become better informed. I look forward to each month's newsletter and all the information you provide.  
P.L.

"Free speech is a right but one must be cautious with it. Perhaps criticism of government leaders may be better left to other media...rather than entertaining newsletters such as this one.  
N.G.

"Good stuff. Entertaining, informative and provocative. Keep it up.  
M.L.

Comments and letters can be sent to [zippyonego@gmail.com](mailto:zippyonego@gmail.com)

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## ***Upcoming events***

***June 4 & 11:***

***Artfest (Pickering)***

An excellent event for the whole family.

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*Stay healthy, safe and wear your mask.*

*Best,*

*Richard*  & *Fermo* 

*and the "Boss"*



*Be sure to visit our website at: [www.szpin.ca](http://www.szpin.ca)*

