



## Table of Contents

1. **EDITORIAL:** *Harvey Weinstein case decision reversed*
2. **COMMUNITY BOARD:** *DARS, Ratepayers Association*
3. **POLITICAL DESK:** *all elected representatives invited to message*
4. **HEALTH and AGING:** *Clear arteries, weight loss, daily showering*
5. **TECHNOLOGY:** *Extensions, Szp website, Widgets, Savvy Shopper*
6. **TRAVEL:** *Escorted Tours by CanXplore*
7. **BOOKS:** *Gail, Heather and Richard talk books*
8. **LAST WORD:** *Thank you everyone!*

## **Editorial**

### ***Briefly:***

Editorial comments are solely the opinions of the site manager and are not intended to offend or insult any individual, group or social faction.

### ***Laws made by the “old boys’ club” don’t do much for women and women’s rights***

The Harvey Weinstein conviction has been overturned on a legal technicality. The judge in the preceding trial allowed witnesses who were not part of that current trial to testify which is not permitted by legal precedent. This is somewhat like piling on after the player is already down, a penalty, and not allowed. Though this is not legal and not permitted, the onus falls on defense attorneys to spot the problem or minutia of the law breaking.

Regardless whether the particular issue is viewed as a minor or major legal infraction, it is illegal whereby the precedence forbids this kind of testimony. Witnesses not directly connected or named to the case being tried cannot testify no matter how relevant or related their testimony may seem to be. The Weinstein defense team spotted the infraction. Weinstein has been declared not guilty and the case must be retried, setting back any gains the ‘*me too*’ movement may have made. This declaration is another strike against women and women’s issues...the declaration is the offspring of the “old boys’ club” system, as strong and empowered as it ever has been.

Attorneys like the Cochranes and the Greenspans cost a fortune, but as a family lawyer with whom I have spoken recently confirmed, usually they are worth every cent and none apologizes for the fees, nor should they, the good ones.

However, the conclusions about this case warrant consideration.

The letter of the law trumps everything else, the gist of the law, the social implications of decision, the impact and repercussions on groups in that society. The letter of the law is what counts regardless of all else.

In this decision reversal, women and women’s rights have been impacted but women and women’s rights seem to be inconsequential to the “old boys’ club.” They wrote the law and they stand by it, to the letter.

Women and society be damned.

# Community Board

## **Briefly:**

This is COMMUNITY NEWS, though primarily relating to Pickering and the Durham Region, some material may be about the larger environs, provincial, national and even beyond.

- **DARS**
- **RATEPAYER ASSOCIATIONS: FBNA, RCRA, SSCA, WA**



**DARS** is a unique support organization working with the homeless. Located in the Durham region/Pickering, this volunteer-led group may be unique to all of Canada in its operation. Its primary endeavour is to help homeless persons reintegrate into the larger society with learned skills and developed independent living knowhow.

*An advocacy group that cares*

***Dedicated Advocacy Resource Support*** (**DARS**) is a volunteer-led, grassroots, Not-for-profit, and charitable organization.

The organization provides compassionate support and advocacy for individuals and families who are experiencing housing, food and income insecurity. We are committed to promoting dignity and empowering our clients through personalized navigation, access to resources, and collaborative partnerships.

### ***Our goal***

The goal of **DARS** is to create a community space that serves as a safe and welcoming “home-like” setting and thus far it has successfully planted seeds of help in the Pickering community.

### ***DARS has grown***

Our first location had just 4 individuals and served lunch in the *City of Pickering Esplanade Park Gazebo*. As our numbers grew. During the pandemic we continued our work outdoors and now we are in two central locations: the Pickering Public Library (central) and Peace Lutheran Church.

### ***Our active strategies***

We see approximately 40-50 participants weekly at our two outreach programs. Our informal setting seems to reduce some anxieties associated with more clinical settings. We believe that everyone deserves a place at what we call; “*Grandma’s Table*,” our philosophy. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those in need and by those who learn they can trust us.

### ***Our offerings:***

- *Grandma’s Table*
- *Weekly Outreach Lunches* over 1500 per year (30 meals/52 weeks)
- *Weekly Dinners, Peace Lutheran Church* 1300 per year (25 meals/52 weeks)
- *Sunday Halal meals* \*new

- *Weekly Frozen/Fresh Meals* over 1000 meals per year (20 meals/52 weeks)
- *Pantry Bank:* Fresh and Canned food
- *Toiletries* and *household* items
- *Next-to-New-Clothing* and *Seasonal Necessities*
- *Special Items for the unhoused*
- *Sleeping bags/tents/tarps/snacks-to-go/MRE's/special toiletries/travel kits*
- *Furniture* (acquired and distributed as needed)
- *Bus tickets* to attend DARS
- *Holiday Gifting* (typically, each participant receives gift - \$100 value and food to celebrate the holiday)
- *Ongoing wrap-around services* to allow unhoused individuals ample support to be successful according to their own goals and aspirations
- *Weekly Shower Program*
- *Frugal Cooking Classes* (6-8 weeks of food, cooking experience, budgeting) etc.
- *Wellness Checks* in the community
- *Encampment visits*
- *Support for "forms and frustrations"* while navigating social services
- *Advocacy, Medical Appointment Assistance*  
(attended surgery appointments, psychiatrist appointments, GP appointments and the birth of a baby)
- *Help with Moves*
- *Next of Kinship*
- *Referrals*
- *Workshops* and *Guest Speakers*
- *Friendship* and *Fellowship*
- *Winter Warming Centre*

### *Pilot - DARS Housing:*

Overcoming early growing pains, we now have three ongoing test sites. This program has allowed 8 individuals the opportunity to afford a rental unit they could not have entertained without roommates and has resulted in each formerly unhoused individual finding a place to call home.

With proper planning, research, and collaboration, our clients have found the best approach is one where the service user can make important decisions and is heard, and we rely on their opinions about who they wish to live with and where within the Durham Region. Curating a solid and motivated group of individuals is key. Now, these "pilot" individuals work together and live happily in their prospective homes, sharing housing costs, chores and even grocery shopping. Weekly "check-ins" plus attendance at our DARS Outreach keep these individuals

well-connected and able to navigate many arising issues. Our most recent unit has housed two men since September who were thrilled to leave the bush, raccoons, and coyotes behind and feel safe at night.

### ***Homelessness reduction:***

The fastest and most effective way to slow this wave of homelessness—and perhaps the only way in the current economic climate and rental shortage—is to implement a targeted housing benefit to help move people who are already experiencing homelessness into housing and prevent those at risk of becoming homeless from losing their homes. We examine this option with all potential occupants.

Although continuing to build affordable housing remains vitally important, we must tackle the urgent crisis as our priority. With this in mind, DARS is proposing we acquire more market rent units immediately and pursue all government rent possibilities. These units will provide a safe haven, physically and emotionally. The unit funding will be financed collaboratively with current income supplements and contributions from the tenants, Regional Operating funds, available grants and subsidies and community resources. The current market is competitive and costly but with the support of homeowners, landowners, landlords and businesses such as TACC who are willing to rent/lease to DARS and marginalized tenants, we can find appropriate houses to turn into homes. Our goal is to continue to offer real housing options to those in need. Pooling finances and housing “roommates” in private rooms within a home that is safe, has adequate space and furnishings and provides the necessary wrap around supports such as food and case management is more humane and dignified than offering shelter beds. We are far more likely to help individuals from becoming chronically homeless by HOUSING not SHELTERING them.

### ***The homelessness risks***

Those who become entrenched in homelessness suffer acute deterioration of health and need more frequent and often more intense health services and interventions. A study from Calgary, Alberta, reports that the annual cost of support (health care, housing, emergency services) is nearly \$75,000 per homeless individual; chronic homelessness is worse at over \$130,000 (Calgary Homeless Foundation, 2008).

American research confirms the seriousness of the homelessness issue: twenty percent of the homeless population is defined as chronic, and they account for 60 percent of total service costs (Poulin et al, 2010). Supportive housing models are a much more cost-effective option for chronically homeless people. The cost of housing is substantially offset by the reduced use of acute care services when people have stable housing and ongoing support.

### ***Homelessness, no longer a ‘big city only problem’***

Sadly, homelessness is no longer a “big city problem. Homelessness in Durham increased nearly 100% between 2018–2021, according to PIT, the Durham *Point In Time* (PIT count) survey.

Every \$10 invested in supportive housing results in an average savings of more than \$20 across the health care, social services, and justice systems, according to CMHA Durham,.

## Immigration and refugee crisis

The increase in immigration and refugees has an inherent risk of exacerbating the homelessness problem. We must try to prevent these new Canadians from falling into homelessness, worsening an already critically stretched system. Homelessness cannot be an option for anyone living in our dynamic and vibrant city, province, and country. With the unique needs of our newest residents, we will collaborate with culturally and ethnically social agencies that can help support DARS work. With an EDI and trauma-based lens, we feel confident in our ability to affect an impact on the unhoused population currently residing in the City of Pickering

### *The Proposal:*

DARS and the Region of Durham had the opportunity to visit three potential properties in the North Pickering area, where we considered the financial viability, transportation services, integrity of the main house, possible and potential social enterprise on the property and the impact the project might have on the neighbouring communities. The choice decided was the property at 690 Third Concession Rd. The property has minimal negativity associated with it: suitable distance to neighbours and minimal apprehensions of "Nimbyism" with the distance. This property affords the newly homed with opportunities and expectations of becoming property renovators as well as learning and teaching future occupants basic construction skills. Additionally, the property has animal and agricultural possibilities where the occupants can grow produce and raise egg-laying chickens as they acquire entrepreneurial and marketing with a roadside market stand.

### **DARS is committed to the following:**

- Rapid housing placements with support
- Offering reasonable choices to clients
- Separating housing provisions from treatment services
- Providing occupancy rights and responsibilities
- Integrating housing into the community
- Provide for client-centred recovery-based opportunities and promote self-sufficiency

### *Notable benefits to living in transitional housing:*

- Support staff to talk to.
- Low-cost housing.
- People to socialize with.
- Your own private room to sleep in.
- Meals or food support.
- Life skills training/portable agricultural skills.

- Can be long or short-term.

### *The DARS Plan*

DARS has acquired a 10 year-renewable lease of the property at 690 Third Concession Rd with a renovation tie of \$1/year. As the house is now livable and suitable for two tenants, two individuals will assume tenancy upon execution of the agreement. One person will assume the role of House Superintendent; the other will become the one occupant, both of whom will agree to ensure the residence is managed and maintained in good order suitable for the addition of 4 to 5 additional occupants once renovations are complete. Meanwhile, DARS will work to secure additional funding of approximately \$ 200,000 to invest and improve the property and maintain it at a level suitable for safe and livable residency for a larger group.

### *Areas needing review and remediation:*

- Install Upstairs Washroom
- Replace Windows
- Restore Flooring
- Safety Code updating and adherence
- Painting
- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Well/Septic
- HVAC

### *Funding considerations for the property at 690 Third Concession Rd.:*

- Initially the property will have a 6 month lease
- Followed by procurement of capital funding as DARS proposed
- After which a 10 (ten) year lease be executed at a cost the annual property taxes to be paid in twelve installments annually.

### *Funding options still to be explored include:*

- Region of Durham Incentives (pending)
- Hydro One Funding
- City Pickering Grants
- Casino Revenue (RECEIVED \$50 000)
- Home Depot Grants
- Charitable Donations

## In closing:

This housing project/plan is a good news story for TACC, the City of Pickering, the Region of Durham, and the provincial and federal governments. This is an exciting and unique program that will unite DARS with community partners to address homelessness in the Durham region. Hopefully, it will become a major and unique positive solution to dealing with homelessness in the region going forward.

For additional information, contact Margaret Eskins, Acting Executive Director at Ph 416.705.9241

---



RATEPAYER ASSOCIATIONS are very important neighbourhood groups. They are more than 'neighbourhood watch' groups. Some are very dynamically lead, very engaged in community charities, and strong information networks for their neighbourhoods.

Many of the associations have a social presence in Facebook and on the web.



The Fairport Beach Neighbourhood Association is one of the strongest and most active of the neighbourhood associations in the Pickering. Led by energetic President Paul White, this association is very active in charity work, making donations to many community organizations, working diligently to keep the neighbours informed about their City, and doing work to keep its neighbourhood secure, safe and clean. This association is continuously connected with the City of Pickering Councillors, Brenner in particular, which means it has the ear of the Council but also hears directly from the Council in regards to related community affairs. A very strong community association.



The Rougemount Community and Recreation Association is the new 'kid on the block' established in late 2023. CEO Peggy Bowie is the whirlwind dynamo who spear-headed the launch of the organization and her energy, drive and dedication will likely make the association into a vital backbone to that community. This year the RCRA will be hosting a block party that may be the 'talk of the town' from the previews and word that is seen and heard. Though the RCRA is the rookie of the established neighbourhood associations, the RCRA looks like it will become a very going concern in its neighbourhood once it gets its feet more firmly planted.

## PWSCA

Pickering West Shore Community Association  
*bridging our community together*

The West Shore Community Association has been active for a number of years. Their West Shore Community Centre, led by energetic association executive Jake Farr, offers community services such as weekly meals for the needy. Current President Scott Loyst has committed to providing more information about the association and we look forward to publishing it.





The Whitevale Community Association, north of Pickering, established many years ago, is a registered ratepayers association with a website publishing information about itself. We will publish updated information once it is received.

# ***POLITICAL Desk:***

***News from councillors, elected reps and community associations***



## ***Political commentary:***

Each month, *we invite every elected representative* of the region and municipality to write a message for our *Political Desk*. We thank the representatives and appreciate the responses we receive and publish those messages below.

---

## ***From the PICKERING City Council***



Profile  
mayor@pickering.ca

**Councillor Maurice Brenner**  
Regional Councillor Ward 1

**Councillor Linda Cook**  
Regional Councillor Ward 2

**Councillor David Pickles**  
Regional Councillor Ward 3



Profile  
mbrenner@pickering.ca

**Councillor Lisa Robinson**  
City Councillor Ward 1



Profile  
lcook@pickering.ca

**Councillor Mara Nagy**  
City Councillor Ward 2



Profile  
dpickles@pickering.ca

**Councillor Shaheen Butt**  
City Councillor Ward 3



Profile  
lrobinson@pickering.ca



Profile  
mnagy@pickering.ca



Profile  
sbutt@pickering.ca



## ***May newsletter from Councillor Brenner***

Councillor Brenner, Region & Ward 1 Councillor, has a very comprehensive newsletter that covers a broad range of topics including...*hold your breath now:*

- Fire Safety
- Rabies Clinic for Pickering pets
- Petapalooze details
- Artfest information
- Council Meeting highlights
- Building Permit Reports
- Planning & Development PUBLIC Meeting, May 6, 7pm
- Durham Region Council Update
- Durham Region 2025 Strategic Plan
- Dunmoore Dog Park Leash-Free Area work resumed
- Waterfront Trail 2024 Updates with "New" Free Waterfront Shuttle Service
- Beachfront Park Revitalization Plans description
- Waterfront Trail reconstruction continued
- Splash pads to open May 17th
- Millennium Square Summer Concerts resume Thursday evenings, July 4th
- Collaborative FITNESS PROGRAM launches in JUNE  
Free Fitness Activities offered throughout June
- Kick-off Event for National Health & Fitness Day  
- DanceFit Jam Party, Saturday, June 1, 10:30am to 12:30pm
- Free Swim: CHDRC Pool, Tues, June 11, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
- Furry Friends Fit Club Walking Program
- International Yoga Day (Sunset Yoga in the Park)
- Free Fitness Fridays
- Region-wide Activities via Durham Tourism
- Lobbyist Registry information

Click → [MAY Newsletter](#)



The 5 year study on Infill and Replacement Housing in Established Neighbourhoods has been passed by Council, and puts into place new Zoning bylaws that set out criteria for property owners. Fairport Beach proper is defined under bylaw 2511 and amending bylaws. This also applies to most of the West Shore community, Rosebank, Rougemount, and Bay Ridges. A new height bylaw was passed in 2018 to limit new builds at 9 meters. Other requirements are for lot frontage at 15m. or 50'. Front and rear yard setbacks are 7.5m. or 25'. Side yard setbacks are 1.5m. or 5'. Maximum lot coverage for a new build is 33%, and in some instances up to 40% on Cliffview Rd. on the east side only.

Why do we have all these requirements in place? Before the height bylaw was passed, we had 3 story houses being built with balconies built into the 3rd. floor roofline facing the backyards. Not only is privacy in your backyard an issue, but shadowing becomes an issue where the adjoining houses are one or two stories. With pressure from the province to increase density and allow smaller lots, developers are asking to divide larger lots into more lots. One such case was on Marksbury Rd./ Surf. Two lots facing Marksbury were divided at the back to allow another house to be built on Surf. We met with the developer and he agreed to take the rear facing balconies out of the plan drawings. On Cliffview Rd., one large lot was divided into 3 lots of ,60', 50', 50'. The original lot sold for \$1.85 million. Two of the houses have sold for over \$2 million and one remains on the market at \$2.8 million.

Now we have the latest concept. A builder has applied to the Durham Region Land Division to divide 700 Hillview Cres. along its length to create one lot facing Hillview and the severed parcel facing Hillcrest Rd. The newly severed property would only be as deep as the width of the former lot at 56'. It went before the Land Division committee on Feb. 7/22 and was tabled. That would leave this builder one other avenue to pursue; Committee of Adjustments. So far we have had 2 cases go to the Ontario Land Tribunal(OLT) where owners/developers disagreed with the decisions of the Planning Dept. and/or Committee of Adjustments (C of A).The Pickering Council went "in-camera" at a Jan.10/22 meeting, and decided that they would not hire outside legal or planning expertise to defend the position of the Committee of Adjustments to deny approval of minor variances in regard to 4 separate applications. In the case of 566 West Shore Blvd.

both the Planning Dept. and CofA denied a minor variance application. The owner appealed to the OLT. We were assured that the City would send staff to state their opinion. A planner showed up to the meeting but stated they were there only as an observer. Therefore no expert defense was provided to uphold City staff of CofA findings. What is going on at City Hall you may ask?

***Paul White***

President



***Rougemount Community and Recreation Association***

The RCRA is launching an inaugural event on June 8, 2024 (just waiting for the permit from the City of Pickering)- a street party on Rouge Valley Drive from 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Looking forward to seeing everyone and volunteers are welcome to come and help!

Contact: ***Peggy Bowie*** (Ph 416.903.3284)

# Health and Ageing...

## **Briefly:**

- FOODS that can help UNCLOG ARTERIES
- WEIGHT LOSS: DIET or EXERCISE
- SHOWER EVERY DAY? Really necessary?

[ *Always consult with your doctor* before undertaking any new medical initiatives or changes ]

## **Clogged ARTERIES**

[Source: Ian McClymont - Pensioner Fitness]

From symptoms of clogged arteries to 22 foods that help to unclog arteries, read this information for improving your health: — > [Arteries](#)

## **WEIGHT LOSS**

[Source: McMaster OPTIMAL AGING PORTAL]

There is a great debate as to which is more effective for weight loss, DIETING or EXERCISING. Read the answer that McMaster University OPTIMAL AGING PORTAL gives to this age old question at —> [McMaster](#)

## **SHOWER EVERY DAY?**

[Source: BBC Health- Matilda Welin]

You should wash your hands everyday, frequently but as for your body, no! In fact, showering daily may be bad for you by drying out your skin and undermining your immune system. Read more at —> [SHOWERING](#)


## TECHNOLOGY:

### **Briefly - Notes and comments about TECHNOLOGY:**

- Extensions in Google Chrome
- My website: simplifying; newsletter delivery; **coming:** Writer Resource Centre *FEE*



*Technology* is aimed at mid to beginner level computer users. It is not intended as a

“Computer ‘HOW TO’ manual but many readers of  use the *Technology section* for ideas and assistance for their computer work.

### **Extensions**

Extensions are applets, mini programs, that perform specific tasks in your browser. There are a number of pages on the Szpinner website at [www.szpin.ca](http://www.szpin.ca) devoted to describing and explaining Extensions. One excellent page can be found at [Productivity: Extensions](#).

### **My website - trying to keep things easy and simple**

My website at [www.szpin.ca](http://www.szpin.ca) has been published for nearly 10 years with more than 5000 pieces. Therefore trying to simplify navigation of the site is very difficult. Some readers have asked for a simple list of posts. There is one on the front page for the “latest dozen.” It would be a horrendous list if I posted all 5000+.

Hence, it is important to use one of the two “SEARCH” boxes available on the front page: by *Topic*, by *Category*. Also, using the widgets, the little images on the right side of the page like *Editorials*, *Savvy Shopper* will display the posts published in that sections.

---

### **WIDGETS**

*WIDGETS*, sections located on the right side of The Szpinner website, contain posts or articles relating to their title. Some widget titles, Editorials, Savvy Shopper, Pickering+, Point-Counterpoint, Writers Resource Centre. Each has material in it relative to its title. *WIDGETS* always display on every screen for constant availability.

### **Writer Resource Centre (free access till June 1)**

If you are a writer, the *Writer Resource Centre* has many useful articles for you ranging from publishing advice to help tools for writing. It is a treasure trove advice and assistance gems for writers. Access to all the information, tools and advice is *free until June 1st*. Visit the widget now and see what’s available or interests you while access is still free.

---

### ***Savvy Shopper***

One section readers who like saving money read regularly is '[Savvy Shopper](#).' So let's give you a little information about the author, [Nadia Girardi](#).



Nadia is a retired secondary school administrator. She was a Vice Principal at a number of Toronto Catholic District School Board high schools.

A life-long passionate traveler, retirement gave her more time to indulge in one of her most ardent interests, traveling the world. She has touched every continent on the globe except for Antarctica, and as she hates the cold, she may never visit it.

She is an avid gardener and a talented painter, both hobbies practiced with devotion and serious commitment.

Finally, Nadia is amazingly frugal. She has been dedicated to getting the most out of her spending and this has made her a careful shopper all her life. This impassioned dedication to careful spending led to her creation of the '[Savvy Shopper](#)' column.

Weekly, Nadia scours the food retailer flyers hunting for the best grocery deals and then she writes her column to help others save time and get latest and best up-to-date grocery deals. Her columns highlight foods that are typical, not just bargain items which your family may never eat.

In these inflationary times where food costs seem to be sky rocketing regularly, her '[Savvy Shopper](#)' column is a practical guide to helping you save your money.

As Nadia says, "Carpe Diem," or "Better a penny in my pocket than theirs."

Check out her column at '[Savvy Shopper](#).'

---



## Travel...

### *Briefly:*

- Some of this material is untested but readers may find it useful.



CanXplore is a tour operating company in the Durham region. We specialize in escorted tours for the 'young-at-heart.' Our accommodation in Newfoundland is in best of class hotels in each area we travel.

### **Spring/Summer 2024 Tour Additions**

- **Spring Garden Tour, June 13** - more info at [www.canxplore.com/springgardentour](http://www.canxplore.com/springgardentour)
- **[SOLD OUT] Prince Edward County Wine Tour, June 20** - more info at [www.canxplore.com/prince-edward-county](http://www.canxplore.com/prince-edward-county)  
[ Both above tours depart from Durham Region ]

### **Newfoundland Tour, 2024 [ Bookings closed for this tour ]**

## **Newfoundland Tour, 2025, July 5-14 [ Booking now ]**

**(Waiting list signing being accepted)**

Our outstandingly popular Newfoundland tour is being booked now. This tour has received dozens of "5 star" reviews. Here are some of what our previous clients have said...

---

Cathy was so much fun and the small group was perfect. I will book again soon!! Very professional driver as well. Karen A.

---

This coach tour brings Newfoundland alive. From west to east: Western Brook Pond, "Anchors

Away" entertainment, to Gander- feels great to be associated with these people, to the eastern tip of Canada, and boat touring seeing icebergs, puffins and whales. Get screeched in to become an Honorary Newfoundlander. This tour brings it all together with smiles, tears and pride to have been part of NFLD for a short while!  
W.B.W.

---

This trip to Newfoundland was beyond amazing in so many ways.

Cathy created a diverse, interesting, and creative itinerary, encompassing the many aspects of Newfoundland. The geography of the area was an experience: tours of the Tablelands (i.e. the earth's mantle), a boat tour through the amazing fiords, Bonne Bay which showed us the other side of Gros Morne, all expertly explained by very knowledgeable guides. A bonus on our boat trips was being entertained Newfoundland style on our ride back to the docks.

We were fortunate to see icebergs, whales, and puffins on our other boat tours.

Newfoundland history was presented with tours of Trinity, Bonavista, where we saw a replica of Giovanni Caboto's ship, Signal Hill, and more.

And the fun stuff!!! Wine and beer tastings, our own kitchen party at one of the hotels, Anchors Away Show, and of course getting Screeched!!

Cathy's attention to detail was exceptional, making sure everyone's needs were met. Garfield, our bus driver, was a delight, going above and beyond.

I highly recommend CanXplore,

Mary Ann M.

---

What a fantastic 10 days in NFLD with a great group of people! The entire trip was very well planned out. Every day was packed with great sites, excellent food & lots of activities. Cathy did a fantastic job of keeping us well informed and entertained (especially on the bus). Our bus driver (Garfield) being a Newfoundlander, shared many stories from his past & present. He made sure I had my fill of bananas



I would recommend CanXplore for future trips.

Karen M.

---

Newfoundland has always been on my bucket list...fantastic 10 day bus trip. Cathy you could not have done it better..no complaints

Carolyn N.

For more information information, see [CANxPLORE TOURS](#)

---

## ***Newfoundland Discovery Tour: July 7 - 18, 2024***

**Final date for booking tours: April 15, 2024**

Book at [www.canxplore.com/newfoundland](http://www.canxplore.com/newfoundland)... Or Email Cathy: [cathy@canxplore.com](mailto:cathy@canxplore.com)

## Books Shelf...

### **Briefly:**

- This material is information regarding BOOKS. There is no affiliation with any BOOK related corporation or commercial organization.
- Some readers still purchase hard copy BOOKS. With *global warming* in mind, we suggest book readers borrow books from their local libraries rather than buying hard copies.



Gail and Heather, two retired school administrators, are passionate readers of BOOKS. Their book commentaries, suggestions and opinions are astute and valuable information about books.

### **Gail Aziz**

Gail, still actively involved with professional development and responsibilities in the community today, is not only an avid reader but also a published author, "[The Larroger Road](#)." Many of the months of the year, she resides at her cottage in the Gravenhurst area of Ontario. A boater, a fisherperson, a doting aunt, Gail is amazing in her repertoire of activities and reading.

### **Heather Stuart**

Heather is very active in the community as a dynamic and energetic Book Club manager of almost twelve members. She is a passionate reader who reads a wide assortment of books, always interesting and often listed on today's best sellers lists. One of her strongest attributes is her astounding memory. She draws from a deep well of what she has experienced and recalls the information with the alacrity of a hummingbird dipping into the nectar of a flower.



### **Richard on BOOKS...attention WRITERS**

Recently, I enrolled in a series of Writer workshops given by a young author and workshop present at the Pickering Public Library, *Joseph Donato*. He is a gentle poet who motivates and inspires the attending budding authors. Every workshop is a treasure trove of writing information and advice for authors.

To see some of the results of what I have learned at this Writers' workshop series, visit —> [WRITERS RESOURCE CENTRE](#)

### ***Chapbooks***

Chapbooks are mini books, usually about a dozen pages or so. They are 'opportunities' for writers to dip their toe in the waters of publishing. Writers can try a different style of writing, a different genre, poetry instead of prose or vice versa, or develop a story line to see how it feels. These can be published and sold just like regular books but as they are mini books, at mini prices. Chapbooks can be valuable tools for experimentation by any author.



Hello everyone...

Mowed the lawn twice already and we're just entering May. Do you get the feeling summer may one for the record books this year. Lets just hope and pray that we have dependability from our hydroelectricity suppliers and not excuses for 'brown outs' just when we will the the AC the most. One can hope!

As always, my thanks and appreciation to everyone who has supported our publications be it with a donation by eTransfer or by just visiting and leaving a comment. I really appreciate your support.

Be cool and stay cool!

Thank you.

**Richard** ( *with a lot of assistance from...* )

**Nadia** and **Fermo** )