



The Szpinner

JULY, 2024

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Editorial

Briefly:

Editorial comments are solely the opinions of the site manager.



Canada is a great place to live for many people. For the most part, it offers security, stability and opportunity. With some luck, good breaks and personal drive, most people can make a good life here.

Most certainly, as we are dealing with millions of people in the country, there are problems. Every country in the world has a surfeit of problems. These are unavoidable as people with their varied values, varied principles and varied personal drives push and pull their homeland in varied directions.

Canada has fewer problems than many other countries. We have no military factions causing aggressive turmoil. Most people are employed, make a living and have sufficient income to live a satisfactory life. Canada offers some safety nets to help those needing support and assistance. There are food banks, shelters for the homeless, care systems for the mentally and physically challenged. Granted, all our safety nets may need revision, improvements and better funding but for the most part, Canada tries to make life better for all its citizens.

However, the biggest benefit of living in Canada is freedom. Canadians are free to go where they want, do what they want and live as they want, the only limits are the practical ones of finance and social/legal regulations. Otherwise, you can go wherever you want, whenever you want with the assurance that you are free as a bird in Canada.

Canada is a great country in which to live and be fortunate enough to have citizenship. Enjoy Canada Day as you take a moment to appreciate all the good things in your life afforded you as a resident and/or as a citizen.

Happy Canada Day everyone!

Community Board

Briefly:

This is COMMUNITY NEWS, primarily relating to Pickering and the Durham Region.

- **Town Hall, Ward 1**
- **Neighbourhood Association** links



This Town Hall will focus on the health risks associated with ticks, and Lyme disease. Guest speakers from Durham Health will be attending.

Come out to the Town Hall to learn more about our community.



For the **FBNA Facebook** page, Click —> [FBNA](#)



The **Rougemount Community and Recreation Association (RCRA)** is a new Association in the Rougemount Precinct of Pickering Ontario.

The RCRA was formed to provide an opportunity for residents of Rougemount to meet and participate in local live events, share information about the district governments and elected officials and encourage people in recreational activities at the Rouge Valley Park on Rouge Valley Drive.

Please contact Peggy Bowie if you are interested in helping organize and join the RCRA Board. Contact phone **416.903.3284**

For RCRA website, Click —> [RCRA](#)

PWSCA

Pickering West Shore Community Association
bridging our community together

POLITICAL Desk:

News from councillors, elected reps and community associations



Political commentary:

Each month, we touch base with our elected representatives and important community leaders.

We invite each to write a message for our *Political Desk*. We thank those who have responded.

From the PICKERING City Council



Profile
mayor@pickering.ca

Councillor Maurice Brenner
Regional Councillor Ward 1



Profile
mbrenner@pickering.ca

Councillor Lisa Robinson
City Councillor Ward 1



lrobinson@pickering.ca

Councillor Linda Cook
Regional Councillor Ward 2



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Councillor Mara Nagy
City Councillor Ward 2



Profile
mnagy@pickering.ca

Councillor David Pickles
Regional Councillor Ward 3



Profile
dpickles@pickering.ca

Councillor Shaheen Butt
City Councillor Ward 3



Profile
sbutt@pickering.ca



From Mayor Ashe...

Dear Friends,

As we enter the month of July, it is my great pleasure to wish you all a Happy Canada Day! On July 1st, we come together to honour the incredible country we are privileged to call home.

Canada Day is a moment to reflect on the achievements that have shaped our nation, celebrate our shared values, and look forward to the future we are building together. We have so much to be thankful for in this beautiful country—our democratic freedoms, our diverse and multicultural society, and the natural beauty that surrounds us.

As we celebrate our country, I recognize that this day can be difficult for many people—both Indigenous and non-Indigenous—due to our country’s history of colonialism and its ongoing impacts on Indigenous communities across Turtle Island.

These celebrations are an opportunity for all of us to be mindful and honest about this history so that we can meaningfully pursue reconciliation through reflection, learning, and truth.

Together, let us celebrate the promise and potential of our country and of each other, uniting in community, respect, and friendship.

Here in Pickering, our sense of community is strong, vibrant, and inclusive. We are fortunate to live in a City that celebrates its diversity and sees it as a cornerstone of our collective strength. I am deeply grateful for the spirit of unity that defines Pickering. Our City is not just a place where we live; it is a place where we thrive together.

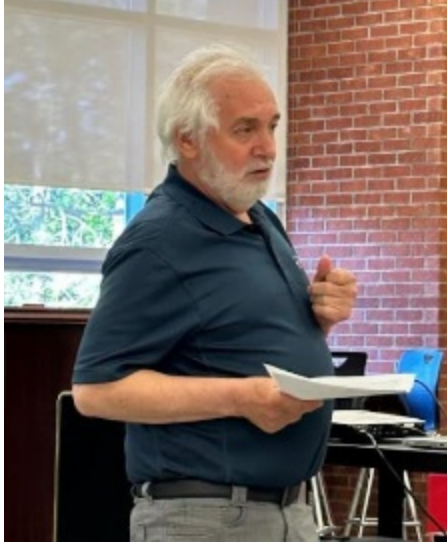
As we celebrate Canada Day and enjoy the warm weather in the month of July, let us come together in unity, respect, and friendship. Let us celebrate our beautiful country and the incredible community we have here in Pickering. May we continue to work together to build a better, brighter future for all.

Happy Canada Day, Pickering!

Kevin Ashe

Mayor of Pickering

From Councillor Brenner...



Hi Richard:

While I was unable to write a separate article, I have managed to finish another e-news letter. Please feel free to use it in your up coming edition.

To view my eNewsletter, click → [BRENNER](#)

Maurice Brenner

Councillor Ward 1
Regional Councillor



Councillor Lisa Robinson
Ward 1

Happy Canada Day Pickering! Today, we celebrate our beautiful country and the values that unite us all under one flag. Let's enjoy this day with pride, reflecting on our shared heritage and the freedoms we cherish. Wishing everyone a joyful and memorable Canada Day! (Dominion Day)

Lisa Robinson

Councillor, Ward 1



Paul White
President



Rougemount Community and Recreation Association

June 8, 2024 saw the Rougemount Community and Recreation Association (RCRA) of Pickering Ontario launched its first (and we hope one of many to come) Park and Community Party.

There were between 300 & 400 attendees during the 3 hour time from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the Rouge Valley Park on Rouge Valley Drive.

Thank you so much MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy for coming and speaking with our community. It makes a huge difference when elected officials show up, share a few words and spend some time talking to constituents.

To our home town favourite, Councilor Maurice Brenner, you are always a big hit with the people of Rougemount. Your common sense approach and willingness to engage to help wherever possible will keep you close to our hearts!

Nicole Karbach, the RCRA Secretary, organized a very successful children's activity event. A very big hit with the children!

Abdullah Mir, Vice President of the RCRA, did a fantastic job with the Vendors. Helping to secure vendors to participate and getting everyone situated and set up.

Joseph Poon, RCRA Membership Director, was also a driving factor of vendors participation. He worked tirelessly to make this event a success by spreading the word, bringing in vendors and generally helping everywhere he could.

Joe Pacione, RCRA Treasurer, brought in vendors, helped sign up new members and made many calls and to spread the word wide and far for our first Park Party.

Richard Szpin deserves a big thank you for helping the RCRA get it done right and spreading the word to his amazing network.

Also, Charlie McCormack was asked to help and he enthusiastically said yes. He was a great boost getting vendors set up to start, and dismantle at the end. So wonderful to have such an extraordinary young man step up to contribute - greatly appreciated.

The Band!!! - Shades of Grey really helped to elevate the atmosphere and

excitement with their lively and beautiful executed tunes! Thank you so much. Thanks also to Craig Bamford, Carol McGuffie and Garry Winsor from the Bayridges Community Association. Your kindness and generosity, your guidance and assistance has been unparalleled! Whether sharing experiences, lending canopies or just showing up to lend a hand, you are what makes Pickering a great city! Strong, committed, civil minded humans showing neighbours the way to do things right!

And last but not least are the wonderful members of the Rougemount Community who attended and participated! The huge numbers became an incredible surprise and a tribute to the strength this community has! Looking forward to seeing you all again in the Fall! - stay tuned as a plan is in the works for more fun and enjoyment!

Peggy Bowie

President

***Rougemount Community
and Recreation Association - RCRA***

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

PWSCA

Pickering West Shore Community Association

From Scott Loyst, President . . .

Pickering West Shore Community Association (PWSCA)

Scott Loyst - President

Pickering.PWSCA@gmail.com

Social Media - <https://www.facebook.com/pickeringpwscamibextid=LQQJ4d>

IG - @pickeringwestshore

Website- <https://pwsc.ca>

Scott Loyst

President

Health: ‘The END Cometh for us all..’

Briefly:

As unpleasant as it feels, one should prepare for one’s end of life. Here are a number of areas that need attention and preparation: Will preparation; Powers of Attorney; funeral and burial instructions, cemetery selection, and organizing all that information in one place, the **Estate Organizer**.

Visit our website at www.szpin.ca to see more helpful ideas and suggestions.

Estate planning:

- Is your Will current or does it need updating?
- Has your address changed since you wrote your Will?
- Has your net worth or income changed? Your employer? Your position?
- Has your marital status changed? Do you have children?
- Do you want to change your designated beneficiary(ies) ?

For more information, contact me at zippyonego@gmail.com

ESTATE ORGANIZER

So, what about “after you?” What are leaving behind in your will? Is the family going to cover all the bases, do all that must be done, find everything they need? Consider this helpful package that will assist you with tying all the loose ends for after. It helps you compile everything you should compile for your family to access and use when the time comes.

Are you covering all the bases? Click —> [BASES](#)

Also see the Estate Organizer sampler at [ESTATE SAMPLER](#)

TECHNOLOGY:

Briefly - Notes and comments about TECHNOLOGY:

- ***The Szpinner*** website: redesigned and improved navigation
- ***AI (artificial intelligence)*** will get to you, sooner than you think.



The Szpinner website was created almost ten years ago with the goal of helping Seniors. The site has grown but so has the number of Seniors. But the site is now visited by many different age groups, not just Seniors and these visitors come from around the world.

From the comments received, I have concluded the site needs simplification, more conciseness and clarity. I am redesigning the site with those factors in mind. I have reduced the numbers of visible categories, menus and sub menus and widgets.

I hope the site will be easier to navigate with these changes. The site will likely have some disruptions and glitches as I make the improvements.

The official launch date of the ***new*** Szpinner is July 31.

Let me know what you think of the new site.

AI's going to get you without a doubt!

OK, so you're not a big-time computer user. If you use computers at all, you better wake up and be aware of what is coming at you.

First, the attitude that "I don't use computers, so I am unaffected," is foolishness

to the extreme. For the foreseeable future, computers are going to impact society more and more regardless if people like it or not.

More and more companies, institutions, organizations are turning to computers. It's related to 'revenue' and 'profit.' Computers save companies money.

Now for Artificial Intelligence, AI

Artificial Intelligence is a developing computer tool. Don't know anything about it? Doesn't matter. AI is being increasingly used by companies. Again, revenue, profit. No one cares about your support or ignorance about it at all. AI provides companies with cheap labour, no salary payment, no benefits provision. Just labour as needed by the client.

Head out of the sand?

You may not use computers much, but do you live, breathe, spend money, buy food, purchase things and exist in the real world. Well, you are being affected by AI, Artificial Intelligence. AI is delving deeper and deeper: it operates as telephone responder; it listens, understands the spoken word, and responds efficiently, effectively and without need for salary, promotion or benefits.

AI...who cares?

The only people who should care about AI at all are those who eat, buy things, breathe. AI is a computer tool that constantly learns and teaches itself. Within a decade, AI will be more intelligent than any human being according to AI experts. At this time, AI has no guard rails attached to it. So it can go the way AI users take it, for good, for bad.

"Oh they won't get you!" AI is learning to imitate/mimic voices with uncanny accuracy. AI is generating images that are becoming more and more realistic as it learns to fine tune the images and remove erroneous parts. Soon it will be able to generate an image that you will believe is real and have it read a pre-written script. You will be taken in, hook, line and sinker because AI will have learned the language, the words, the image duplication so well, it will look real and totally authentic to you.

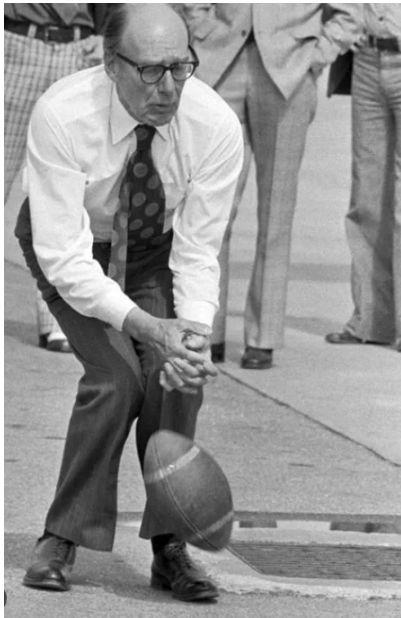
You refuse to believe all the above

Doesn't matter. It's all coming, coming to a 'theatre' near you, your home. Not just your computer but your TV, your phone, your digital devices, your home. Scary... you bet it is.

AI power is constantly growing

AI's power growth is extraordinary and growing constantly. AI can generate images of anything, images that are becoming increasingly authentic looking, mimic voices better than Polly the parrot. Tomorrow you will not be able to differentiate between the fake and the real.

Remember this?



AI can add motion to it, to make it look like action. Robert Stanfield would have caught the ball if they had used AI. Such images can be created and enhanced in AI. World leaders can be made to look like they are singing silly songs; well-known politicians can perform unbelievable stunts, and celebrities or non-celebrities can do incredible actions. AI learns, and acts on what it has learned.

What's all this got to do with you?

You're going to be affected by AI no matter what you say, what you do. So what should you do?

Learn about AI. Learn about its capabilities. Learn about what AI can do. Pay attention to stories you hear and read about AI. They are real and they have more believability than Trudeau winning the next federal election. AI's power is ever increasing as it learns more and more. It's becoming stronger than real garlic from Spain or southern Ontario farms.



AI itself is not the malevolent genie out of the bottle. Any malevolence it has comes from the people using it. You can't remove people, so, better to learn about them, how they work, what they do, how they do their evil things. Ignoring what is happening out there is being short-sighted. Ignore it and eventually it will cost you. Instead, educate yourself. Learn about AI. Learn about the scams used by AI and how they operate. Ignoring it all will cost you. Learn a little each day and in the long run, you will minimize the negative impact with which it will hit you inevitably.

Travel...

Briefly:

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

CAN X PLORE



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.

Newfoundland Tour, 2025, July 5-14 [Booking starts in Sept]

(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](#)

Book at www.canxplore.com/newfoundland... Or Email Cathy: 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 or use digital applications such as Kindle or Libby.



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



Heather Stuart

Summertime reading (suggestions from Heather's Book Club)

Winner of the Woman's Prize for Fiction:

The Brotherless Night by V.V. Ganeshanathan

Winner of the Woman's Prize for Non-fiction:

Doppelganger: A Trip into the Mystery World by Naomi Klein (CANADIAN)

Mystery Books by Gilly MacMillan

The Long Weekend

The Nanny

To Tell You the Truth

Books by Colm Tobin

Brooklyn

Long Island

Books by Nancy Mitford

The Pursuit of Love (1945)

Humour Book

All at Sea by Tim Fitzhigham

Historical Fiction

The Secret Keeper by Genevieve Graham

Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See

The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See

The Vaster Wilds by Lauren Groff

Far Cry by Alisa York

The Lost Year: A Survival Story of the Ukrainian Famine by Katherine Marsh

Award winners - Translated from French into English

Forgotten on Sunday by Valerie Perrin

Fresh Water for Flowers by Valerie Perrin

Current Literature:

Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult

Hey Zoey by Sarah Crossan

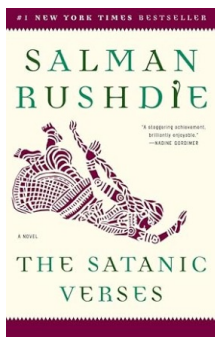


Richard on BOOKS

They said 6 months, more likely to be 7 but the progress continues...after the hip replacement. I can't go under the limbo bar yet, and I definitely cannot jog but...

MEANWHILE

I can still read and I do...a lot...and here are two note-worthy authors, both repeats but with different books:



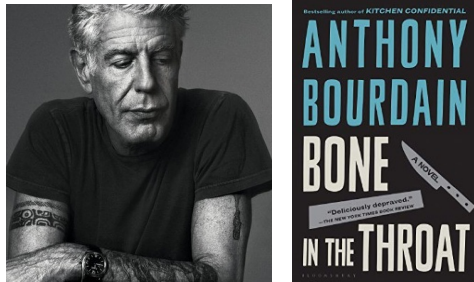
Salman Rushdie revisited

Satanic Verses is Rushdie's highly acclaimed first best seller. Having tried to read it, I find two questions coming to mind: either my intellectual capability is less than that of the majority of the reading population

or the readers who sing the praises of this book endlessly belong to the group who praise the nakedly clad emperor. The latter is likelier than the former.

Rushdie's novel at best, is an author practicing and playing with his craft in the public domain fooling the masses into believing the verbal apparel has hit unparalleled peaks. BS !!!

Read my review at [VERSES](#)



ANTHONY BOURDAIN

Anthony Bourdain was a celebrity chef, raconteur and travel documentary film maker. He was one of those highly intelligent people who suffered serious mental anguish endlessly. Bourdain committed suicide in Paris in 2018.

Besides being a renown chef, he wrote his first bestseller, "Kitchen Confidential," in 2000. Then he followed it up with more than a dozen other books, none hitting the acclaim the first received. The man never slept.

Bone in the Throat

Murder, the mob and organized crime in Manhattan, Bourdain's debut novel is blood and gore in the kitchen, not with delivered purveyor products but with human victims. It was not a novel I would recommend as it seems to be nothing more than Bourdain practicing how to write mob related material. Not exciting!

Read my full review at [BONE](#)



Hello everyone...

Though we have done a real number on global warming and the environment, and continue destroying both with incredible effectiveness, let's be thankful we have not completed the job yet. In fact, researchers and climate experts believe we have not yet reached the point of no return. We can reverse the downward spiral of climate and global destruction but only if we dedicate ourselves to and become active in that goal. Our summer of daily rainfall should confirm the havoc we have wreaked but July has just arrived. So we may yet have the kind of summer we have known before and expect as the norm.

Try to do your part to save the planet as we do here in our house.

As always, my thanks and appreciation to newsletter readers and website supporters.

Summer's comin' and it's gonna be a hot one, is my prediction. So be cool and stay cool!

Thank you.

Richard (*with a lot of
assistance from...*)
Nadia and **Fermo**)