



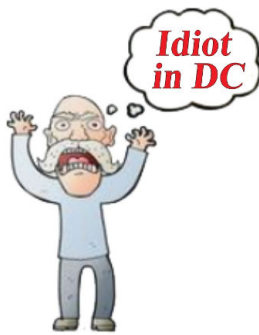
The DESKS

1. **FRONT DESK:** *AmeriKa - I don't love you anymore*
 2. **POLITICAL DESK:** *some elected representatives wrote*
 3. **ELECTIONS CANADA:** *election data, made easy peasy*
 4. **Richard's DESK:** *elections - unnecessary one vs necessary ones*
 5. **HEALTH DESK:** *pave the way for your heirs*
 6. **BOOKS DESK:** *abandoning adult comics for classics*
 7. **TECH DESK:** *Much to do for after you're gone*
 8. **SUPPORT CANADIAN PUBLICATIONS:** *Appreciation*
 9. **LAST WORD:** *Support Canadians*
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From the **FRONT DESK:**

AmeriKa, I don't love you anymore!

This isn't a lambasting of the USA, nor a serious criticism though one is suitable. Rather it's an assessment of the state the world is in because of the madman who leads the country.



The *psycho* in the presidential office is causing worry and anxiety everywhere. No one knows his next move but whatever it is, it will cause more trouble.

Pleasurable travel days of US travel gone

I used to travel the USA, a lot, especially in my motorcycling days. Travel there meant visiting many little towns, one after the other, like railroad cars link in a train. Each little town was similar to the previous; a centrally-located gas station, a small pub nearby with good old American beer, so light you hardly knew it was alcohol. One had to be careful drinking it because one or two were barely noticeable but the blood alcohol level was rising. I never drank and rode.

Amerikans don't travel much

Not patronizing one of these pubs meant missing out on AmeriKan culture, meeting down to earth AmeriKans, feeling the pulse of the country, town after town. Sit at the bar and be open to every patron. AmeriKans love to talk, to expound on everything AmeriKan. Many know little about the greater world out there because many traveled less than 40 or 50 miles from where they live in their whole lifetime. Those who were somewhat adventurous might have explored their state but beyond that their real life experience was non-existent. Knowledge from beyond this limited region was unfamiliar territory, though some was learned from TV and even then that was tainted. They might know a little

more about their own country but that knowledge came from slanted news broadcasts. Otherwise, most knew nothing about the world beyond the 50 or a hundred mile region around their home.

Today's AmeriKa has changed little. More news awareness; more knowledge about their president and his doings. Importantly, don't call him an *idiot* in an AmeriKan bar. Almost every AmeriKan is on the tipping point if a foreigner, criticizes their leader. Surprisingly, most AmeriKans are very current on what their president declares. Some may agree he lies a lot but most feel he is simply telling it like it is. Be careful to discuss the country in a calm, quiet manner as a more passionate or heated discussion can open the door to more aggressive retaliation. Did you know there are more guns in USA than there are people?

Everything about travelling in AmeriKa was fun **BI** (*Before idiot*). There was a lot of sameness. Beef, burgers, steaks and fries, standard fare, everywhere. Salad, huh? Veggies, doubtful. But a medium cooked burger with fries, ubiquitous. Steak, medium rare with a baked potato, available in every diner and inevitably excellent in quality, taste and price. Prices were great when the Canadian dollar had some value compared to the AmeriKan. Today, with all those fluctuatingly T**** imposed tariffs, the Canadian dollar is worth less and prices are much higher.

Passionate about their president

As much as I like travelling in the USA, and mingling with AmeriKans, it won't be in the cards in the near or foreseeable future, in my view.

T**** has made entering the USA a precarious if not outright risky endeavour. Documentation criteria for border-crossing fluctuates like the flutter of a bee's wings and it better be in proper order, to the crossed 't' and dotted 'i'. Otherwise, you risk detention by **ICE**, Immigration and Customs Enforcement. I use the word 'detention' intentionally. Stories abound about people who

had documentation amiss suffering serious repercussions. Detention, extended jail-time even, for days or weeks until the troublesome document was updated by a family member or travel companion. Such are the risks of travel to the USA now, outright risky. This is no joke !

USA - as dangerous as a 3rd world country

Flying over AmeriKan airspace can be risky as is flying in an AmeriKan made plane. A door could fly off, in mid flight, an engine could burst into flame in flight, the plane could do a 180 flip upon landing...one never knows. Amerikan airspace is risky as T**** and his DOGE wrench, Elon Musk, have 'de-employed' high numbers of federal employees. Attorneys general, drug and food inspectors, regulators and control supervisors. Air controller numbers have been decreased making flights less monitored and less regulated. Flying in AmeriKan airspace is a chancey endeavour now days. Thank you *President psycho!*

USA travel, like walking on eggshells

What was once a great place to travel through, vacation in and visit, has become a walk on thin ice. The *idiot* has made it a country which is no longer that ally we once felt good about. Now we see it as a country that is looking down on us, menacingly and dangerously. However, their economic war with us has produced unexpected benefits nationally as Canadian unity has not been as strong in decades, if ever. The new Prime Minister, Carney, may even pull off a wonder of wonders uniting the 13 disparate Canadian economies into one national one.

Unfortunately, the Canadian mouse is sleeping next to a gigantic red, white and blue elephant.

The final word

This is a very troubling time and the psycho in the White House increases the volatility with every mad word he blurts out on a whim, spontaneously, at the spur of the moment with no thought about its effect or repercussions. After all, they are the most powerful country in the world militarily and they can prove it. Just watch him!

POLITICAL DESK:

News from councillors, elected reps and community associations



Political commentary:

Receiving news and updates from the City of Pickering elected leaders is valuable and beneficial. The Mayor and Councillors are invited and always welcome to send news and updates to be published here.

As always, we wish the Pickering Council, the Ratepayer associations and the provincial and federal representatives well.

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



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Councillor Lisa Robinson
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Councillor Maria Nagy
City Councillor Ward 2



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Councillor Shahaen Butt
City Councillor Ward 3



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From Mayor Ashe....

Kevin Ashe

Mayor, City of Pickering

From Councillor Maurice Brenner....

An Effective Nuisance Bylaw

While the majority of residents in Pickering are thoughtful and respectful when disposing of litter, unfortunately there are those who do not, and their disrespect for our communities has resulted in bags of garbage thrown on public and private properties. Not only is it unsightly but potentially causes damage to the environment.

On a regular basis, I receive numerous calls, as well as seeing numerous posts on Social media from frustrated residents demanding the Municipality do something to stop this practise and clean up the garbage. The solution however can not be just solved by Municipal Government, it takes a collective approach and partnership with residents. Many will ask, what's the point?, even if we report what we see there is no enforcement and no consequences.

I believe that the City of Pickering's recent anti-littering campaign is a step in the right direction. By establishing a marketing campaign that will engage with residents and stakeholders in an effort to create greater awareness of the negative impacts of littering and a call for the majority to be the eyes on the street to report the minority who litter is a good start. Coupled with a new and effective nuisance bylaw, reporting can and will have consequences for those who litter. But what's the use you may be thinking, no one is ever charged. In the short period that the nuisance bylaw has been implemented, City staff have already inspected over 115 bags of garbage, looking for anything that can identify the source that has littered the City. Currently 15 cases are before the Courts with charges having been laid and others in the works.

While together we can and will step up to clean up public streets, there will always continue to be those who are not deterred by the risk of consequences, our message to those who continue to disrespect our City is clean up your act or face the consequences. **YOU WILL GET CAUGHT.**

Watch for my next column as we tackle speeding on our Roads

Maurice Brenner

Regional Councillor, Ward 1

From Councillor David Pickles....

David

Pickles

Regional Councillor Ward 3



Paul White

President



Peggy Bowie

President

(Ph 416.903.3284)

PWSCA

Pickering West Shore Community Association

Scott Loyst
President

ELECTIONS CANADA:



Another election! Are you feeling swamped already with election news, campaign commercials, political promises and hundreds of sound bites from politicians with the campaign just starting?

There's no getting away from it. What's bothersome though is the gibberish that is served along with the good stuff, junk mixed in with meaty stuff, poop with the proper. To help reduce the clutter, my website has a special section dedicated to delivering clean and concise, current and compact news relating to the Canadian Election.

See -> [**CANADAVOTES**](#)

Richard's *DESK*:



A retired school administrator, Richard used to motorcycle across Canada and the USA. Father Time has kiboshed riding giving Richard more time for his other passion, writing. Richard, along with his wife and stubborn Scottie have been living in Pickering for more than 30 years. He is a firm believer that it is one of the best communities to live in in all of Canada.

Message:

An election, we didn't need, we likely didn't want; followed by one that was necessary.

An election we didn't need

Ford won another majority but with fewer seats than previous time. Bonnie Crombie, commendable numbers and Marit Stiles' days won nearly twice Crombie's numbers.

The same kind of hope and wishful thinking that elected Donald T**** was displayed by Ontario voters. Despite Ford's endless sins, scandals and slip-ups the majority of voters ignored it all. 'Better the devil you know...' is not the way to vote but that may have been the thinking of most Ontario voters.

Is life better in Ontario after more than six years of governing by the Conservative Party? It would be interesting to hear the explanations given by people who think it is better. This election result is much like that in the USA. Americans willingly and democratically elected a felon, a misogynist, a lying bully. Listen to their journalists and so-called political experts now criticizing that vote, complaining about the error of their election. Closing the barn door now is too late folks. Ditto in Ontario. Both leaders read the voters' thinking: *'We know you fouled up and continue doing but we accept you with your sins. Go ahead, lead us again.'*

Oh man, what's to be said!

An election we do need

Trudeau was Prime Minister for nearly a decade. His retirement has met with joy and sadness.

Here's a short list of his legacies:

Social and Economic Initiatives:

- Canada Child Benefit
- National \$10-a-day childcare program
- Lowered income taxes for the middle class; raised them on the wealthiest 1%
- Reduced the small business tax rate from 11% to 9%
- Canada Workers' Benefit to support low-wage workers

Environmental and Climate Action:

- A federal carbon pricing policy
- Laws mandating federal emission targets every five years
- Paris Agreement on climate change signed
- Banned certain single-use plastic products

Social Progress:

- Appointed Canada's first gender-balanced Cabinet
- Legalized cannabis for recreational use
- Legalized medical assistance in dying
- Passed the Accessible Canada Act to advance rights for Canadians with disabilities
- Increased support for LGBTQ2 Canadians, including federal legislation to protect trans rights

Indigenous Relations:

- Increased annual investments in Indigenous priorities from \$11.4 billion in 2015-16 to \$32.9 billion in 2022-23
- Passed bills affirming Indigenous peoples' jurisdiction over child and family services
- Implemented the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

International Relations and Trade:

- Successfully renegotiated NAFTA into the USMCA, preserving Canada's market access
- Diversified Canadian trade, making Canada the only G7 country with free-trade deals with every other G7 country

Pandemic Response:

- Effectively managed the COVID-19 pandemic, following expert advice and avoiding severe outcomes experienced by some other countries

Trudeau leaves behind a lengthy and concrete legacy.

His successor, Mark Carney, unseated in the Parliament had to call an election. Surprisingly, the polls have elevated support for his Liberal Party to surprising levels. Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre once led the polls by double digit figures. Astonishingly, now Carney leads. He just may be the next Canadian Prime Minister.

The second election, an unavoidable voters' expense

The new Prime Minister, Mark Carney, called an election just 10 days into office, an election for April 28th.

It will be a short campaign, as short as legally allowed. Sly fox? He's tipped the polls in his favour, so needs to take advantage of the poll shift. Carney, an unseated leader chose a safe riding to run in, Nepean, in the Ottawa region, one held for two previous elections by Chandra Arya. Arya was disqualified from running as the candidate of the riding by the Liberal Party a somewhat murky disqualification similar to one the Conservative Party has done in the Uxbridge-Pickering riding where five or six interested candidates were rejected by the party executives of the nomination committee there.

Interesting times, aren't they.

Richard

HEALTH:

Briefly:

- **When you 'go':**

1. Remember your digital property: see -> '**Digital assets**' below
2. Your WILL should cover all the bases...you can't communicate *after*

- **Digital assets**

Life after death? Your digital assets need to be considered in your will. Leave them with clear designation as to what they are, where they are and accessibility to them. **Read->** [LEGACY](#)

- **Estate Planning**

Estate planning is a huge task, no matter its monetary value. Be sure you have covered all the bases with an up-to-date will. Read the following to see if you really do have *all the bases covered*. **Read->** [ESTATE PLANNING](#)

Books Shelf...

Briefly:

- Everyone's been busy, so my posts may be somewhat abbreviated.



Gail and Heather, two dynamic and discerning book enthusiasts, both retired school administrators, bring years of reading experience to the book shelves here.

Richard reads Books:

Digital reading preferred

I read a lot, nightly before 'lights out.' As I have written before, I prefer to read digitally, on my iPad rather than with a book. The benefits of digital reading: annotation, note making, highlighting and bookmarking far outweigh the comfort of a hand-held book.

What I have been reading recently

Recently finishing another book of fiction by one of my favourite authors, I asked myself, what have I learned? How have I benefitted from this book? My conclusion: almost all of my reading is at the level of adult comic books...light, fluffy fiction..no depth, nothing to make note of, nothing lasting. So I decided I should explore books with more to them, the world of classic reads, celebrated books readers have labeled as outstanding literature.

Dipping the toes into the world of "classics"

My first two dips into the 'classic' waters...

1984, George Orwell, published 1949

In George Orwell's 1984, the world is divided into three totalitarian states: Oceania, Eurasia, and Eastasia. Winston Smith, a low-ranking

member of the ruling Party in Oceania, secretly rebels against the government's pervasive surveillance and control. Working at the Ministry of Truth, Winston alters historical records to conform to the Party's ideology. He begins a forbidden affair with Julia and seeks rebellion, but they are caught by the Thought Police. After brutal torture, Winston betrays Julia and comes to love Big Brother, illustrating the devastating effects of totalitarianism on individual freedom and humanity.

This kind of book *needs* note-making as it has paragraph after paragraph that should be revisited, reviewed and re-evaluated and I made notations as I read it. Interestingly, the deeper I got into the book, the more I began to examine and think about the world we now live in, a world where the world's biggest, strongest democracy is being eroded, corrupted and demolished by a psychotic madman.

The more I read, the more troubling this world looked.

Orwell was a visionary in writing **1984**. Our world today mirrors book in many aspects, more than I like. What has seen as solid, stable society, now looks like a fragile house of cards. What was true before is now declared false; previously acknowledged leaders, now revealed as being corrupt scoundrels, the American president topping the list; wars are endless as they are in **1984**, poverty, starvation, violence and crime everywhere just as in **1984**.

A "heavy read" that makes one look at this world with a skeptical eye.

Animal Farm, George Orwell, published 1945

As I thought Orwell is so highly acclaimed of an author, I decided to read another of his classics, ***Animal Farm***, also labeled as a must-read and most certainly a 'must-be-read-digitally' book. However, it is not at the same level as **1984**.

In George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, a group of farm animals, led by the pigs Snowball and Napoleon, rebel against their drunken owner, Mr. Jones, and establish a new society called *Animal Farm*. The animals adopt the Seven Commandments of Animalism, with "All animals are equal" as the core principle. Initially, the farm prospers, but a power struggle ensues between Snowball and Napoleon. Snowball is chased off by Napoleon's dogs, and Napoleon assumes control. He then adopts Snowball's idea of building a windmill but uses propaganda to justify his actions. As time passes, Napoleon's regime becomes increasingly tyrannical, mirroring the corruption of revolutionary ideals, reflecting

Orwell's critique of totalitarianism, particularly the Stalin era in the Soviet Union. The novel ends with the pigs indistinguishable from humans, highlighting the failure of the revolution's ideals.

Animal Farm is a lens on totalitarian governments...and everything about it is more obvious and shallower than 1984. Animal Farm was written during WWII whereas 1984 was written after the war. Animal Farm may have been a rough draft, the rough draft before his final copy, **1984**. Animal Farm is light reading compared to **1984** which is a heavy, gloomy reading taking us into a in depth examination of a seriously changing autocratic world. Democracy in many parts of the world is eroding and diminishing, most notably in the USA.

These two books were my enjoyable transition into more serious literature from my usual reading of frivolity. However, these books are disturbing as they make one stop and think, stop reading and examine and evaluate the current world in we live in. My usual reads never did that....they simply engaged and entertained with frivolous distraction.

I love books, digital books even more and the jury's still out on about classics.

TECH DESK:

Briefly:

- *Interesting* websites:
 1. Elderdog.ca ;
 2. Advancecareplanning.ca ;
 3. Estate planning ;
 4. Digital legacy



Aging dogs, aging people

ElderDog Canada Inc. is a national, community-based, non-profit organization established and incorporated under federal regulations and registered as a Charitable Organization.

ElderDog is governed by a Board of Directors, regulated by by-laws, and run by member volunteers whose work is dedicated to the well-being of older people and older dogs. They rely on donations and fund raising to carry out their work. There are no fees for any of their services.

ElderDog has an informative website at elderdog.ca where you can learn about the work they do, their events and activities.

Take a dog for a walk

Among the many important activities *ElderDog* supports is finding volunteer dog

walkers for older people who are unable to walk their pets as they used to. Consider visiting their website and maybe even becoming a volunteer dog walker. It would be an opportunity for you to meet new people, make new friends, two and four-legged ones, get some fresh air and benefit others, dogs and people.

Check out the information at their site at elderdog.ca

Advance Care Planning Canada

Whether you are interested in advanced care planning for yourself, a friend, or a loved one, *Advance Care Planning Canada* (APC) has information, tools, and resources to help you make informed decisions and share your wishes with the people who matter most.

Advance care planning (ACP) is part of life planning. Life planning involves financial planning, legal planning, health and social services, and community networks. ACP is an important step in taking control of your healthcare journey.

Consider planning for yourself but in some instances, you may need to plan for others. ACP works across Canada. Find out more about ACP at advancecareplanning.ca

Estate planning

Estate planning is a huge task, one which most of us wish to ignore or leave for another time. However, this planning, regardless its monetary value, should be done. Consider it a priority task to include as part of your will preparation, a ‘legacy package’ for your heirs.

Click -> [Estate Planning](#) where you can read important information about estate planning.



Create a legacy contact or plan

You can designate a “*legacy contact*” in Apple and Google accounts or create a legacy plan therein. These accounts have ‘*legacy contact*’ settings where you designate the necessary connections. Some social media sites also offer legacy options.

It is important to make a plan for your digital legacy and

include that in your estate planning.

Update your estate plan

Make sure your will and Power of Attorney documents include language specific to digital assets, indicating a designated representative with access to and management authority to files that could be very important to your family.

Click → [Digital Assets](#) to learn more about planning for your digital assets legacy.

SUPPORT CANADIAN Publications...



The Szpinner is my monthly newsletter. Published for more than six years, it contains a selection of articles on a variety of topics published regularly and currently. Often, these articles are written with more detail as pieces on my website



at www.szpin.ca

AUTOMATIC EMAILING OF



Publishing the newsletter and website incurs expenses which I underwrite personally because I want my site to be commercial free.

In the past, readers and website visitors have responded to my contribution requests with \$5 donation to help defray my expenses. These expenses are ongoing and yearly. I continue these publishing efforts with the same goal, to keep my site free of commercialization. So I again invite readers and visitors to consider making a small donation.

With thanks to my most recent donors, again I ask others to consider updating any contribution they have before with a new one. Contributions can be made by eTransfer to Richard at zippyonego@gmail.com Would you please consider \$5 for my publications again?

I thank you for your consideration and generosity.



Support a fellow CANADIAN...



Support Canada. Support Canadians. Support Canadian writers, Canadian bloggers and Canadian publications.

These publications are CANADIAN, written in Canada, created in Canada and done by a Canadian...

[The Szpinner](#),  newsletter and
[Doc Szpinner](#),  the website are Canadian.

We aren't brow-beating people to be patriotic. We're just bothered by the invasive intrusions and economic attacks by AmeriKa.

So when you can and if you can, support Canadian as much as you can.

We wish you all the best for April and that spring showers bring nice warm temperatures.

