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The Editorial:



Leadership takes courage, determination and responsibility

Real leaders lead from the front. The leaders we currently have lead from behind... from the back of the pack.

Could it be that true leadership is a “thing of the past,” like some other things that seem to be slipping away in current society: manners, respect for authority, principles, compromise. Have leaders, in Canada, throughout the world abrogated the positions they were given? Have leaders everywhere lost their moral compasses?

Leadership at the United Nations? *Fuggedaboutit*. The laughing stock of the globe.

Leadership in the United States? President Biden treads lightly carrying no stick at all and the world sees it. Unfortunately, he may be inadvertently giving seniors a bad name.

Leadership in Canada? Seriously? Where? Who? How?

The United Nations? Oh please. A toothless tiger with the roar of a mouse. The veto power any one of the dominant powers cancels the possibility of any positive or constructive action. There is no Viagra to resolve this organization’s dysfunction. The UN proper serves no useful purpose politically, internationally, militarily but dismantling it will never happen. The international symbolism as well as the perks enjoyed by the diplomats guarantees the the continuity of this impotent organization.

The president of the United States is impotency personified but the man may be blameless. The country is the epitome of national incapability. Once the moral radar of the world; today navigating with a broken compass; worse, maybe even another

laughingstock in the world, albeit the laughter muted in public circles. The American leader cannot lead as his country will revolt if he tries to do so. In his case, it is leadership by inaction, his response to the political and social divisions plaguing the country everywhere. The national partisan factions there are so powerful, the possibility of any real leadership is totally obliterated.

The Prime Minister of Canada leads? Where? How? When? Prime Minister Trudeau seems to respond only when pushed to the wall and inaction may result in a worse catastrophe. The trucker convoy is a prime example. Understanding that in politics, you're damned if you do, and damned if you don't. You cannot win, cannot satisfy everyone. Satisfying the majority should be the mode by which our politicians should act; ours use the "let's see if it can get worse" mode. When it does, they act, recognizing that inaction is no longer possible.

Trudeau must have had some other possibilities available to assist the City of Ottawa with the truckers long before the protesters set up their convoy in the city. The truckers did not appear overnight; they were driving from as far away as BC and Alberta. Surely the RCMP could have assisted the municipal police as soon as the first trucks arrived and parked anywhere. Overnight parking violations? Commercial vehicles on residential streets? Second violations, towing? There must have been some by-law that was being broken by these heavy rigs parking on municipal streets. There must have been some violation regarding overnight parking of such vehicles on municipal/residential streets. The time to act looked like it could be disregarded and was. Trudeau did not act; his back wasn't against the wall yet... but there is writing on the wall though when such vociferous demonstrations occur in our nation.

When Trudeau finally decided to act, it wasn't some lower-level action such as ticketing the violators or towing violators away to police pounds. Instead, the PM pulled out a cannon, the Emergency Measures Act. A cannon to blast fleas. Thank goodness Canadian constitutional regulations require that such a piece of legislation must be confirmed by a majority of the Senate and the House of Commons, and even when confirmed, it has an expiration time limit.

The EMA may be an effective solution to the protesters situation, but it is a very heavy handed response that could have been avoided had the PM acted earlier. Leading from behind the crowd is not proper leadership.

Many provincial 'leaders' seem to be of the same ilk. Almost to a man(!), each one leads from the back. Kenney and his abolition of COVID restrictions, Moe in his cancellation of COVID regulations, Ford and his COVID closure vacillations... what a bunch. Each seems to be listening to his constituents with dead batteries in their hearing aids. How can ignoring the facts as explained by the scientific community be justified? How can the advice of the majority of the medical community be rejected, repeatedly? When did these leaders acquire such medical/scientific expertise that their decisions have more value and greater validity than that of the scientific/medical professionals? Are these men stone deaf? Or just stoned? Please don't suggest stoning them a la the mood of the trucker protesters.

Adding insult to injury...a dire situation was dealt with from home rather than some southern vacation spot? OK, everyone deserves a break, so let's head off for a winter vacation snowmobiling in cottage country. Complimenting this premier may be in order...at least he didn't travel to warmer southern climes and send photo-shopped postcards with disinformation as one of his cabinet ministers did earlier in the year.

Leadership from behind. We must recognize it, criticize it and write our provincial or federal representatives. If we don't, then we are accepting it. We no longer can use the convoy form of protest thanks to sound, solid and snap decision making by our leaders. What do you think about all this? Or are you looking for a parking spot for your rig?

City Desk



Hello,

Pickering is on the cusp of greatness, and invested in a number of transformational projects. I invite you to learn more and find out how you can get involved so that we can shape a City that works for all.

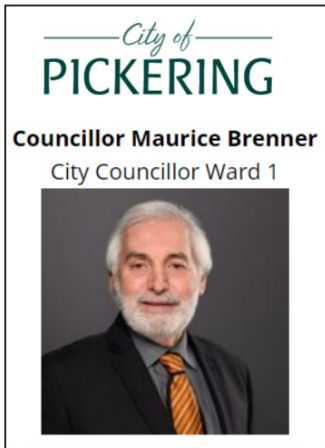
Namely, our City Centre is just one of many bold visions coming to life – one that's inspired by an exciting array of new, state-of-the-art buildings and municipal facilities, including a performing arts centre, a relocated and expanded central library, a combined seniors & youth centre, three condominium towers, hotel, and a vibrant public square. Visit pickering.ca/CityCentre to stay tuned on the latest and subscribe to my newsletter at pickering.ca/subscribe to stay in the know.

It is no secret that Pickering is growing, and I want our community to talk about it. Pickering's population is expected to grow to over 150,000 by 2036, and to pro actively and effectively make our community a place we are all proud to call home, we rely on the help of our City staff, municipal partners, and you. I encourage you to visit LetsTalkPickering.ca/Development to learn more about the planning process, understand your role in it, and participate in it so that we are able to build a city that reflects our collective vision.

I wish everyone lots of cheer and Irish blessings in the spirit of St. Patrick's Day – God bless.

Mayor Dave Ryan

Councillor Maurice Brenner writes...



Mbrenner@pickering.ca

My Message to You
For March 2022
Pickering Ward One City Councillor
Maurice Brenner

Reach me at:
e-mail: mbrenner@pickering.ca
Website: MauriceBrenner.ca
Phone: 905-420-4605

Have you ever wondered what March means to you? This month I want to share what makes March so special to me.

I think of Green - the change of seasons from Winter to Spring, I think of grass, I think of the fresh smell of new leaves on trees, I think of the Environment and the many ways we can protect it for future generations, I think of getting out for a walk on the many trails through out Pickering- our waterfront, the Seaton Hiking Trail, and much more.

I think of Rainbows - representing a new beginning, after 2 years of COVID-19, I think of Hope, Love and Peace and end to war ***something on all of our minds as we think about what is taking place in Ukraine and the many innocent lives that will be lost

And I think of St Patrick's Day- Green Beer, Green Marshmallows, Chicken Wings, and for the first time in 2 years a visit to the local pub.

HAPPY MARCH TO YOU



Sincerely,

Maurice

Councillor Shaheen Butt writes...

Councillor Shaheen Butt

City Councillor Ward 3



sbutt@pickering.ca

March is an early sign of spring. The weather is changing, the daylight lasts longer, and kids are off school for March break. As COVID cases are decreasing, I would like to send a friendly reminder to all those travelling locally and abroad to enjoy their time together while still remaining cautious.

That being said, there are many celebrations to look forward to in March such as St. Patrick's day, International Women's Day and my grandson's 1st birthday, which happens to be the same day as mine!

It's wonderful to see that things are slowly getting back to normal. I enjoy seeing seniors back at the rec Center and malls socializing with their friends. It's small things like these that make me excited for this up coming month.

And spring is coming.

Sincerely,

Shaheen

Councillor Christine Doody-Hamilton writes...

**Councillor Christine Doody-
Hamilton**

City Councillor Ward 2



cdoody-hamilton@pickering.ca

The first month on Council has been a hectic one!

My first priority has been to respond to Ward 2 residents' concerns. This past month, many of those concerns have involved snow plowing and snow removal around schools, at the waterfront, and around seniors' driveways and sidewalks. What a winter this has been!

At the same time, I have been getting up to speed on the processes of local government, getting to know all the wonderful staff who work for the City, as well as being introduced to some of the larger planning issues facing Pickering. I've also had a chance to work with my fellow council members. Councillor Brenner

and I put forward a motion to have staff to investigate year-round maintenance of the waterfront spit. Our waterfront is an amazing place to enjoy any time of the year and maintaining it year-round would make it accessible for more people. There are challenges with winter maintenance, but I am hopeful that staff will find a way to make it happen.

We have our 2022 budget meetings coming up on March 17th and 18th. Despite my Irish heritage, there will be no St. Patrick's Day celebrations as these budget deliberations will consume all of my time and energy. But let me take this opportunity to wish all of you a Happy St. Patrick's Day, since on this day, everyone is "a little bit Irish":

"May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand!"

Sincerely,

Christine

Councillor Dave Pickles writes...

Councillor David Pickles

Regional Councillor Ward 3



dpickles@pickering.ca

As St Patty's Day approaches, I also look forward to improvements in the COVID 19 situation and the arrival of Spring, I hope this means I will be able to get together again with friends and residents at restaurants and our favourite venues and events. I

plan that this will include a pint with one of my Irish friends on St Patty's Day. I also hope we will see the continued lessening of restrictions at City facilities, and I invite all to visit our newly renovated Chestnut Hill Recreation Centre and to participate in our many city events like Canada Day. Continue to practice safe precautions but I hope to see you out and about and please take the opportunity if you see me to come over and say hello.

I also want to give a special shout out to our newly appointed City Councillor for Ward 2 Christine Doody-Hamilton who is well suited to serve the community and has hit the ground running in a demanding position. Please give her your support.

Cheers all.

Sincerely,

Dave



March is **Women's Month**.

This month has been designated as *Women's Month*.

There are many issues of concern relating to women: second-class social status, marital and family abuse, failure to fully investigate female missing persons in Canada, unequal pay, misogynistic abuse, workplace bias and harassment, unfair promotional considerations and much more. Women deserve better.

Let's acknowledge and honour them for their great contribution to our society in so many areas. That is the very least they deserve.

We invite you to do one of the following:

1. Write a 50-150 word snippet about a woman you think deserves recognition and honour. She may be someone in your family circle, someone you admire, a celebrity, a writer, a politician, even your mother. If you have a photo or a related website, include it. Send to zippyonego@gmail.com
2. Know of a website that honours or gives recognition to a women of note. Send the site's URL to zippyonego@gmail.com and we'll post a link to it.

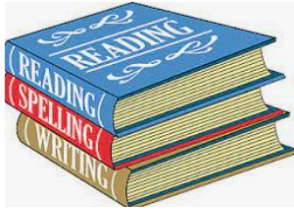
We will publish as these recognitions throughout the month giving these women the recognition and honour they deserve.

On behalf of all the women who deserve recognition and honour for the contributions...thank you.



**US Supreme Court
Nominee**

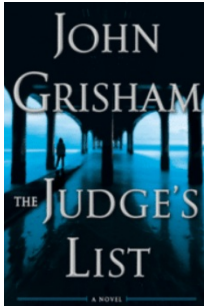
Ketanji Brown Jackson's potential nomination to the Supreme Court has been supported by civil rights and liberal advocacy organizations. *The Washington Post* wrote that Jackson's experience as a public defender "has endeared her to the more liberal base of the Democratic Party". While her supporters have touted her history as a public defender as an asset, during her 2021 confirmation hearing, Republicans showed that they might cast her public defender work as a liability.



Books:

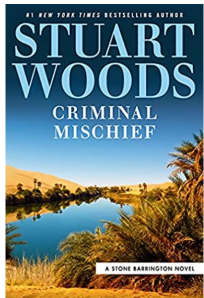
My favourite author was ***Stuart Woods*** but I think I am hitting the bottom of the barrel of choices. The last *Stuart* book I read, *Criminal Mischief*, was disappointing. To read my review click: [Criminal Mischief](#).

My latest reads (Click the *TITLE* below the book image to access my review of that book):



[The Judge's List](#)

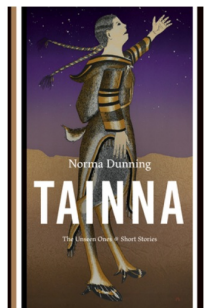
Grisham never disappoints: polished, professional writing, paragraph after paragraph, page after page. The plot development in this novel is excellent.



[Criminal Mischief](#)

Woods usually delivers a story that is engaging and entertaining. Not this time. The plot is paper thin, the story drags. The book seems to be a vehicle for Woods erotic escapes, little else.

Heather recommends:



TAINNA

Norma Dunning's debut book of short stories centred on modern-day Inuk characters shine a light on misogyny, inequity and injustice that lives within the Inuit society.

Richard's review, far from being a positive one. Read it at: [REVIEW](#).



Computer Stuff



LINK: blaze.today

Do you often type something repeatedly and frequently? Maybe the date, a particular phrase, a signature, a particular greeting. Well skip the drudgery of typing the same thing over and over and over.

Text Blaze lets you insert text snippets with just a couple of keystrokes. Imagine, a lengthy piece that your normally type over and over done for you with the click of a couple of keys.

A wonderfully useful assistance for **FREE!** Useful, practical, easy-to-use and *free!*. What more can you ask for?

Text Blaze:

- **saves you time**
- **helps you eliminate mistakes**
- **Saves you energy**
- **Can be used in Gmail, MS Office, Google Docs, many places**
- **Grows in value as you learn how to use it**

Go to its site and try it out: <https://blaze.today/>

★★★★★

"Wow! What an incredible time saver. I've been looking for something like this for the longest. So grateful for Text Blaze!!!"



Stephanie M

★★★★★

"Extremely useful for speeding up note taking in my therapy practice... I've tried a number of autotext extensions and this is hands down the best."



Tony L

**Site: *CloudEight*
*InfoAve***



Need computer help? This website is almost like having a nerd in your home. Excellent tips, good advice and all in an easy-to-navigate website.

Explore it. Its value will be evident very quickly.

Subscribe to its free weekly newsletter where you can see the latest issues of interest and concern:

<https://www.thundercloud.net/infoave/new/>

We have been using it for years and think it is a very useful site.

Thank you Robert W.

**Virtual meetings:
*Butter***



***BUTTER** is the new kid on the block for virtual meetings, but this fella is making a serious dent.*

- **FREE**
- 50 users
- No time limit

Based on limited use and still exploring it, **BUTTER** does look promising as an alternative to the many virtual meeting apps currently available. Of course, there is a bit of a learning curve, but it seems to be easier than most others.

Relatively easy to use, intuitive, logical in operative procedures, this may become the new standard in virtual meetings software replacing the current king.



Writers' Stuff

Writers write. The tools they use vary from writer to writer. As a writer, I have found there is a basic set of tools that I like using. That tool box contains:

Microsoft Word

My all purpose 'hammer.' Available as a paid subscription or compatible freebies. Because I use many Microsoft programs, an annual subscription to **MS Office** is a reasonable decision for me. However, if budget restrictions are a concern, there are many free apps available, such as *LibreOfficefree*, *Write* and many more.

Scrivener

A very sophisticated word processor. Forget all that you know if you are a **MS Word** user. This app is light years away but it's fairly expensive at about \$50 Cdn.

Is it worth it? Only if you are very deep into writing, writing stories, novels, long pieces with many paragraphs. *Thanks Howard P.*

Notezilla

Electronic sticky notes, I have used for many years. More powerful than any other such tool, possibly more than most users need. Expensive to start, but worth every penny after the initial hit. Dynamite in its power in every way, verbal, aural, visual and more.

Text Blaze

Read the information above. The more you use this extension, the more value it becomes. The free version will serve you well enough.

Grammarly

Put this one at the top of your list if you are a writer, a tool that may be like having an editor sitting beside you as you write. It checks for spelling errors, typos and more if you pay for the premium version. The free version will suit most writers to a "T."



FUN STUFF

Wordle: *may drive you crazy....*

B	R	A	I	N
C	O	L	D	S
D	O	W	R	Y
D	O	Z	E	D
D	O	U	S	E
D	O			

WORDLE:

[https://
www.nytimes.com >
games > wordle](https://www.nytimes.com/games/wordle)

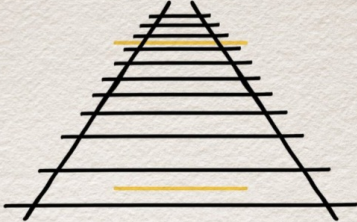
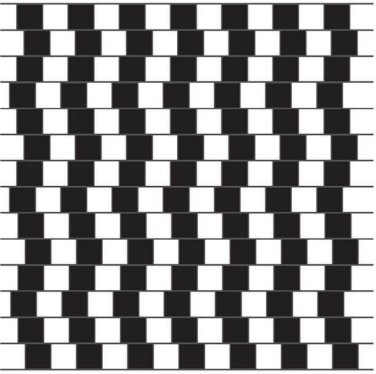
The objective of the game is **to guess a secret 5-letter word in six tries, using a series of hints to**

1. Create a 5 letter word of your choice and enter the keys for it in the first set of squares selecting the relative letters from the keyboard below. Click enter for results.

2. Results show 3 possible colors: GREY- unacceptable; YELLOW-correct letter, wrong position; GREEN-correct letter, correct position. Keyboard

- figure it out.** If any of your letters are highlighted as green, that means that you've got the right letter in the right place; grey rejected; yellow; accepted but wrong place.
- below will indicate 'used' letters. Letters can be repeated.
3. Proceed to next line of squares; select letters with previous selections in mind; reposition and reselect accordingly: revise letter selection, repositioning YELLOWS and reselecting for the GREY. Click enter for results.
 4. If word is rejected, go to next line and repeat #3 modifying letter selection appropriately. Click enter for results.
 5. You're allowed 5 attempts only. No further play is permitted for today. Better luck tomorrow.

Optical illusions fun

		<p>Mr. Smith had four daughters. Each of his daughters has a brother.</p> <p>How many children does Mr. Smith have?</p>
<p>Which YELLOW line is longer?</p>	<p>Are the horizontal lines parallel?</p>	<p>One brother who is common to all the daughters.</p>
<p>the horizontal lines are the same length</p>	<p>the horizontal lines are parallel</p>	<p>Five</p>



Riddles you'll just hate !

1. If you build a fort, drive a Ford, and fill out a form, then what do you eat soup with?
A spoon
 2. You have two coins that equal 30 cents, and one of them is not a quarter. Which coins do you have?
A quarter and a nickel (the nickel is the one that isn't a quarter)
 3. If the assistant captain of a sports team were to die, who would lead the team?
The captain...the assistant died! Aren't you beginning starting to get upset with yourself.
 4. If there are eight oranges in a bag and you take away two, how many do you have?
Two...it's matter of reading the last words.
 5. If seven adults can eat seven cupcakes in seven minutes, how long would it take 30 adults to eat 30 cupcakes?
Seven minutes; one adult takes seven minutes to eat a cupcake
 6. If Mrs. Smith's rooster lays an egg in Mr. Brown's yard, who owns the egg?
No one; roosters don't lay eggs
-



Upcoming events

Mar. 4:

City of Pickering



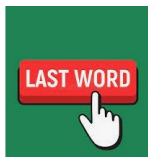
Share your thoughts on the proposed 2022 Draft Capital Budget!

Each year, the City undergoes an extensive budget process to plan for the service, program, and infrastructure needs of our community.

Visit LetsTalkPickering.ca/Budget to learn more and have your say.

Survey closes **March 4, 2022**.

Mar. 17: St. Patrick's Day



Happy St. Patty's Day everyone!

Stay healthy, save and wear your mask.

Best,

Richard  *& Fermo* 

And the 'Boss'