

# Letters To The Editor:

**Dear Editor:**

**Rick Blair, Clarington** As a subscriber to Central Newspapers INC, I am constantly impressed by the articles they publish. The content is always insightful and thought-provoking. Their ability to cover a wide range of topics is commendable. I also appreciate their efforts to stay neutral and unbiased in their reporting. Now that the Metroland rag is gone. We have a golden opportunity to have all municipality notices under one reputable and reliable source. No one goes on line to follow a municipality. Look at the likes, comments or even page hits online. We want it published in hard copy on the only trusted news source serving all of Durham Region.

**Mike Barnsley, Pickering** I have been a regular reader of this online newspaper for quite some time now. The articles are informative and well-written, providing valuable insights into various topics. The overall experience is great. The website is easy to navigate and the content is presented in a clear and concise manner. It's my go-to source for news.

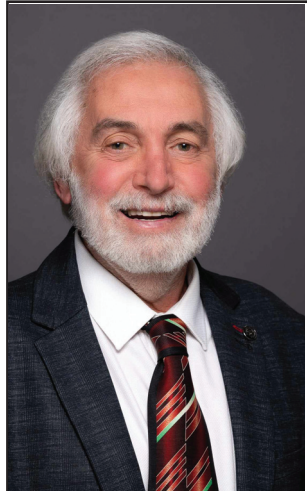
**Dear Editor:**

I read this newspaper and wonder. Pg. 4 is my favorite. Crime across the Region. How is it that the police are arresting so many people with guns. How do these people get them? Well, I at first did not know. Then, I asked friends. To my surprise. In Oshawa you can buy just about anything. Oshawa may not have a big downtown. But it sure has it's supermarket for illegal substances. \ Just recently, Oshawa really out did itself by allowing at the four corners. A prime location for any retailer. For a sex shop to open. Two door from there a few months back there was a mushroom shop. A shop that was quickly closed by the police. Across the street 3 cannabis shops on the same street. Further down a meth dispensary. I was told that if you wanted to buy an illegal weapon. You can purchase it for as low as \$50 bucks. Wow, This blew my mind. Now, I see how criminals get guns. I bet if I wanted to purchase a gun for sport shooting I be on the hook for a new weapon no cheaper than \$500. Then I would have to apply for a license. \$200. A case to carry it. Locks and all the other accessories. At the end of the day. I be in the hole for about \$1,500 to shoot at a paper target. Oh let's not forget the shooting range fees. Oshawa, is in dire need of leadership. No wonder no one comes to the core. Drugs, weapons, prostitutes. Do we even have a Mayor? Or a City Council. You never ever hear from them or about them. **Jeff Dorth, Oshawa**

**Dear Editor:**

It is my understanding that Oshawa is celebrating 100th Anniversary. I have not seen any posting in the paper about events and celebratory programs. Is the City going to be posting any? Are they not proud of our 100th? I heard from a friend that there was an event at the Regent not to long ago. Why is it that it was not advertised? I am saddened that the City does so little to promote itself. I hear of all kinds of events with little or no public attendance. Come on Oshawa. Let's be proud. Advertise the event happening in our City.

**Jeff Duffe, Oshawa**



## BAYE: A DOG WITH A CALLING

By Maurice Brenner  
Regional Councillor Ward 1 Pickering

Over the next couple of weeks, I will be sharing stories about why adopting a rescue not only changes the life of the dog but touch's the hearts of many.

This week I want to share the story of Baye "A dog with a Calling" Baye: A Dog with a Calling. In 2018, (Grady a Rescue adoptee) one of my best friends passed away leaving a hole in the heart of our family. After several months we decided it was time. The challenge was knowing what kind of dog?

### Chapter 1 Never try to replace with a look alike

We were watching Columbo (an old TV show) who had a Basset hound and decided that's the dog for us. Floppy ears, big eyes and cuddly wrinkles, still a hound but not a Beagle. When dealing with the grief of the loss of a pet, your first instinct is to get a look alike. BUT DON'T

### Chapter 2 Look for a Rescue

We contacted Basset Hound Rescue Ontario and completed the adoption application. But finding the right fit can be challenging but worth waiting for. It took over a year then one day an e-mail appeared with a link to a young Basset 50lbs. Larger and younger than what we had been looking for, but we decided to check her out at the foster home.

### Chapter 3 Look at the eyes it tells the story

We pulled into the driveway and there she was looking out with her big eyes, standing on the back of a couch. It was as if she was waiting for just the right family to come and get her.

### Chapter 4 Never judge bad habits

Once inside the front door, Baye rushed over to us, she was jumping up, barking and whining. We thought what are we getting into but decided we wanted to get to know her. We took her for a walk around the block, it was like whose walking who. We sat with her in the foster home as she jumped onto the couch putting her head on my lap.

### Chapter 5 Don't jump to conclusions

We sat with Baye for about an hour, she had fallen asleep on my lap (an over sized lap dog) as I went to get up this massive head looked up at me and growled with her big teeth. We inquired about this and was told she had been emotionally abused prior to her being given to the rescue. We needed time to think about would it work out, could she fit with our 3 cats and miniature beagle pup that we acquired from a kill shelter. As we drove away, looking at us through the window was Baye starring with her big brown eyes. She was saying please don't leave me.

### Chapter 6 Never rush, plan for the adoption

After 3 weeks we made up our mind, we had regular discussions with the foster mom as we planned for our trial adoption. Get a crate, a harness that fits, and gates to block off the stairs. It was a long drive to our home in Pickering. Baye sat with Anne in the back seat her head on Anne's lap.

### Chapter 7 The Transition

Once we got into the house it was like all hell broke loose, Baye chased our cats who ran upstairs to hide, she bullied little Riley. Going through my head was what have I done.

The easiest would have been to give her back but something about her, we knew we would regret it, so we divided the house. Main floor for dogs Baye, Riley and me, second floor for the 3 cats and Anne. I slept on the couch for weeks with Baye jumping up when I would fall a sleep and and cuddling up to me. While I used the crate when I would go out, she hated it when someone was home.

### Chapter 8 A Twist for the worse

After several weeks, life in our home took a twist, Anne was diagnosed with Breast Cancer and had surgery followed by Chemotherapy. Baye knew something was wrong, she wanted to get upstairs to see Anne and would cry at the bottom of the stairs that had been blocked since her arrival. Baye would stare at me pushing against the gate on the stairs. One day she managed to knock the gate over and made a ran upstairs and pushed her way in to the room where Anne was resting. As I ran after her, Baye dropped onto the floor crying, looking up at Anne. From that moment I knew she was very special. She was able to comfort Anne and was helping her getting her through a very challenging time.

### Chapter 9 The Calling

Seeing how much help Baye was with Anne, I reached out to Therapeutic Paws Canada who tested her. She past and graduated as a Therapy Dog in Training. While she she needs a little work, or should I say I do, Baye has visited Fire Halls, Durham College, City of Pickering Work Setting, and numerous Community events. She has become a City of Pickering Star everyone wanted to touch her soft ears and rub her belly. On social media she has had more twitter hits than any City of Pickering story and is a frequent face of my Pickering Councillor Facebook Page. She was part of the the Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee who were documenting her story while setting guidelines for the Province of Ontario who were examining how to better educate the Public about Service Dogs, Therapy Dogs, Support dogs and Working Dogs. She was also featured as a Rescue promoting Pickering Animal Services Shelter Fund.

### Chapter 10 Forever after

In only 8 months, Baye has not only found her forever after home but has managed to touch the hearts of everyone she meets. Baye is more than a pet she is family and deserved having the opportunity to pursue her calling. Giving love and comfort to anyone needing a big hug.

### Chapter 11 Fast Forward

Today 5 years later, Baye continues to provide the same unconditional love as she brought into our home when we adopted her. Watch for my next story: Rescue meets Rescue

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**Jeff Duffe, Oshawa**

**Dear Editor:**

I have a very serious concern. I live in Pickering. I went to the shopping mall and felt so unsafe. Groups of black men walking around being very intimidating. Some even outright rude. I understand the crime rate has skyrocketed in Pickering. Specially with drugs and guns among our younger population. I read this paper and keep noticing the number of gun and knife related crime. First question is where is the police. Second, should the parent of these punks not be held accountable. I remember as a youth. I was always respectful and caring. If someone looked like they were in need. I would approach and talk to them. My walk the other day at the mall left me very worried. Worried for my safety and worried for our good kids in our community. Kids that want to be safe and life free of punks. I lived in a good neighborhood in Cleveland for a while. It was the same. A few punks took over a mall then the neighborhood. People were afraid to walk down their street. Is this what Pickering becoming. Who would I talk to. I like to propose that if under age children are caught breaking any law. That the parents be held accountable.

I am so disgusted.

**George Lankey, Pickering**

**Dear Editor:**

I have a question. How many more people need to die before we realize that we have to pass serious standards when it comes to e-bikes. Specially the scooters that litter our streets. How is it that they can be parked so close to the street. Only teens and young people can use them. We can't ride a bike along a path on a summer day without having bylaw harass you for not wearing a helmet. I can understand having scooters near a tourist area. In my opinion, downtown Oshawa is not the place to ride scooters. The sidewalks are a mess and full of homeless people. Not to mention all the drug addicts. This in my opinion is very dangerous. I wonder who at city hall is getting the kickback to allow such company to just disregard safety.

**Allen Whitehorse, Oshawa**



## IF ADVOCATING FOR MY COMMUNITY IS WRONG, I DON'T WANT TO BE RIGHT WHITBY MAYOR SAYS FIRST PHASE OF THE CAMPAIGN WAS AN IMMENSE SUCCESS

Mayor Elizabeth Roy

On Feb. 7, I had the privilege of helping the Town of Whitby launch a bold community advocacy campaign focused on the urgent need for a new hospital in Durham.

The eight-week-long first phase of the campaign was an immense success, with nearly 4,000 people signing our call-to-action letter or sharing a personal story about why a new hospital matters.

We heard from people like George, who described how a family member with a broken neck and broken ribs lay in the emergency department for five days before getting a hospital room. Or Ron, who told us how his 81-year-old wife fell face-first onto a cement floor and waited five hours in the ER before being seen, bleeding from her face the entire time.

These stories describe a local health-care system that is stretched to the limit.

We moved into the second phase of the campaign on April 3, launching a visual strategy that will see town facilities papered with orange hearts — each one representing a person who has supported the call for a new hospital.

There is no doubt our campaign is attracting the attention of Queen's Park.

On Feb. 15, Premier Doug Ford was asked about the hospital issue during an interview CKDO Radio and noted, "there's going to be a Whitby hospital."

Similar commitments have been voiced by Health Minister Sylvia Jones, who noted "Whitby in the Durham region is absolutely on our radar in terms of where the next steps will happen," and Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy, who said "We're working around the clock to advance that project for Whitby and for Durham."

The question I'm asking — and will continue to ask — is: when?

When will we get concrete action?

Since Whitby was announced as the preferred location for a new Durham hospital in January 2022, three consecutive provincial budgets have come and gone without the \$3-million planning grant Lakeridge Health needs to start this process.

In recent weeks, I've been called a bully for speaking out on this important issue and amplifying the voices of our residents.

Advocating for the things that matter to our community is my job.

When the town did public engagement on Whitby's community strategic plan, thousands of residents participated and told us their No. 1 priority is securing land for a new hospital.

Dismissing Whitby's legitimate concerns as bullying tactics is a blatant attempt to "change the channel" and avoid accountability.

It shows an alarming lack of awareness and understanding of the critical health care situation facing Durham Region and communities across Ontario.

If advocating for my community is wrong, I don't want to be right.

**IF YOUR LOCAL STORE DOES NOT CARRY THE CENTRAL - SHOULD YOU BE SHOPPING THERE?**