



# This Is Why The Central Is Number One Across The Region Our Top Notch Local Columnist Keeping You Informed



## Selling in the Fall

By Theresa Grant - Real Estate Columnist

Autumn can be one of the best times of the year to list your home for sale. There are various reasons for this. Labour day weekend for many, signals the end of summer and the back to routine of school, sports, and groups that may have been on hiatus over the Summer months. It also is a time to regroup and get things done. There are several things about Fall that make it a good time to sell. Many buyers, when they make the shift, back to business kind of mindset, want to buckle down and find the home they are looking for. Buyers can be very motivated in the Fall

to get their home purchased, have the transaction completed and be in their new home before the holiday season.

History has shown us that there is often less competition in the Fall market than in other markets. Although, we used to have what we would call the Fall market and the spring market. That seems to have changed a bit over the years. Real Estate today is very constant and driven more by a buyer's market or a seller's market. That being said, the Fall offers some unique attributes to the home selling process. You can highlight the curb appeal of a home easily in the Fall. Autumn's vibrant colours can provide a stunning backdrop to your home. Showcasing your home's exterior. A well-maintained yard with seasonal decorations can create a warm and inviting first impression.

Many people will take into consideration the time of year for the actual move. Moving in the Summer can be sweltering and take longer due to having to take rest breaks. Moving in the Winter can be treacherous due to snow and ice, making things go a lot slower for safety reasons. This is really something to consider, especially if you are paying movers by the hour. Just another reason why moving in the Fall can be preferable for some.

Closing on a home purchase transaction toward the end of the year also has some tax benefits that purchasers can take advantage of.

Fall can be the perfect time to highlight your home's coziness features. If the home has a fireplace, having it on during a showing can make the space feel warm and homey. A throw, tossed across the back of a couch or chair can seem very inviting. An open book by a cup and saucer can give the impression of it being a perfect spot to relax and unwind. Lighting is always important but when selling in the Fall lighting can play a huge roll in a successful tour of your home. Make sure to have all window coverings open to let in any natural light that may be available. If it's a cloudy day, be sure to have all the lights in your home on so it seems brighter. When you have all the lights in your home on it also tells the potential buyer that you're not trying to hide anything. September, October, and November remain three of the most popular months of the year for relocating.

Questions? Column ideas? You can email me at newspaper@ocentral.com



## Lisa Robinson

PICKERING CITY COUNCILLOR

### Mayor Ashe's Hypocrisy Exposed: Why He Doesn't Deserve a "Mental Health Hero Award"

By Lisa Robinson

It is deeply disheartening to see Mayor Kevin Ashe receive a Mental Health Hero Award when his actions and words have contributed to the very struggles this award seeks to address.

While the loss of his stepson Alex is a tragedy no family should endure, it is important to hold public figures accountable for their behaviour, especially when they claim to advocate for mental health.

This is a mayor who has repeatedly resorted to divisive rhetoric, labeling Pickering residents and others as "nut cases," "Nazis," "homophobes," and "transphobic," while dismissing legitimate concerns as "alt-right conspiracy theories." This kind of language does not break the stigma around mental health; it perpetuates it. His actions — from belittling dissenting voices to encouraging intimidation and bullying — from those who follow him on social media are the exact behaviors that contribute to mental health struggles, including depression and even suicide.

Even his own family members jump in on social media calling those with opposing views to f#%k off or eat-sh#, while the mayor tells people "go have another drink" pushing vulnerable people and their mental health to the limits.

Let us not forget his letter to the provincial government recently advocating for the use of the notwithstanding clause to displace homeless individuals — a clear disregard for the dignity and well-being of vulnerable residents. Or the fact that he has taken away six months' worth of income from a fellow colleague, a single mother, leaving her struggling to provide to put food on the table for her family. and keep a roof over their head. These are not the actions of a mental health advocate but those of a mayor whose decisions and words actively harm others.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, while families were told to stay home, avoid travel, and follow strict health protocols — even as loved ones died alone in long-term care facilities — like our very own Orchard Villa - Mayor Ashe traveled on vacation with his family. This blatant hypocrisy, at a time when so many Pickering residents were struggling and making personal sacrifices, is not the behavior of someone deserving of such an honor.

Families were being torn apart by policies that discouraged mixing vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, yet he violated those same principles he told others to uphold.

Additionally, Mayor Ashe has stifled free expression and public participation in Council by controlling what can be discussed, limiting access to videotaping, and silencing voices critical of his leadership. lobbying the Provincial Government to change the Municipal Act for the ability to remove an elected official- taking away the rights and voices of the people who elected them, and furthermore to forbid them to run in a subsequent election- that is election tampering. His frequent intimidation of council members and residents only reinforces the perception of a deeply toxic and undemocratic environment.

It is deeply concerning that such an award is being presented to someone whose behavior does not align with the values of compassion, understanding, and support that mental health advocacy embodies. The only reason this honor has been bestowed upon him appears to be tied to his connections and financial contributions from events like the Mayor's Gala / Flag raising- or funding from the Corporation of the City of pickering, a troubling reflection of the very corruption Pickering residents are tired of seeing.

True mental health heroes build others up, create safe spaces for dialogue, and lead with humility and integrity. Shame on you Mr. Mayor Shame on you.

I have always stood as a true advocate for the homeless and for genuine mental health support. True advocacy means addressing the root causes of struggles, not silencing or dismissing those in need. Bullying, intimidation, and hypocrisy have no place in leadership, and true leadership is about integrity, not popularity or alliances.

"Strength Does Not Lie In The Absence Of Fear, But In The Courage To Face It Head-On And Rise Above It"



## Mayor Kevin Ashe Receives Mental Health Award

I was deeply honoured and humbled to receive the Mental Health Hero Award from Ontario Shores Foundation for Mental Health this week. This recognition means so much to me, but it's not just about me—it's about my family, who have been strong advocates for mental health and well-being since we lost our son, Alex, to suicide in 2018. Stated Mayor Ashe on social media post.

Alex's death was a devastating loss, and it opened my eyes to the deep pain that so many people face in silence due to depression and mental health struggles. We knew that if we stayed silent, we wouldn't be honouring Alex's memory. I speak out today because I believe that sharing his story, raising awareness, and breaking the stigma around mental health can help make a difference. This award is dedicated to Alex— to his memory, his struggle, and to all the others who are still suffering quietly. I will continue to fight for those who feel they have no voice, to advocate for mental health support, and to remind people that it's okay to not be okay.

P.S. And just to add a little extra sweetness to this week— I was also honoured with the "Best Cookie Decorator Award" for Smile Cookie Week 2024



## Mayor Adrian Foster

By Clarington Mayor Adrian Foster

### Statement from Mayor Adrian Foster on Transgender Awareness Week

Clarington, Ontario?— As we mark Transgender Awareness Week, Clarington Mayor Adrian Foster has issued the following statement.

"As we commemorate Transgender Awareness Week, let us reaffirm our commitment to standing with the trans community, championing the rights of transgender, Two-Spirit and non-binary people, and fostering a healthy and respectful environment. Our united efforts in raising awareness and advocating for change can create a community where everyone, regardless of gender identity, is respected and valued.

We can create a more inclusive and equitable future for all residents."