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PICKERING MAYORAL RACE HAS EVERYONE TALKING

PICKERING — The tension is high, the stakes substantial, and the question dominating this anticipated mayoral contest remains straightforward: will voters return Kevin Ashe or choose a different direction?

With voting concluding October 26, Ashe faces six challengers: Lisa Robinson, Doug Cornell, Janice Frampton, Zargham Rasool, Shaun Rickard and Andrea Wood. Heated exchanges between Ashe and Robinson at the October 7 candidates forum highlighted the political divisions surrounding this election. Ashe has a plausible structural advantage: incumbency, familiarity and a crowded opposition field. That makes him a cautious analytical pick, rather than a demonstrated polling leader. No reliable public polling reviewed for this article establishes who is ahead.

The arithmetic matters. Challengers competing for overlapping groups of dissatisfied voters could divide support, allowing the incumbent to prevail without securing a majority. However, a crowded ballot alone cannot reveal where those votes will go.

Robinson offers a sharply contrasting pitch on affordability and spending.

At the forum, she told residents, “you taxpayers are not ATMs.” Ashe argued that attracting commercial and industrial investment would reduce reliance on residential taxpayers.

These approaches create a consequential choice. Voters must decide whether they trust changes to spending or expansion of the tax base to deliver relief.

Campaign promises will be judged against expectations for roads, recreation, emergency services and other municipal responsibilities. Development provides another dividing line.

Frampton declared, “I believe growth must pay for growth.” Robinson advocated completing Seaton before opening more farmland to construction, while Ashe defended balancing protection with housing and employment opportunities.

For Robinson, the electoral challenge is translating a confrontational political profile into confidence that she can lead the whole city.

For Ashe, it is convincing residents that experience offers progress when some voters may want a break with existing leadership.

Neither task is automatic. Strong reactions at a public meeting measure engagement among those attending; they do not establish the preferences of the broader electorate.

The other five challengers also deserve attention. Their presence means this cannot responsibly be treated as a two-person election, even when Ashe and Robinson generate prominent exchanges. Who will win?

Ashe has the clearer theoretical route through incumbency and divided opposition. Robinson’s route depends on consolidating voters seeking change while persuading others that her leadership would improve municipal government.

The final verdict belongs to voters. Until ballots are counted, confidence about the outcome should remain proportional to the evidence.

Ontario Supporting Whitby Historical Society Through Heritage Funding

WHITBY – The Ontario government is providing \$1,545 to the Whitby Historical Society through the 2026–27 Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) program to support its work preserving and sharing Whitby’s history.

The funding is part of a provincial investment of \$244,628 supporting 180 heritage organizations across Ontario. These organizations play an important role in preserving local histories, celebrating cultural traditions and fostering community pride.

“Whitby’s history is an important part of what makes our Town so unique,” said Lorne Coe, MPP for Whitby, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services and the Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security.

“Through this funding, our Government is supporting the Whitby Historical Society’s efforts to preserve our local heritage and ensure that future generations can learn about the people, places and stories that have shaped our community.”

The Heritage Organization Development Grant program helps eligible heritage organizations deliver public programs, exhibits, tours and educational initiatives that make Ontario’s heritage accessible to residents and visitors.

By supporting these organizations, Ontario is helping preserve the province’s diverse history while ensuring communities can continue to celebrate their heritage for generations to come.

Quick Facts

- Ontario is investing \$244,628 through the 2026–27 Heritage Organization Development Grant program.
- A total of 180 heritage organizations across Ontario are receiving support through the program.
- The Whitby Historical Society is receiving \$1,545 to support its heritage-related activities.
- The program supports initiatives that preserve local history and make Ontario’s heritage accessible to the public.

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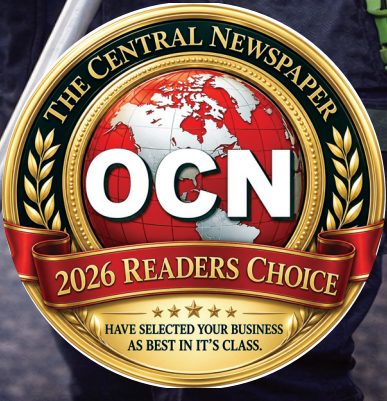
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