



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



The Perfect Neighbourhood Theresa Grant

Real Estate Columnist

Deciding where to live can be a daunting task especially if you have choices to make between competing properties. Of course, in most cases it will come down to your individual needs, which differ from person to person and family to family.

Most people tend to start with size, is there enough room for everyone? How many bedrooms and bathrooms are there? Then they look for location. How many needs will be met by a particular location. Here is where people think about travel time to work, kids walking to school, running out to the corner store and things like that. If you are purchasing, the insurance company will want to know how far you are from the nearest fire hall, yes that affects your rates on Ontario.

Can you walk to work, or will you have to drive? If you need to drive for work, you will want to know how far you are from the highway. How long a drive is it from your potential new home to get to work. Time is of huge importance as people do not want to be stuck in traffic when they can be at home with their family. Are you a recreational family? If so, you will want to check out what is available in a neighbourhood that you are considering. Do you need to consider schools for children? Schools more often than not can be a deciding factor for many people. I have had people come through an open house with maps of neighborhoods, wanting to know about the local school and what rating it has. Some are already aware of the local school's rating and that is why they are looking at a particular house. They want a precise school district and everything else is secondary.

After work and after school activities will play a role in whether or not the location is a good fit. Often, I hear parents saying that they are so busy with multiple kids and various sports, classes, etc... That they are run ragged by the end of the week.

If you like to dine out or pick up something fast on the way home, restaurants close to home will be important. Equally important will be distance to your family Doctor, pharmacy, gas stations, grocery stores as well as big box stores. All of these things go into making up the ideal community.

I have always found that when you have multiple choices and a few really seem to fit the bill, one of the best tools you can use to help you is the good old pros and cons list. It can become crystal clear in seconds which property would best fit your lifestyle.

One thing that people really do not do enough is knock on the doors of your potential neighbours. You will get a good idea of what it might be like to live in that neighbourhood based on what the people who already do, say. If the people whose doors you knock on are rude and snappy with you, think about having to deal with them in the future. For the most part, the residents of any neighbourhood will give you an honest evaluation of what it's like to live there. From that, and all of your due diligence, you can make an informed decision.

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

Oshawa streamlines business licensing, Lowers Renewal Fees

The City of Oshawa announced the approval of a new, updated Business Licensing By-law 122-2024, which, it says, is designed to better serve both businesses and residents by streamlining processes and modernizing regulations that address health, safety, and consumer protection. This by-law, effective November 4, introduces a number of significant enhancements aimed at supporting businesses, improving customer service, and ensuring compliance with applicable standards, said a city statement.

Key Highlights:

Streamlined Licensing Classes and Standards: Standards are revised to meet both current and future needs, ensuring businesses can operate efficiently while maintaining appropriate regulatory standards.

Modular Licensing and Lower Renewal Fees: The introduction of modular licensing allows businesses to select the licences they need, providing more flexibility. Lower licence renewal fees are in place for businesses renewing their licences.

Addressing New and Emerging Risks: Proactive measures will be taken to identify and address new risks that may impact businesses and the public.

Enhanced Customer Experience: Service levels have been elevated, making the application process smoother and more user-friendly.

Support for Special Events: new standards to better support special events, making it easier to organize and participate in community and business activities.



Lisa Robinson

PICKERING CITY COUNCILLOR

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 606 Revokes My Invitation to Veterans' Dinner

By Lisa Robinson

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 606 Revokes My Invitation to Veterans' Dinner—All Because of Rumors Spread by Fellow Council Members! Despite being the only one fighting for freedom and the rights of Pickering residents, I'm being shut out. Is this what our veterans sacrificed for?

I am profoundly disappointed by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 606's President's decision to revoke my invitation to the Veterans Dinner—an event that should transcend politics, standing as a tribute to those who sacrificed everything to secure the freedoms we cherish. As someone who has consistently fought for these very freedoms, as my family did, this decision feels like a betrayal, not only to me but to the principles our veterans gave their lives for.

Meanwhile, council members who impose authoritarian, communistic controls within Pickering's council chambers will be attending this event, claiming to honor the same veterans whose values they are systematically dismantling. Under their rule, our community has witnessed an erosion of democracy so severe that it borders on oppression. These council members have stripped residents of their fundamental right to freely voice concerns, requiring a council vote even to speak on certain topics. They have forbidden the public from recording meetings, demanded two-thirds approval for media presence, and reduced our chambers to a stage for their own agenda, silencing all who dare question or hold them accountable with trespass orders. This is only to name a few. Now, in a disturbingly authoritarian move, they are pushing for the right to remove elected officials who don't align with their views stripping the public of their power to choose their representatives. Not only that, demanding that Councillor not have the right to run in the following election. This is not just an

affront to democracy; its election tampering, its tyranny, echoing oppressive regimes that suppress dissent to maintain control. And yet, my Council are the ones still invited to celebrate the freedom our veterans fought for, while I—the only vocal defender of those freedoms—am turned away.

I proudly display the Canadian flag in my office, on my lapel, my parking space, on my door as a reminder of the unity and patriotism our veterans stood for. In contrast, some council members promote divisive special interests, choosing ideological symbols like the pride flag over the flag that represents us all and were disgusted when I said the Canadian flag is my pride flag. I fight for every resident of Pickering, without bias or favor, advocating for the basic rights and protections they deserve. My fellow council members have launched baseless attacks, spreading vile rumors to undermine my character and silence my efforts to hold them accountable for the corruption and cronyism I see seeping into City Hall.

To the thousands, millions, who have supported me across Pickering, Ontario, Canada, and beyond, I thank you. Your encouragement strengthens my resolve to expose the truth, defend our freedoms, and fight for a government that serves the people, not its own interests. While I am disheartened to be denied the chance to honor our veterans in person, at the dinner, I remain steadfast in my commitment to uphold their legacy. I will not be intimidated by those who wield power to stifle dissent and distort democracy to their own ends.

This is not just about one invitation; this is about the fundamental values that our veterans fought and died to protect. I will continue to stand firm, honoring their sacrifice by defending the freedoms they secured and speaking out against those who seek to strip them away. For our veterans, for our community, and for the future of our democracy, I will not be silenced, and I will never give up. See you all on Remembrance Day.

Since posting the above on social media.... One of the Legion bartenders Linda Cook who happens to be a City Councillor in Ward 2 has decided to take to social media to spread many more lies about me, so lets delve in. First, she claims that the Legion does not receive government funding. It's funny though however councillor Cook assisted in obtaining funds for the Legion's D-Day BBQ approximately \$2,000.00 which is the new allocated amount that anyone can be given without having to go to council and be voted on, and the Legion has also been given money for other projects as well. So the truth is, The City of Pickering has provided financial support to the Legion, even though the organization asserts that it operates mainly through membership fees without "government operating grants." This is a matter of semantics, as these funds are indeed public, even if they don't fit the technical definition of a "grant."

This same Councillor has spread lies, claiming that I waited until two days before Remembrance Day to share my thoughts in an effort to shame the Legion and their decision. For clarity, the Legion's letter was delivered to my office on October 22 which Councillor Cook claimed, and my Executive Assistant stamped received on it Oct 23rd. Yet this Councillor, who I can't stress enough that works at the Legion, somehow knew and commented on the timing of my receipt and response, suggesting coordination, collusion, within the Legion. The rumor she's spreading suggests I saw the letter on October 22, a claim made to paint my intentions as disrespectful. In reality, I waited to speak directly with the President after his vacation, which occurred on November 8, before sharing the letter. This blatant lie joins others from this Councillor, claiming that I've taken issue with various other community groups, simply because I'm outspoken in defense of freedom and truth. Spreading lies about attacking DARS, SNIP, the Police, The Black Community and the list goes on, in an attempt to distract how the People of Pickering hard earned tax dollars are being recklessly spent.

These ongoing attempts to misrepresent my character only further underline my commitment to giving the people of Pickering and beyond full transparency and genuine service for what's really happening in our City Hall. For instance, in September I gave a Notice of Motion to play the national anthem before council meetings—a simple act of unity — which has still gone unsupported by fellow council members, this goes along with only flying governmental flags on all governmental buildings with the exclusion of The Poppy Flag and new Veterans Flag. The reluctance to second this motion should be a red flag to residents on Councils lack of patriotism for our National flag and anthem.

Nonetheless, as we approach Remembrance Day, I believe our government should be supporting our school age children in honoring our veterans by excusing them from school and paying for their transportation to attend municipal ceremonies. This small gesture is one I would also like to push as it would allow students to learn directly about the sacrifices made for our freedoms.

My late uncle, Andrew Irwin (Andy), and I share a profound bond in our dedication to protecting freedom. He fought in WWII aboard the Algonquin at Normandy, earning the Russian Medal of Ushakov and the French Legion of Honour before passing at age 92 on June 1, 2017. His legacy of service inspires me daily to uphold the values he defended, and I will never stop fighting as both a civilian and a politician to uphold your Freedoms.

To all veterans and their families: Lest We Forget. Thank you for your service, and may your sacrifices continue to be honored in all we do. I truly Love you all.

Woman Abuse Awareness Event

Save the Date

NOV 26, 2024

1:00 - 4:00 pm
1425 Phillip Murray Ave., Oshawa

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE
THE NEXT STEPS
Keys to Change

Featuring: Pamela Cross

Feminist Lawyer, Gender-Based Violence Expert
and Author of her newest Book:
"AND SOMETIMES THEY KILL YOU"

Registration Required

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