

1. Current council does not allow ride-sharing apps like LYFT and Uber. Innisfil has taken a different approach. What are your thoughts?

**Yes, this should be taken into consideration with a look at our larger transportation strategy.**

2. AirBnB and other short-term rental websites are a reality that cannot be ignored. If elected, what rules would you want in place for STA?

**Licensed STAs make a significant contribution to the accommodation options in our tourism industry and can be integrated into neighbourhoods under the current by-law, but that means also removing some licenses due to separation criteria and zoning. I advocate for keeping the current demerit system as is, enforcing a 2 +2 occupancy load formula, and protecting residents and licensed STAs from unlicensed AirBnBs (identification as a licensed STA on advertising, for example).**

3. Some areas of TBM do not have the greatest cellular and internet coverage. What will you do to ensure all of TBM have access to reliable high-speed internet and cellular coverage?

**Living in the southwest rural corner of the Blue Mountains (just 15 minutes south of Clarksburg), we do not have reliable coverage. My son cannot work from home for his IT business, and we cannot conduct reliable cell phone calls from our home, so this is a key item on my radar. We will have to be patient yet assertive to ensure all rural and urban residents have access to ultra-high speed broadband through the SouthWestern Integrated Fibre Technology ([SWIFT](#)) program because some hubs will not be established until 2022 in the first phase of the program. We must use the leverage we have as a municipality to negotiate with cell phone coverage providers where the next towers will go. Patchy Internet access creates a 'know-know not' imbalance among residents- it provides crucial communication and information: Internet and cell phone coverage should no longer be considered a frill or extra but rather essential services.**

4. Several candidates mention the need to manage spending in the TBM, how do you plan to keep property taxes affordable for residents?

**Three examples: 1. Do a review of operations of all departments to look for efficiency improvements; 2. Find out and correct how we are losing water in our town system. 3. Establish public-private partnerships for attainable housing, not foot the entire cost ourselves.**

5. Ensuring a diversified and balanced tax base is a goal for most municipalities. Do you feel we are currently achieving this goal? What steps would you take to bring the Town more into balance?

**Analysis and establishing next steps should be a priority among the new Council tasks.**

6. In approving new subdivisions in TBM, residents have complained that the entire parcel of land is deforested to build homes. Do you agree with this approach to development or would you fight to ensure developers keep some of the existing trees?

**Yes, mature trees cannot be easily replaced by new young after-the-fact saplings. We need to review the current state of our urban tree canopy and increase conservation through policy and a plan. This is an issue I watch carefully as a volunteer with the Blue Mountains Watershed Trust.**

7. Many Ontario municipalities are grappling with an infrastructure deficit. Aging pipes, roads and building are adding up. What priorities do you have for the Town that needs immediate attention?

**Analysis and establishing next steps should be a priority among the new Council tasks. There are so many areas in our town that need infrastructure funding and attention, we must work together to prioritize what to improve first.**

8. Will you extend the operating hours for the landfill?

**Yes. The Saturday hours are too limited to encourage our weekend residents to make use of it.**

9. In your opinion, what services or programs does our community lack and how will you address this?

**We are hearing loud and clear in the campaign that resident want more recreation facilities. Every age could benefit from this from youth, young adults to seniors. Expanding our learn-to-swim options is vital for a town where we have so much shoreline. Working with the County and our neighbouring communities, we need to plan for public transportation beyond the pilot program end in December. Again, with the County we need to monitor if our ride programs for seniors and those requiring transportation to doctor appointments etc. is adequate.**

10. Some candidates have suggested their preference for a ward system, others are happy with the current at-large system of electing council. Where do you stand on this issue? What if any other changes would you propose to council to help it better serve the community?

**If elected, I will be delighted to help represent every citizen and not just a specific corner, but if the will of the voters in a referendum asked for it, I would be solidly behind that result too. I consider myself a resident of Egypt in the Duncan**

**community, but a citizen of the whole Blue Mountains. I volunteer and participate in programs at the Craigleith Depot, I volunteer all over for the Watershed Trust, my son's business is in Clarksburg where I am a artisan vendor and volunteer at the Marsh Street Centre (and attend many events), our nearest corner store is Ravenna, our vet is in Victoria Corners, Toastmasters and my grocery store are in Thornbury, and my friends live all over the Blue Mountains!**

**Changes I propose for Council to serve the community better are part of my platform to cultivate community, communication and a culture of collaboration:**

- **Increase Council accountability through recording votes, reducing ratio between open & closed meetings and issuing a Council tracker at 90 & 180 days.**
- **Post on website 90- & 180-day progress checklists/ monitoring tables for the Corporate Strategic Plan and the Sustainable Path.**
- **Hold monthly outreach sessions in different communities each month (January 2019 start).**
- **Hold town hall meeting every 180 days.**
- **Establish task forces regarding campaign issues with community members, staff and Council members.**

11. Please share your thoughts on the Pretty River Quarry proposal?

**I oppose the Pretty River Quarry proposal and have signed the petition.**

12. Do you have plans to create or protect more green space in TBM?

**We need to review the current state of our urban tree canopy and increase conservation through policy and a plan. This and protection of wetlands are issues I watch carefully as a volunteer with the Blue Mountains Watershed Trust. When development plans need to include a percentage of greenspace, I do not agree with cash-in-lieu exceptions.**

13. As more people use bikes to commute, exercise and enjoy the outdoors they find themselves in competition with cars for scarce routes. How would you address the concerns of cyclists who are looking for improved safety and capacity?

**Incorporating paved shoulders into every road improvement benefits cyclists, farm equipment operators and motorists. Creating north-south and east-west cycling routes through the town would help in sharing the road, again for all types of vehicles on our roads. Connecting the Great Lakes Waterfront route with side routes to our actual shoreline would be the next step in that progress. Active transportation in our urban areas needs to be safe and encouraged.**