

Questions submitted from the floor at the BMVA All Candidates Debate

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

Until appropriate transit solutions are in place, it is important that TOBM takes leadership in this area. Providing a taxi licence with appropriate controls is one solid solution. The Innisfil solution of subsidizing Uber fares could be an expensive option that would be difficult to manage and control costs, given the distances between the Village and other areas on South Georgian Bay.

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?

TBM needs an Airbnb policy and by-laws, if required. It will be an early task for the new Council. A review of recent changes to the STA by-laws, recently passed by Council will also be an early task, in my view.

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?

Working with relevant TOBM staff members, my colleagues on Council and I will take the necessary steps to improve both cell and internet coverage. This action should be on the 100 Day Action list.

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

There is no need to increase property taxes in TBM. My concern is that the tax dollars that are collected in TBM, 40% of which are sent to the County, are invested appropriately into solutions to TBM challenges. The first priorities for these tax dollars would be attainable/affordable housing and transit.

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?

TBM is a unique community with an economy that is based 25% on agricultural businesses and 75% on tourism and related businesses. And many residents have businesses from which they operate from their home while enjoying their life style at Blue.

The diversification that I think that is most pressing at TBM is recruiting young people to live up here. To do that, attainable/affordable housing, effective transit and good quality and plentiful day care must be in place. These are all key priorities to me.

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

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approach to development or would you fight to ensure developers keep some of the existing trees?

Thank you for this question. I strongly disagree with the practice of removing trees from an entire parcel to build homes. I would lead the implementation of policies at TBM that would control the removal of trees to maintain as many trees as possible on any parcel of land.

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?

As part of the preparation of the initial 100-day Strategic Plan for Council, I would advocate for an immediate review of pending infrastructure projects to ensure that the funds are there. Along with new members of Council, we would add in the projects that we would consider and ask Town staff to place in the budget accordingly. Consultation and advocacy with Grey County about these projects will be required.

One key priority is a plan for water/waste water infrastructure in Clarksburg. How are we going to budget for that \$15 million project? I would also like to see bike lane lines throughout TOBM. A strategy for preserving Highway 26 as a Georgian Shore highway needs to be added to the list although cost should be minimal as a 5-lane highway is not supported by the community. Nor by me!

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

Along with my Council colleagues and after public consultation and exploration of costs and resources, I would consider reviewing the operating hours for the landfill site.

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

The first service that comes to mind is a recreation centre that includes a pool and many other services that support all age groups. We need a facility where young parents can bring their children for programs that support their growth in all aspects. Given the proximity to Georgian Bay, it is extremely important that all children in TOBM develop swimming skills. This program should be a mandatory requirement within the school system. Not to forget that this centre would be very important to active retirees, also a key group who will use this facility extensively.

Funding will require a P3 approach (Public Private Partnerships), working with the County and the provincial government. Private donations will be required as well for this project.

Day care and nursery school services, and the programs for young ones that they offer, are very important to bring into the Town. A P3 approach and working with BVO would be most helpful.

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Transit services is another service that is badly needed. Funding would involve a cross community effort and working with the County.

We also need a taxi service licence within the TOBM until transportation solutions are in place. There's more but let's stop there!

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?

Given that TOBM is a community of communities, a ward system can be an attractive option and one that I would consider. At the same time, I would like to see the impact of a fully functional Council (which some members of the public say has never happened in the Town's 20-year history), using the current at-large system, before making any further deliberations on a ward system.

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

No, no, no. I am strongly opposed to any changes to the Official Plan that involve re-zoning of designated agricultural lands to any other designation and particularly for a quarry that we do not need in TOBM.

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

Yes, I want to preserve our green space very carefully in TBM. Green space is our number one asset. It needs to be protected aggressively by municipal leadership. My plan is to preserve our green space through careful and appropriate zoning measures, by working with developers and Town staff on approved proposals to mitigate recent decisions and with my Council colleagues to implement any other initiatives that can further protect our green spaces.

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?

Bike lanes must be delineated throughout the TBM as soon as possible. I am very concerned about any accidents that might occur in the meantime. As per the request of the cycling association, TBM should use road coverage that best supports the cycling experience. We want to encourage our biking population as TBM would be a natural choice for the Toronto cycling enthusiasts. Just as skiing enthusiasts chose Blue Mountain. Look what amazing things happened because of that choice!