

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? **Our taxi companies have made big capital investments in their vehicles, carry the appropriate insurance and licensing, and have a strong record of safety. I would not like to see them having to compete with ride sharing apps. The Innisfil model is interesting but I would rather try to work with our existing taxi companies and identify service shortfalls and try work with them to address these shortfalls. I am also not sure that council has the ability to block the use of ride sharing apps in our municipality, these services have flourished all over the world with little oversight from government. If LYFT and UBER feel there is a market in the Blue Mountains, the reality is that our bylaw department could do very little to stop them in my opinion.**
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? **Our current system for STA's is working well and is a model that is admired by other municipalities. Our STA's are licensed with regulated levels of safety & hygiene and they are directed away from the low density residential areas of our municipality. I support the strict enforcement of our STA bylaw and we should work together with Airbnb to ensure that the properties that are being advertised on the Airbnb site have a valid license or are located within the CRU areas. I would like to see that the Airbnb site requires that the listed properties have their STA number identified in the listing or that they are identified as a CRU.**
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? **I live in one of these areas. As a municipality we want to encourage professions like architects, app designers, etc. who can work from home offices. Internet and cell coverage are important and council has to lobby the cell service providers to identify and improve service to areas of our municipality that are not being adequately served. Grey county through the program SWIFT has been able to assist but I believe we can do more. In my case, Rogers are adding new towers and will be, over the next couple years, making big improvements to coverage.**
4. Several candidates mention the need to manage spending in the TBM, how do you plan to keep property taxes affordable for residents?

Our Town has a strong and growing property tax base, as a result of all of the new development we have experienced and the rise in the market value of our properties. One of my goals will to vigilantly review our budgets and to cut waste from the system. Council must be diligent in making sure any increases in our property taxes and service fees are kept to a minimum. The running of the town is also a business being run for the benefit of its shareholders (the residents) and we must get value for the money we invest in our town. Council has a duty to review &

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understand the Town's budget and to diligently work with staff in order to run the town as efficiently as possible.

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? We are experiencing a time of rapid development and the inflow of development fees. However, relying on growth alone is a short term view, as growth has limitations (a municipality has size and land limitations and cant not grow forever). I believe a number of studies have shown that, even with growth, over the long term a residential tax base alone is insufficient to provide the funds needed to adequately cover the costs of supporting municipal operations and infrastructure. A solid component of ongoing commercial and industrial taxes is also necessary. We need to do more to increase this component of our tax base. We need to develop a culture of being a business friendly town office, listen to our business community, and encourage more commercial enterprise. One of the key goals that I will work towards at council and at the staff level will be to adopt this open for business attitude, we need to encourage and train our staff to help business develop, instead of presenting businesses with a myriad of red tape. Our staff need to be proactive and do their best to help existing & new businesses work through issues like planning, parking, sign bylaws, etc.

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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? As a farmer and lover of the outdoors it always pains me to see trees cut down. There may be solid reasons to deforest the entire parcel of land. I would endeavor to understand this better and if there are not the event that lands are deforested I would request that as part of the development of the land a robust tree planting program is part of the development. I think everybody new agrees that a new subdivision with lots solid reasons, I would strongly support a plan to leave some existing trees. In of trees is something that we all want.

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? I believe on the whole, our Town has done a good job of keeping our existing infrastructure up to date and in order to deal with our rapid growth. However, I see a bad mix of private infrastructure in old septics, wells, and a major river in Clarksburg. I think one of the most pressing issues that council has to address is how the town can provide proper infrastructure to the residents of Clarksburg in an affordable manner. Infrastructure is also an area where we can talk seriously with the county in addressing the imbalance of dollars that the Town of the Blue Mountains contributes to the County budget, by encouraging more County infrastructure development money to be directed to our Municipality.

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8. Will you extend the operating hours for the landfill? **If there is sufficient need to, I will support it. However, my personal experiences at the landfill does not make me believe this is a priority.**
9. In your opinion, what services or programs does our community lack and how will you address this? **I have frequently heard the desire for a recreation centre with a pool. We need to be aware of the cost but, perhaps a private/public partnership could be explored.**
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? **I would not support going to a ward system. The success of our community is to feel that we are just that, a community. We do not need to Balkanize ourselves into a group of self-serving wards.**
11. Please share your thoughts on the Pretty River Quarry proposal? **Our guiding document is our official plan. This document is mandated to be done with public consultation. It is a public document. No one should be surprised if their neighbour uses their property for the zoned use. If someone follows our official plan and the correct procedures, they should be able to use their property for their intended use. Only under extreme circumstances should council intervene. To do otherwise would expose our Town to litigation. I feel for the owner of property close the proposed quarry. They have, for years, enjoyed a beautiful, bucolic, bit of green space to look out on. I hope the candidates who have accepted professional videos made of themselves and the election support of interest groups in exchange for their opposition to the quarry, have taken the time to review the issue properly. If the quarry fits into the official plan, is correctly zoned, and the correct procedure carried out, I will support it. If this is not the case, I will not support it.**
12. Do you have plans to create or protect more green space in TBM? **Absolutely! We are in a time of rapid growth and our Town finances are strong. We must look beyond our immediate wants and plan for the future. It is most important that thirty years from now, generations look back and realize that we planned for the future, kept our rural feel, and did not let our Town become another Oakville.**
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? **It is not just the concern of cyclists but also motorists. Most of our roads are not designed for cyclists and this creates a situation that is not good or safe for all users of our roads. I strongly support adding paved service shoulders whenever our roads are upgraded.**