

**Questionnaire prepared by Christie Lake Association Inc.
To Candidates for the October, 22, 2018 Election to TVT Council
See also Footnotes on pages 2 & 3 of this Questionnaire**

**Responses from Doug Barr
Candidate for Council – Burgess Ward**

1. How long have you resided in Tay Valley?

17 years.

2. What is your educational background?

3 year Humber College Music Program Diploma. Gr XIII Royal Conservatory Piano,

3. Provide a brief synopsis of your work history. Be specific.

Full time Career Musician. Singer-Songwriter-Recording Artist - performer for Children. 4 CDs in Release. More recently in Iqaluit: Canada Post and First Air Ground Aircraft Maintenance.

4. What specific qualities and experience do you have that you believe qualify you to serve TVT residents as a Councillor?

3 years on Bd of Directors Festivals and Events ON. 5 years as Committee Member plus 5yrs Sponsorship Chair Stewart Park Festival. Communication and writing skills as a performer, Script writer for Film & TV and self marketer. Environmentalist (off grid), Straw Bale Builder. Climate Change/Peak Oil Researcher. Local Family History. Born in Area.

5. Why are you interested in running for Council at this time?

Just returned from 4 years living in Cdn Arctic. Iqaluit, Nunavut. Wanting to re-enter active Community life. Have decided Municipal Politics best way to make a positive contribution to my Community.

6. What do you feel your primary responsibility will be as a Councillor?

Raising awareness and preparedness throughout Community for coming Climate challenges. Protecting our clean waterways and lakes. Delivering fiscal transparency yearly. Affordable housing. Tiny Homes.

7. Do you share, or identify with, the sentiment “Back off Government! This Land is Our Land!”?

No. Not where waterways are involved. Elsewhere. Yes. As long as Environmental Protection is practiced.

8. In your opinion, does TVT have adequate regulations in place regarding Council and staff procedures, zoning by-laws, road infrastructure, waste disposal, etc.?

If not, please outline your 3 main concerns and the steps you propose to remedy those concerns.

Council and Staff Procedures? Probably 'over' regulated leading to premature and costly investigations.

Zoning By-Laws? Being a new comer and based on the meetings I have attended i would say 'Yes'. Much more to learn.

Road Infrastructure: Strictly a function of monies available. As part of my fiscal platform I plan to design a yearly pie chart (of expenditures) including a brief referendum for taxpayers to comment on allocations. ie: roads?

9. The Municipal Act requires municipalities to adopt policies to try to ensure that it is accountable to the public for its actions and that its actions are transparent to the public. **[See Footnote 1]** In your opinion, are TVT's policies adequate for those purposes ? If not, please outline your 3 main concerns and the steps you propose to remedy those concerns.

Having resided outside of community these last four years and being new to Municipal issues I am not qualified to answer this - YET, my impressions so far are that:

- the 'independent investigations' report into the Judy Farrell conflict have not been made public? (this may or may not be correct?)
- yearly fiscal reports need to be published to taxpayers including Sick Leave Days awarded, Stress Leave costs (and causes), Salaries, etc.
- stress handling skills must be a hiring qualification for new staff.

10. If TVT is required to adopt policies to try to ensure accountability, are you of the view that all votes other than unanimous votes, should be recorded so that voters will be able to ascertain who voted for and against each resolution or by-law?

Yes. I think Democratically elected Councils serve at the pleasure of the Electorate and are accountable to them including having their voting record made public.

11. Does it concern you that TVT deals with an increasing number of matters in "closed sessions" which are not open to the public? If so, please outline the reason(s) for your concern(s) and the steps you propose to remedy those concerns.

Concerned? Yes. As I am unaware of what these 'closed sessions' refer to or why, I need to know more about the individual issues. My guess would be that after being briefed, I would find many of these matters needing to be publicly disclosed. I am strong on transparency.

12. In 2018, TVT passed bylaws containing policies and procedures for dealing with complaints by TVT residents against TVT staff, and *vice versa*. In each case, staff will investigate the complaints, decide the outcome of those complaints, and impose a range of sanctions or penalties, if complaints are upheld. The public is given no role in the investigative, decision-making, or penalty process. **[See Footnote 2]**

The 'vice versa' portion of your question suggests that TVT staff may investigate complaints against a TVT resident with the 'public given no role?' The 'defendant' must always have a role.

If a staff member investigates a claim by or against another staff member with whom the staff investigator works on a daily basis, should the public be concerned about bias in favour of TVT staff, or the appearance of such bias, in the complaint process? If so, please outline the steps you propose to remedy those concerns.

A staff member should not be in the position of investigating a fellow worker. I would hand this assignment to a Councillor who would interview, report, present to Council and Publish on the TVT website.

13. Based on the fact set out in **Footnotes 3 and 4** (which you should assume are correct), are you satisfied that the TVT tax expenditures for the 14 years from 2004 to 2017, both inclusive, are fair and reasonable having regard to:
- (a) the relatively large percentage of TVT residents aged 65 years and older, many of whom may be on fixed incomes; and
 - (b) changes in CPI, CPP retirement benefits, and GIC interest rates during the same period?

To answer this question of would need to see a 14 year breakdown on exactly what this money was spent on.

14. The derelict restaurant premises on Hwy 7 just west of Hwy 511 (last known as "Paros Island Restaurant" and once known as "Patterson's Restaurant") is located in Tay valley Township. It has been a community eyesore for more than 10 years and is getting worse every year.

Questions for incumbents: -

- (a) during your years on Council, what steps has Council taken to eliminate this blight on our community, and when were those steps taken?
- (b) What are the impediments, if any which prevent TVT from demolishing the building on the premises and either allowing the property to return to a state of nature, maintaining it as parkland or a recreational facility, or offering it for sale for commercial development? N/A

Questions for all candidates:

- (c) What steps, if any, would you propose to eliminate this community eyesore?

I would favour leveling this structure and making it available for commercial use.

Footnotes to Questions for Candidates

Footnote 1

The Municipal Act , 2001, S.O. 2001., C 25 as amended, S. 270(1)

Footnote 2

Complaint Policy – Complaint made by member of the public regarding municipal facilities, operational procedures, programs, services, or staff.

<http://www.tayvalleytwp.ca/en/municipal-government/resources/By-Laws/Section-AD-2--Complaint--Policy.pdf>

Complaint policy- Complaint by municipal Staff against a member or member of the public in respect of Unreasonable Customer behavior.

<http://www.tayvalleytwp.ca/en/municipal-government/resources/By-Laws/Section-AD-3--Unreasonable-Customer-Behaviour--Policy.pdf>

Footnote 3

The 2016 Government of Canada Census Profile indicates that TVT seniors' population (aged 65 and over) represented 25.7% of TVT's total population on Census day whereas the provincial average was only 16.7%.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3509015&Geo2=CD&Code2=3509&Data=Count&SearchText=Tay%20Valley&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&TABID=1>

Footnote 4

In the 14 years from 2004 to 2017, TVT's tax expenditures have increased from \$2,716,700 to \$5,453,364 an increase of \$2,736,664 or 100.73% for an average annual increase of 7.2%.

[Information obtained from TVT Budget Summaries for the years in question]

By comparison, over those same 14 years:

CPI for Canada All Items on the 2002 base stood at 104.7 in 2004 and at 130.4 in 2018 , an increase of 25.7 or 24.55%, for an average annual increase of 1.75% per year; <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1810000501>

CPP Maximum monthly retirement payments (without supplements) have increased from \$814.17 per year to \$1,114.17, an increase of 36.9% for an average annual increase of 2.64%

Average 5 year GIC rates paid by the major Canadian banks have **declined** from 2.53% to 1.01%.

http://www.bankofcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/selected_historical_v122515.pdf

Consequently, over same 14 years, TVT tax expenditures have increased:

4.1 times greater than the CPI index noted above;

2.7 times greater than CPP increases as noted above.

At the same time income generated from falling interest rates has **declined**.