

**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 Roxanne Darling
Candidate for Council – Sherbrooke Ward**

1. How long have you resided in Tay Valley?

18 years

2. What is your educational background

High School diploma

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

I began a 17-year long career in sales, marketing and customer service with several intertwining years spent in my most important job as a Mom raising my children. I worked in both radio and print advertising as a sales rep and then as a manager. I moved to Tay Valley met and married my husband, and began a 15 year labour of love as co owner and manager of Nordlaw Lodge on Bobs lake.. Contributing and Supporting the local economy of Tay Valley by purchasing all our supplies and services locally and hiring hundreds of local people over the Lodges 55 years in business.

For the Past 5 years I have been the office manager of Evergreen Concepts. A proudly Canadian family owned company that builds environmentally responsible and cost-efficient custom homes and cottages.

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

I'm straight forward, honest and believe strongly, that when all else fails common sense should prevail.

I have served as a municipal councillor for a combined 18 years in 2 municipalities. One of my main duty in my current job is facilitating the sometimes confusing and difficult planning and building approval process on behalf of our clients. I work with a dozen Municipalities daily.

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

I truly believe we are a Township divided and a bit lost, we have lost direction and focus of what the real issues in the Township are. I know as a member of council term 2018 I can help refocus, help heal and grow our Municipality.

6. What do you feel your primary responsibility will be as a Councillor?
I believe my primary responsibility as a Councillor is to Listen, to Understand and to act for the betterment of the Township as a whole.
7. Do you share, or identify with, the sentiment “Back off Government! This Land is Our Land!”?
For the most part Yes,, But not in a radical way. I believe in education not regulation.
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.
I think we have more than adequate regulations in place when it comes to Council, Staff and zoning by-laws. But there is always room for improvement on roads and waste.
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.
Yes I believe the adopted policies try to ensure accountability and transparency, whenever possible with exception to confidential information.
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?
I have no issues with adopting such a policy.
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.
Yes Im concerned about the number of closed sessions. The reasons I’m concerned about so many closed sessions is it allows for inaccurate speculation and rumors to run wild throughout the Township. The Township has experienced a increase in closed sessions over the last 12 months mainly due to 2 specific confidential issues. Once these issues are resolved, there will be no need for a remedy.
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]**

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.

I have asked for a detailed monthly report outlining all public complaints be implemented so Council can gage the success of the policy and be proactive if any concerns of bias are identified.

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?

Yes, But not without empathy, understanding and concern for our aging population. I would actively support and lobby for new funding sources or tax reform to help ease the financial burden in which our seniors find themselves.

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?

I believe, council investigated this about 6 years ago. With no conclusive outcome.

Questions for all candidates:

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

I do not know what if anything can be done but would certainly be willing to look into the matter again.

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.**