

CROWE

JULY 30/2017 • BARRIE'S INDEPENDENT VOICE • VOL 17 ISSUE 9 • FREE

Supplementary Table 2: Monetary contributions from unions or corporations

Name (Legal and Carrying on Business As)	Address	President or Business Manager	Cheque Signatory	Amount
Nothern Lights	11 Prince William Way, Barrie, ON, L4N 0Y9	Cliff Robinson	Cliff Robinson	\$ 500.00
Porter Plastering	75D Konrad Crescent, Markam, ON, L3R 8T8	Mark Porter	Mark Porter	\$ 750.00
Park Place Master GP	2851 John Street, Markam, ON, L3R 5%7	Terry Coglin	Terry Coglin	\$ 750.00
BIN Management	41 Commerce Park Unit C, Barri, ON, L4N 8X1	Roy Perez	Roy Perez	\$ 750.00
Melchoir Management	299 Lakeshore Drive, Barrie, ON, L4N 7Y9	Dino Melchoir	Dino Melchoir	\$ 300.00
Kempenfelt Graphics	84 Saunders Road, Barrie, ON, L4N 9A8	Barry Peacock	Barry Peacock	\$ 300.00
Yanch Heating and Air Conditioning	89 Rawson Ave, Barrie, ON, L4N 6E5	Chris Yanch	Chris Yanch	\$ 250.00
Trainers Choice	480 Huronia Road, Barrie, ON, L4N 6M2	Rick Schaley	Rick Schaley	\$ 300.00
1323237 Ontario Inc	175 Sun Pac Blvd. Unit 1A, Brampton, ON, L6S 5Z6	Tony Mele	Tony Mele	\$ 750.00
Total: carry fwd				\$ 4,650.00

Table 2: Monetary contributions from unions or corporations

Name (Legal and Carrying on Business As)	Address	President or Business Manager	Cheque Signatory	Amount
Jackson's Toyota	181 Mapleview Drive, Barrie, ON, L4N 9E8	Bob Jackson	Bob Jackson	\$ 200.00
Pratt Development Inc	Suite 300 - 27 Clapperton St, Barrie, ON, L4M 3E6	Don Pratt	Don Pratt	\$ 750.00
Georgian International	85 Bayfield Street, Barrie, ON, L4M 3A7	Jamie Massie	Jamie Masie	\$ 500.00
Hassey Management	17 Poyntz Street, Barrie, ON, L4M 3N6	Michael Hassey	Michael Hassey	\$ 500.00
CAN-SAVE	411 Bayview Ave, Barrie, ON, L4N 8Y2	Larry Koza	Larry Koza	\$ 500.00
Barrie Colts	555 Bayview Ave, Barrie, ON, L4N 8Y2	Howie Campbell	Howie Campbell	\$ 500.00
Carry forward from additional sheet				\$ 4,650.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional information is listed on separate supplementary attachment				Total \$ 7,600.00



Steve Trotter

Fired by the voters, and appointed back to office, by Barrie City Council



Power Play

What does it take to get the money to run with and win, in Barrie?

CROWE: THE KING OF POLITICAL JOURNALISM IN BARRIE
THE MOST BORING EDITION EVER

Not respecting what they had to do, council appoints their friend, a proven failure, to Ward 6



Steve Trotter, making his weak, facile pitch to council friends

elections, that they don't vote. They deliberately refuse to. I am giving them more reason to carry on, with that opinion. I am tempted to join them, myself.

They say that they don't vote because after people get elected and do wrong, they cannot be immediately fired; that they cannot be trusted; that they are only in it for themselves and their select, private network of friends. And, for this appointment, they would all be correct. Somebody who got fired, and showed no interest in running again for eleven years, got appointed, right back in. That is wrong.

They are called "former councillors" for a reason: They disappointed a majority of the people of their ward, and the people said, "I want you off that table." All the members of council who voted for Trotter, disobeyed the wishes of the voters. To watch Trotter come back to the council table in this way, is not a triumph for him, and not a relief for the people of Ward 6. It is anticlimactic, cynical and sad.

Council did this, because if they don't condemn themselves for doing so, the local mainstream media will not, and it takes time and money for members of the public to organize and work to punish those who did undertake this cynical act. People at large don't have that time and money to do anything. Only a very few people with an exceptional interest will try to do anything. Make that one. Me.

What happened was, Ward 6 Councillor, Michael Prowse, took over the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) spot from Carla Ladd, who retired. That left his council seat vacant, with not enough time left in the term to warrant spending the money on a by-election, with another full election coming much less than two years away.

The members of council decided to appoint someone to Prowse's seat. As a different council did eleven years ago, with a previous appointment, they pretended that the job was open to everyone, when really, it was not.

That was their first deliberate transgression. The second, was that

The only effect this edition will have on all members of Barrie City Council, is to make them laugh.

That includes their newest and least deserving member, former Ward 7 Councillor, Steve Trotter, appointed to Ward 6, and who was thrown out of office by John Brassard in 2006, with his 1074 votes to Trotter's 899.

I'm not writing this for council. I'm writing it for the people who tell me, after soliciting their opinions during

they ignored several people who could have done the job, easily, and did so, relying on the elitist, bigoted, discriminatory nonsense that only a former councillor could handle the job. The clichés that were spoken to in 2006 were uttered again at the council table in 2017, before anyone had provided an application, and were spoken to yet again, on the night that the wrong choice for appointment was made.

The former councillors who applied for this were, starting with a former alderperson: Mary-Florence Bartley; Steve Trotter; Rodney Jackson; Kevin LePage and Lynn Strachan.

Thirty-two people tried for the job, with one, former councillor, Brian Jackson, having withdrawn. All thirty-one of the applicants spoke on July 10, the day a special session of council was held, to make the appointment.



Former Ward 6 Councillor, new City CAO, Michael Prowse

none of them had a chance. Every word was wasted, speaking to a council that was not listening, and never wanted to listen and give the words, weight. Council made fools of them all, every bit as much as a carnival barker with a rigged game that cannot be won. All those people, struggling to do their best for an opportunity, trying to please and convince a council that carried on to the end, voting for former members of council. The first, Trotter, was fired from the job by the voters, and the second, Lynn Strachan, is a different story.



Former Ward 2 Councillor, Lynn Strachan

Strachan won her Ward 2 seat with a huge margin of victory, had great attendance to meetings, and is a nice person. Even my friend, Big John, the one who used to run the record store of the same name, downtown, who normally isn't fond of politicians, told me she was nice to deal with.

No problems with Strachan. She just isn't Prowse. Her ideas on how to do things, are different, from his. She is a spender, whereas Prowse, is frugal. There are other items, too.

Strachan completed her most recent term and was not fired. However, she did withdraw from the election to go back to

school, and was thereafter given a tribute by council, along with other outgoing councillors, on November 23, 2014. Terry Leigh, the former producer of the Rogers coverage for Barrie City Council, dug up old campaign footage of Strachan, and the other two, Brian Jackson and Alex Nuttall. He worked on it, to make it special. Now, it's not as special, as it was.

It is somewhat awkward to come back, in the face of that tribute, less than a term, later. If you say you are done with council, and are off to get a degree, then stick to your word, or show us that you got the degree, and are ready to go, again. Strachan's education is ongoing. She was too busy then, when she left, and is too busy now. The same, as she was not voted out of office, and was very popular in Ward 2, she would have been a better choice than any councillor that was voted out of office. And, with that said and with all due respect, she still was not a better choice than myself, as I will explain.

Strachan and Brian Jackson were the only two applicants for the appointment, not to provide supplemental materials. Which means, they only filled in their names on the form, for the appointment. That's gangsta. They were so confident, all they had to put in, were their names. That is the problem, with former councillors going *for* an appointment, *from* councillors. They have the unfair advantage, that all the others, do not. Human nature is what it is, and if you keep looking for the best in people, you are going to be disappointed, a lot of the time. I got disappointed, again.

Here are the names of the others, all the others, that tried, and had no advantage, and not even a chance to be appointed: Jim Hosick; Brad A. Thompson; Alma Sanders; Keith Robertson; Tara Wanamaker; Avery Konda; John Olthuis; Gary Harvey; Constance Elliott; James Dickie; Laurie Watt; Zachary Gribbons-Shrubsole; Donald Kirkpatrick; Colin Nelthorpe; Sage Hyden; Mike Washburn; Kenneth Lansing; Dave Forfar; Justin Heran; Brandon Pitawanakwat; Carl Hauck; Steve O'Donnell; Sonya Anderson; Ashley Polischuk and Shannon Murree.

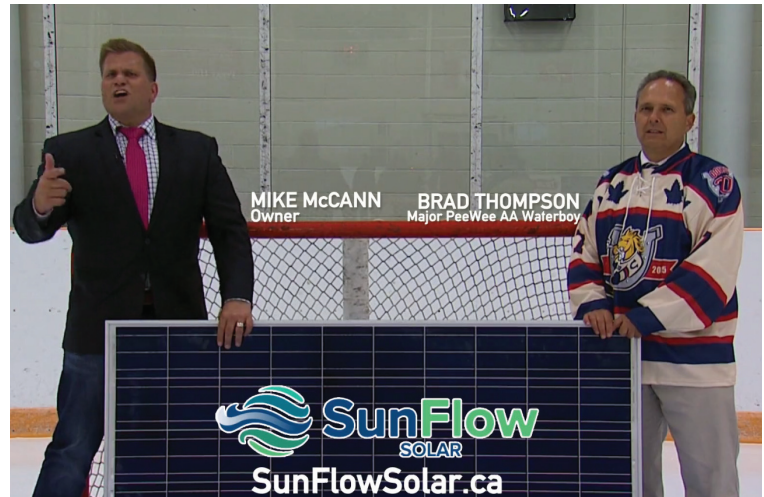


And myself, Darren Roskam.

Council treated this job like it was any other, and their first and only moves were to place their friends to it, ignoring that the job was about the man, Michael Prowse, the person the voters selected, to have it.

Even though coming as close as possible to Prowse needed to be the goal, to please the people who voted for him, council pleased itself, and their friends, instead. It does not matter if I say I am disappointed with them all. They don't care. For this, their friends came first, and the people of Ward 6, second. This was a plum, and they kept it in the family, just like they did with another appointment, eleven years ago, using the same nonsense, to do it. If they really wanted experience, last time, a former mayor, Janice Laking, tried for it. How did they choose anyone else? They kept it in their circle of friends then, and they did it again, eleven years later. Friends come first, to these folks.

As with last time, there is not one vote or promise behind an appointed seat, and no way, technically, to fail, because the people of



Ward 10 Councillor, Mike McCann, with his pick for the people of Ward 6: his friend, with no previous council interest, Ward 2 resident, Brad A. Thompson

Ward 6 are going to get what they are going to get, and not choose it. I say that council does not care, because contrary to their nonsense, there were plenty of people who could have done the job, and I am one of them. I also say it, because the people of Barrie were not served well by the person who got the previous appointment, another former councillor, because that person, Alison Eadie, broke her word to council, and the people of Barrie. To appoint another former councillor, right after, shows that this council has learned nothing, and endorses the former decision, not wanting to improve on it. That is sad.

Of all the others who tried this time, and even though I don't care for what she does, because she is a leftist writer, former *Barrie Advance* journalist, Laurie Watt, for years, as I did, got the same packages of reports and letters to councillors in the circulation list, that I got, when former mayor, Dave Aspden, told staff to give me the same packages the other media people received, starting in April of 2008. This went on until the packages were no longer printed free of charge, and while Bob Bruton of the *Barrie Examiner* and Watt continued to get theirs, paid for by their employer, I couldn't afford them. I did get familiar with them, though, for about two years. You read them, prepare an opinion, and get ready to speak to a rezoning application and other concerns. The job is listening, reading, writing, and speaking to matters that constituents want spoken to, at the council table.

That's it. That's the job. No engineering degree is required. God knows that council is far removed from a group of engineers; they are nowhere near it. Neither am I. They are the last people to dismiss dozens of others for a lack of experience, for a job anyone with a basic intelligence could do, without the experience of the job, itself. Councillors are not members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, either. Again, I hate to return to Watt, but either she or I could have stepped into that job, with no learning curve or the other nonsense the councillors spoke to, as the reasons for denying competent people their chance. To the contrary, we could have done a better job than some at that table, on maybe our worst or best days, and their, respective, days.

The people voted for Prowse, and he was and is, a man in his late forties who is a frugal spender, and, like myself, a card-carrying member of the Conservative Party of Canada. Either that, or he was just hanging around for fun at the nomination for Barrie-Innisfil, while I was there, too. Yes, my Libertarian Party allows you to have other party memberships. We don't care. When it is election time, I go to the doors, and collect the votes, for our (continued on page A5)

What does it take to be a councillor, anyway?



The ability to tie your feet behind your ears, if you have to; good looks; a talent for making chatter on the local cable morning show, and...
...that's it.

No experience or interest in politics or general municipal affairs, is required. None. Zero. Nada. Zilch.

As such, the big endorsements follow immediately after a contrived "draft" of yourself, has begun. At least, that's how things get done in Barrie, Ontario.

So, like, after we created this phony "Draft Jennifer" campaign, I have to wait a while before I put my name in. Patrick says that everybody will endorse me before I do it, and I will have the money I need to campaign properly. He is going to run Alison Eadie to lose in the same ward, while going with me to the doors, and by 2015, I'm going to Ottawa, after the riding splits. That's what he said. Step one, this. Step two, I'm an MP. There's also a little job waiting for you at the City, right now, and even a few grand in arts grants for you and your friends. Help yourself. Takes a few minutes to do the paperwork. Best of all, we still have the weekends available to get together and fuck.

You, are, amazing. Opportunity is knocking. Glenn Coulson is listening. To City Hall we go. Done deal. Money and power. Success for you and me. Let's get our share, and then some. I mean, let's serve the people of Barrie, or something. It's all about the people. The people are the city, or...whatever.



"I believe Jennifer Robinson would be the best possible councillor for Ward 8 and she would be a wonderful addition to Barrie City Council. Jennifer has my full support."

—Former Ward 8 Councillor, Jerry Moore, quoted before leaving Ward 8



"I believe Jen would be a valuable addition to our council table. I can't think of anyone better for the job. What an asset Jen would be!"

—Former Ward 3 Councillor, Rod Jackson, quoted before unsuccessfully defending his seat



"Having a person of Jennifer's quality and character to represent Ward 8 at Barrie City Council is the right choice to make a great city even greater."

—Barrie-Innisfil MP, John Brassard, quoted while Councillor for Ward 7



"Jennifer would be an incredible representative for Ward 8. She is terrific."

—Simcoe North MPP, Patrick Brown, quoted while he was Barrie MP

<http://www.thebarrieexaminer.com/2010/09/04/politicians-figure-skater-a-sharp-choice>

And after she walked out of her job mid-term, after everybody found out she was cheating on her husband with Glenn Coulson? And her quitting and leaving town cost the city \$20,000.00 for the by-election? Even after she was exposed for being a bad person and failed at her job, the endorsements kept coming:



"Jennifer Robinson brought her unstoppable optimism, shining personality and a strong belief in Barrie to city council. She was a tremendous ambassador for Barrie and will be sorely missed."

—Mayor Jeff Lehman

This places into sharp relief the profound baloney of people needing to have experience, to be a municipal ward councillor. If the right person comes along, meaning, if another sock puppet with charisma and no brain is available when the other sock puppet and member of the Council Club™ is ready to leave, everybody lines up to support that person, whether they are suited for the job, or not. It all depends on who you know, not whether you deserve the job, or not.

At least, that's how things get done in Barrie, Ontario.

Jennifer was an "incredible" councillor. An incredibly *bad* one. From a moral standpoint, that is. Aptitude to do the job? No problem. Not for her, or myself, or others. Members of council today, tried to--sorry, they did--intimidate and belittle the applicants for the Ward 6 appointment by speaking to important projects, as if they were things they were not equipped to handle. And a skater, was.

Anyone can read a report, and form an opinion, and vote!

Anyone, even a one time, failed Olympian, figure skater.

I saved Jennifer's expense report. Look at all the old money, this first-timer got: Jackson's Toyota; Georgian Automotive Group; Hassey Management; CANSAVE; Donald Pratt; Mark Porter; Terry Coughlin, Dino Melchior. Her old money is on the front cover.

Alison Eadie ran to lose; to safely eat up a big chunk of other available competition while Patrick gave the big push to the Grade D celebrity skater at the same time. The results, from the 2010 election:

Alison Eadie	823
Ghulam Jilani	43
Don T. W. MacNeil	285
Don W. McLaurin	546
Jennifer Robinson	845 ELECTED
John S. Webb	87

Even as an appointee, I would have been better at the job than Jennifer. How? Smarter, and I would have been honest. Sadly, honesty does not impress the people who endorsed Jennifer back in 2010, and ignored me, in 2017. To them, all that matters first, is serving their little circle of friends. They endorse sock puppets, and are repelled by honest men.

—Darren Roskam

(continued from page A3) party. The voters were being denied their choice, with this appointment, so you must try to come as close as you can get, to that first choice, to respect what that choice, was.

Of all the applicants, I have the closest personality to Prowse, and, I had the greatest demonstrated interest in council, and that includes the former councillors, because after the spigot of money is turned off, they don't attend meetings, anymore. It was me, by a mile, if council had respected the voters. They didn't. I didn't get one vote. Prowse himself, by the way, had no vote, for this, so if you enjoy the story and agree with me, don't blame him.

CROWE, from April 19, 2006

and keeping it secret. That decision was made in a private session. This latest appointment was made during a public session, with applicants able to speak, and all the votes were public.

Yes, you can thank me, for that. Nobody else stepped up. I did.

Steve Trotter was one of the councillors who made that bad decision to appoint Eadie in 2006. Now he has come full circle, and after being voted out of office later that year, 2006, he has been appointed back, eleven years later, by the same process, using the same false argument that only a former councillor can handle the job. Poetic, and disgusting. It is no wonder, that people choose not to vote!

Experience? When an airline pilot flies his plane into the ocean, do you give him the job back, because he has experience on the job? To be voted out of office is to be fired from the only job that requires you to get it, by being voted into it, to begin with. This council either does not understand this, or they do, and do not give a damn. My money is on the latter. Either way, it's all bad.

I reviewed all the application materials from every applicant. I noted that Dave Forfar, the City's former Deputy Fire Chief who had been fired in 2013, was applying. I noted after a search for his last name that a woman with the same last name, Stacey Forfar, was already working for the City as its Manager of Growth Planning. There is no law against that. The same, I asked Forfar to confirm or deny that his daughter already had an executive position at the City, with an email I sent to him and council. He replied and admitted it.

On reflection, performing that superior level of due diligence probably only harmed my chances. On the other hand, not doing so, and just putting my name in, with no supplementary materials, would have been used as an excuse to select a former member of council, had I complained afterward, and, if any of them bothered to explain themselves, which they would not have done, anyway. The reason

why each approach could not have worked, was that I thought too well of these people, to do the right thing. And I was way, way off in regards to how much Conservative ideology we shared. I always accepted that none of council's Conservatives or their friends could donate to my Libertarian campaigns, because of their ties to the next closest party, the Conservatives. Yet with an opportunity of this kind, an appointment, I believed that our shared ideology would be respected. Not only was it not respected, it was not even considered; it never entered any of their minds. All they thought of was their private, inner circle. I never bothered lobbying any of them, aside from one text message to one of them who is not Conservative, because all of them already know me and what I stand for, politically, and what I stand for, is in simpatico with the way Prowse acted while on council.

And although I said in this edition that technically, Watt could have done the job, too, her story on the appointment, "Watt shares wisdom after a week of lobbying and playing politics," for the *Barrie Today*



From left: Royal Navy Vet. Cliff Hall; myself

website, was short, shallow, and – like her application supplementary materials – relied on clichés. Over at the *Examiner*, Bob Bruton's story, "Beats Strachan in 5-4 vote of council," was nothing more than stenography, minus clichés. Where is the full reporting, analysis and deep commentary? It is here. Only here.

I also had the very best endorsement of anyone who applied for the job: My friend, and World War II veteran, Cliff Hall, whom I met years ago, at Barrie City Hall. We were both activists against a deal involving moving the YMCA to the Old Allandale Train Station.

Council should have been flattered that Hall took an interest in what they do, and should have given his endorsement a lot more weight. I have the skills to do the job, and I gave council a clean criminal record check. It was an even choice between myself and the others who could have done the job, and while in the second round, five voted for Trotter, four of the members of council voted for Strachan. I have nothing against her, however, I will speak against council's decision: What would those members have said, if asked by the people of Ward 6 who voted for Prowse, who they appointed?

"Strachan has a strike against her from the Integrity Commissioner, and left the election that day. She provided no proof of her ongoing education with her application, she has four children, no time to put you first, spends freely and fought Prowse tooth and nail when he successfully eliminated the corrupted personal arts grants program."

Here is what those who voted for her, could have been proud to say, if asked why they voted for me: "Roskam is just like Prowse, he doesn't want to spend your money if he doesn't have to. He has been attending council meetings personally and writing of them for a decade, he voted for Prowse while in Ward 6, has written highly of Prowse for years, fought the same arts grants as an activist, and was endorsed by a WWII hero." When those who say they "serve the public," care only for their friends, first...why vote, at all? —D.R.

Minus Jeff, these are The Artful Dodgers



First ballot: Steve Trotter; Second: Steve Trotter
Believe it or not, I respect Jeff's vote. I criticized him too often for too long. So even while I never wrote him off as a bad person, he couldn't vote for me. While I am against any former councillors getting appointed back, as the mayor, he had to make a safe choice to fit with the direction of a former councillor, that the others were headed, towards. On council, Jeff and Lynn had each other's back, a lot of the time. That Jeff voted against Lynn, is a big hint as to how the run for mayor, for next year, is going to go. If, that is, Jeff does not try for Liberal MPP...and gets it. Jeff is the only one here, who would have a chance, for the 2018 provincial election. If I were him, I would try, just for the notoriety while holding the mayor's seat, and for making contact with the riding, then go to Ottawa, next federal.

Even though he mentioned residency and official council experience, he did also say that there were "many, many, people here tonight who could do the job effectively." He was the only one to say it, and he didn't treat it like Kindergarten, and say that everyone could do it. Great comment. Fair comment. With the way the local Conservatives let me down with this appointment, I really regret having criticized Jeff for the past few years. My enthusiasm for the others, was misplaced, to say the least. Sorry, Jeff.



First ballot: Steve Trotter; Second: Steve Trotter
This was one of the original six I thought I had. Frugal spender, for the most part. Bonnie told me her husband voted for me, in the federal election, and she once came to me, and had a chat about the arts grants I was fighting. She was the first to speak, on why she voted the way she did. With Peter missing, I knew I was lost as soon as she mentioned the most significant thing for her, which was ward residency.

She doesn't appreciate that matching the man, Michael, is the most important thing. Ward residency for an appointment, is a simpleminded aspect to give priority to. While it is folksy and attractive for an election, an appointment is an emergency, and the personality of the man elected is more significant than his address. Most of council is not even from Barrie. I am. Nobody cares. If your address is the most important thing, then being born and raised here should be more important than any ward residence, and, again, nobody cares. Then she got to "experience." If that is what matters, for a job that pretty much anyone from any walk of life could do, which is why it is open to anyone to get elected to it, why tease everyone with a job that they cannot apply for? Irony how when Jeff asked for her comments, which was her *rationale* for voting as she did, and not her vote, *itself*, she misunderstood what he meant. Then, after she was done with her comments, she interrupted Rose, as she began, hers. Maybe Bonnie needs more experience. Or maybe she needs to move to Ward 6, before she can even make a decision on Ward 6. And what did she say, to add to her earlier comments? That if we had a larger council, she would like to appoint everyone. Great. There were certainly people who applied who would not be good for the job. Bonnie would have voted for them all. Her own words. She obviously didn't read all the supplemental materials, to have said that. To be honest, I don't really think she was serious. It was just the first of many sops that the councillors offered, as they politely dismissed, with faux drama, all people not former councillors, as too stupid to do the job.



First ballot: Lynn Strachan; Second: Lynn Strachan
After Lynn pulled out of the race for Ward 2, I offered to help Rose for no charge, with the graphic design for her campaign materials. She decided against it. I didn't expect her to vote for me. That she voted for Lynn, her

former rival, is odd. She said the decision was "very tough." To vote for your former rival? Not tough. Weird. She must have been given a guarantee from Lynn or her brother, Keith, that they would not move on Ward 2 in 2018. No other explanation for it, and the decision to try to install a spender, does not serve the interests of the people who voted for Michael, a tightwad. If Lynn moves on this seat in 2018, then I am wrong. If she doesn't, this was a deal for the benefit of both parties, not the people of Ward 6. To vote for Lynn without this guarantee makes even less sense, as Lynn is in Ward 2, with the home advantage, and Rose, is not. If Lynn and her brother so much as turn in the general direction of Ward 2, it is theirs to take back. For the 2010 election, there were three candidates in Ward 2; their names and votes: Matt Dean 262; Rose Romita 1,104; Lynn M. Strachan 2,798.

In 2014, with Lynn withdrawn, Rose grew by only 152 to 1,256 to beat Steve Jones by 29 votes, with James McVeigh only 108 behind Steve. Do the math. Ward 2 is/was Lynn's for the taking in 2018, if she wanted it. And even though this vote is the most self-serving of the bunch, and makes the least sense for Ward 6, I respect Rose for paying for her entire campaign, herself. And here is another prediction: With her 2018 run to defend, Rose will have access to the same old money that supports most of the rest of council, during elections. Rose spent \$4,894.03 in 2014. In 2010, Lynn spent none of her own money and received \$7,200.00 in contributions, and spent \$7,064.64. With Lynn leaving Ward 2 alone and Rose having done her best to give her the appointment, that old money should be Rose's, now. She will need it. I expect Steve and James to be trying, again.



First ballot: Lynn Strachan; Second: Lynn Strachan
I thought I had his vote, too. Frugal spender. Arts grant fighter. He wants experience, and the man is only one year older than me, and he was invisible at council meetings, before he ran. How did he ever handle the job

himself, without studying it, beforehand? By the time I heard "experience" a second time, I knew that these "Conservatives" have been humouring me, for years.

He told me to run in Ward 7 for the by-election. Why, if I am too stupid to represent Ward 6, a year and change, later? Just humouring me. It got funnier when I contacted one of his contributors, The Georgian Automotive Group, and told them what he had said, and got no reply. For his ward, the spending limit was \$11,616.40. Doug spent \$286.45 below that. Contribution from candidate? Zero. How does he expect me to run, with no money, when he spends the limit, and none of it is his own? Just some idle chatter to make me feel important.

I'll say one thing for Jeff, and will say a lot more for him in the coming months: he never humoured, never patronized, me.

Doug voted for the big spender of council, Lynn. Not very Conservative. Not how Michael did things for Ward 6. Not how Doug does things, for Ward 3. Not what the people of Ward 6 voted for.

Speaking of Conservative, Doug put his name in the hat for the PC nomination, Barrie-Innisfil, in January, immediately went on the warpath against Premier Wynne, as was the right thing to do, and then...he dropped out, with the story going to press the day before this appointment. His reasons for doing so make so little sense, they will

make you laugh, if you get yourself in the right mood before you read them. Do a search for “Barrie councillor no longer wants PC nomination,” and read:

“I’m enjoying municipal politics, my heart is local, it’s always been local. The thought of switching over to provincial politics just isn’t the right timing for me. I’m going to stick it out and see where this leads to, down the road.”

Is he kidding? He is, for his reasons. The real reason is somebody with a name that rhymes with Hat Trick, told him that he’s not the chosen one, and that he has a guarantee Joe Tascona isn’t going to run for mayor, so take a hike, and go for that. That explains why one of the *tightest* spenders voted for one of the *biggest* spenders, to represent the people of Ward 6, who themselves, voted for a tightwad. With this vote that makes no sense, Doug is blowing kisses to Lynn’s brother, who is the best manager game in town, to take on Jeff, and his Toronto game, Quito Maggi. That is the match, for 2018: Jeff/Quito vs Doug/Keith. You read it here, first.

Ten days after Doug’s bizarre six-month-after-the-fact withdrawal, a former Patrick Brown employee, Shawn Bubel, is going for office. The same office, Doug was after, half a year ago. What a surprise, what a surprise! Actually, not at all. Par for the course, really.

Doug also, quoting councillors that conveniently did not have names, dismissed all applicants who were not former councillors by citing the *entire time of the appointment*, as a learning curve. Maybe for him, it was. He should speak for himself, only. He also, with the second big sop of the night, invited those he just dismissed, to exercise their “democratic right,” and start knocking on doors. What a joke, coming from a man who spends the limit! Most of the applicants, myself included, do not have the money to run properly. That does not mean they are bad people, not worthy to run. Certainly some others over the years, with the money, who ran and won, such as Barry and Jennifer, were not worthy. The thing is, those without the money, cannot even try and have hope of winning. A ward or riding will not elect a stranger, and you need lots of money to reach enough voters, to win. Doug knows that, as he spends the maximum, and knew it, as he spoke his sop to the people whom he was inviting to run, after he had dismissed them all, for not being former councillors.

Even if I was not appointed, the appointment was an opportunity to let someone in from the community who did not have that money, to run with. To Doug, every one of them who was not a former councillor, was too stupid to do the job, and they should go knock on doors to make their dreams come true. He was patronizing me, and everyone else, with those comments. For himself, not knowing for half a year what he wanted, while taking centre stage in the media as he attacked Premier Wynne, it shows that for Doug, the learning curve is only for himself, and it never ended.



First ballot: Steve Trotter; Second: Steve Trotter

The one person on council I have written off as a bad person. He broke his own Code of Conduct and used a City email account to send lies about me to a Small Claims Court, Deputy Judge. The cute jokes about his tenure on council don’t make me laugh. He shouldn’t be there. Aside from the immorality of breaking the Code, it’s also something I would not have done, myself. Barry was also for the YMCA deal at the train station, which I was against, and it fell apart. I was right, and he was wrong. Am I safer and smarter than this member of council, at least? Easily.

With my choice of what side of that issue to lobby for, I proved I have the wisdom that this veteran councillor, does not have.



First ballot: absent; Second: absent

There is nothing wrong with a councillor voting for a friend, if, that is, the friend is suited to the appointment. I was. Mike’s friend, wasn’t even close.

I have done small jobs for Peter throughout the last five years, at least, and supported him with everything I had to support him, with. He owed a vote to me, or, to his fellow member in the Funny Handshake Club, Justin Heran. I didn’t lobby anyone else personally, as I felt I had this, and to do so, would jeopardize it. I sent a message to Peter, and reminded him that Justin had family money, and his own house, and that I was more talented, and lived in a small, rented apartment, and to consider me for the appointment.

He didn’t even show.

I still like Peter. Very outgoing and down to earth personality. Yet for this, he lets me know that he thinks of me as a helper, and not worthy of the big job. I can’t work for him anymore.



First ballot: Gary Harvey; Second: Lynn Strachan

I thought I had Bonnie. I thought for sure, I had Doug, based on our close political views. Here is another vote which leaves me puzzled. I’ve been on good terms with

Andrew from the time of his first term on council. Glad to have him back. I shot video of the day he was sworn back in. Did it because I like the comeback story. Of course, that doesn’t mean he should vote for me. A politician is friendly with most everyone he knows. I feel I was the best, for the reasons stated in this edition. And, that Andrew is Conservative, and a Libertarian such as myself, is a more extreme Conservative, so I more than match his own political views. Andrew’s first choice was Gary Harvey, a police officer who ran against him in Ward 7. I read his supplementary materials, as well as everyone else’s. Looks to me like an officer who is always on course, as a hobby. The most important item I felt, was that he is a Certified Municipal Manager, through the Ontario Municipal Management Institute. Never heard of that place, before. Did a search, read the website, and here is a quote from it, from their frequently asked questions:

“6. How many courses do I have to take?”

•*The CMM is NOT a course; it is a recognition of education and professional experience in local government.”*

<http://www.ommi.on.ca/f-a-qs/>

The rest of his letter to council was reflecting council’s past and objectives, back to them. Platinudes galore. Ending with, of course, “live, work and play.” He works in the GTA, and I saw very little activity to bind him to council, aside from his first run, for Ward 7. Letters of recommendation were mentioned, and not posted. They require an extra note for permission, to be posted. I got mine done, properly. I spoke with him during the run for Ward 7. He told me I couldn’t say that I attended more council meetings than all the others going for Ward 7, combined. I told him that I could, because most of that attendance was in front of *Examiner* reporter, Bob Bruton, and even though he is not my friend, he knows it is true, and printed it.

What set Andrew back? Bad charges. He votes for a cop. Go figure.

In 2010, when Andrew was trying to hold Ward 9, my friend Paolo Fabrizio was running in the same ward. We both liked Andrew and while the campaign was on, made a public video with which Paolo said the charges would get dropped, which they did. Forgotten, with time? Maybe. I don’t know. What I do know is, that the second ballot was for Lynn, who is a spender, who walked away from council life, and got a vote from someone who had to fight their way, back in.

I still like Andrew and his comeback story. Good guy. I've just been so wrong, about how deep the interest is with the local Conservatives, in their own beliefs.

This is a little fraternity, which serves its members, above political beliefs, and above what is best for the voters. In recent years, former councillors John Brassard and Alex Nuttall rose to the ranks of Conservative MPs. Doug was trying, for six months, to be a PC candidate. They certainly are Conservatives, but only when they play one, on TV. It is something that they can set aside, at the drop of a hat. Or, when they see their former councillor friends, walking towards an opportunity which should be available for everyone, and is not.



First ballot: Constance Elliott; Second: Lynn Strachan

My first dealings with Arif were with a dispute. However, we treated each other with respect, and quickly set the dispute aside. He knows from personal experience that I can work with people to find solutions.

From then on, I have had no problems with him. Great personality and friendly to speak with, and was a good sport when he offered help with one of my better stories, the one about *Gooby*, a big studio movie shot in Barrie, years ago. That was nice of him, to do.

His first choice, Constance, I read her one page of supplementary materials. I am not saying Constance is a bad person; to the contrary, I believe she could have done the job. I just don't see an exceptional interest in Barrie City Council, or Ward 6.

His second choice? Here we go, again. A Conservative party member, voting for the spender, to replace Michael, who is not a spender. I hate to refer to Lynn as a "spender," I just have no other way to make the point. She was a great councillor, just the wrong one to appoint, to Michael's chair.

Arif also cited the learning curve, and said he is on it, five years later. Comments change, from place to place. His re-election website said, *"Throughout Arif's initial campaign, he conducted an active listening tour to hear your concerns, prioritize your interests, and commit to finding fiscally responsible solutions for our city. This has not changed since his election to council."*

It doesn't say, nor would it, ever, that Arif struggles to learn the job, five years later.

Is the job one that requires new things to learn, as you go? Oh, yes. Does Arif have trouble with the fundamental nuts and bolts of it? No. Not when he started, and not five years on, either. Not at all.

During his first declaration of a potential pecuniary interest, he pushed his chair far away from the table, with humour. One time, his first and only, he tried to use announcements as a way to return to an earlier debate. Jeff nailed him on it, albeit in a friendly way.

Ah, who has paid more attention than I have, all these years?

"Don't quit now, run again," says Arif, to the disappointed.

Hmmm. Arif spent \$8,081.01 with \$371.01 of it his own money.

Without those pools of old money, those people turned away, cannot run. Every one of them will run, and lose, and be footnotes beside the winners, if they do not have the money that friends, such as Jennifer, had. The more they try, the more they harm their reputation. That is why I am hurt that this special chance went to a former councillor, and that Arif voted for one that spends, too. It goes against his own party, and what the people of Ward 6 wanted, together.



First ballot: Laurie Watt; Second: Steve Trotter

I attended Patrick's acclamation at the Royal Canadian Legion, this month. He spoke about his late grandfather, known as Honest Joe, for his car dealership. Joe

Tasca Sr., reminded me of my own grandfather, who owned and operated a service station in Orillia for fifty years, and also sold a few cars. I attended Mr. Tasca's funeral, spoke with people, took pictures of the dealership, wrote a story, did the graphic design, published it, and then personally delivered it to the business next door to the old place, and to the Midway Diner, where Mr. Tasca would get breakfast, every morning. I made sure his son got a copy, and council. That was in the autumn of 2011. Since before that time, I have been a cheerleader for the local Conservatives, right to this very year. For years and years, attending and reporting on pancake breakfasts, chili fests and barbecues. Sergio is a Conservative.

Laurie is a rampaging Liberal. This is the thanks, I get.



First ballot: Brad A. Thompson; Second: Steve Trotter

When I first heard Mike mention Drury Lane, my ears perked up. Back when we were kids, I played with Mike's older brother, Christopher. We lived on the same street. That doesn't count for much, today. Not enough for a vote.

I read the one page of supplementary materials for his first choice, Brad. It was just a resumé. It had not even been altered, to suit council in any way. No cover letter. Just the resumé of a salesman. Nothing wrong with being a salesman. If he had a passion for council, then get him to the table. Not even a little work done, for a cover letter. There is no passion. This was the cheapest vote of the night.

Mike mentioned the word "resumé," twice. That makes sense. It was all he had to work with, from Brad. I provided a lot more.

"Now we're in a situation, where you're gonna give us your resumé, you're gonna speak for five minutes, we're gonna do zero background check on you and we're supposed to pick who we think is going to be the best candidate for Ward 6."

Excuse me, I provided a background check.

I also brought it to be examined by the Deputy Clerk, before I filed it. I demonstrated a profound due diligence, that a fair grade school teacher would have appreciated, yet which was deliberately ignored, by councillors looking to reinstall their friends, pretending that others were too stupid to do the job.

I also brought a letter of recommendation from a World War II hero, who also takes an interest in council. Clifford Hall and myself offered a lot more, than a resumé. You missed a lot, Mike.

You said you wanted a leader. I got policy changed at city hall, <http://www.thebarrieexaminer.com/2012/05/15/resident-says-grants-must-have-clear-rules>

two years before you were promising the voters of Ward 10 the fun of splash pads that could not be brought. The old money that paid for your campaign, came from your existing Council Club™ connections, not from any leadership, or interest in council, on your part. You were given Ward 10, from a friend, and you tried to do the same with this opportunity, for your friend.

Both you and Brad had not worked for it, and didn't deserve it.

Being in the right place at the right time and connected, is all you and Brad have, and had, to offer. Either mortgage your house and install at least one splash pad, or resign.

One more thing. When speaking to this appointment before it came, you raised concerns to the Clerk about the new councillor being appointed, and then paid, straight into vacation time. Dawn had to remind you that even during vacations, your responsibilities, remain.

How did you not already know that? Stronger, safer, and more fun... and not paying attention. At least I got the vote of one man, Cliff Hall, who amounts to more than all of council, combined. —Darren Roskam