

# CROWE

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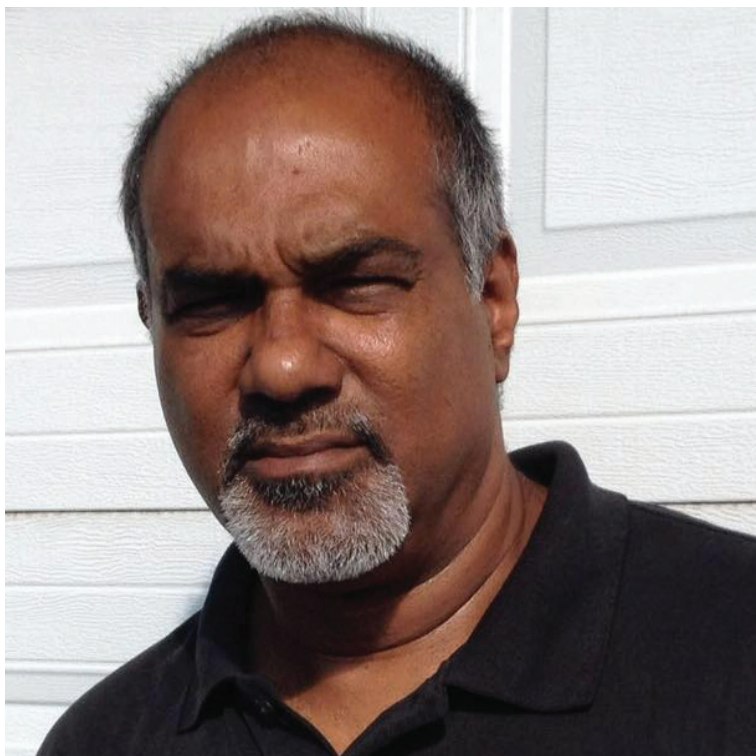


**2018 BARRIE MUNICIPAL ELECTION SPECIAL EDITION**

**[www.thecrowe.ca](http://www.thecrowe.ca)**



# Aesthetics



**Ram Faerber**

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The local mainstream media's offerings, such that they are, *The Advance* and a new, two-bit, online-only "paper," *Barrie Today*, are so far removed from my talent, that it isn't even funny. Neither of them are even able to attract Letters to the Editor that are worth a damn, and if they did receive any, they wouldn't publish them. I know they don't.

They go no farther than to publish the names of those running, along with "has thrown his hat into the ring," and "the race is on." Canadian Press Style. Chain-owned media. Yawn.

*The Advance* was fair to me with the provincial election we had earlier this year, and yet, they would not do a story or publish my letter on Steve Trotter running for the ward he was appointed to, while not having disclosed to council that he was going to, when he tried for the appointment. If you don't report on that, then you are not reporting on politics, and are rather, just acting as a stenographer for what happens, during elections.

They don't want me writing for them, not even with a letter. And that is what *Barrie* gets, for political reporting, aside from the chatter and dumbing-down of the radio and the boob tube, which is the same, only worse, as there is less of it, less reporting, and a weaker job done.

**For the sake of aesthetics alone, Jeff Lehman should have been acclaimed as Mayor of Barrie.**

People tell me that Lehman hasn't done anything great, and he hasn't done anything very bad. That's true. And then again, that's true of many politicians, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, included. Creating more debt is quite bad, however, as far as Trudeau is concerned, he is not creating war with other countries, so you can work with him. I would prefer to vote for Maxime Bernier, myself, but that does not mean I can argue that Trudeau is not a reasonable choice. If you're a Liberal, then he is delivering what you want, debt or not. As long as the TV works and is filled with hockey, and there is available credit to buy new cars with enough cash left over for beer, the average Canadian does not care.

Trudeau's father, Pierre, began creating vast debt decades ago, and Canadians did not care then, and their children, the ones always cited by those who warn against debt, who will have to pay for it all, later, those children, adults today, do not care, now, either. Nobody cares.

***"Nobody cares. Nobody cares."***

***—Sonny,  
A Bronx Tale***

Barrie has a high rate of unemployment - albeit at the moment,

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Publisher: Darren Roskam

and it could change soon - while many of the jobs we do have, are not very good, and a significant percentage of people commute from here to the Greater Toronto Area to get a job that is worth having. The price to rent here is very high. The property taxes go up steadily. As a friend of mine from Iran who ran a pizzeria downtown for more than a decade would say, over and over, "Barrie is good for a picnic." I agree with him. This is a great place to visit, or come to, if your money is already set. Or, as many others used to think, it's a place to buy a house cheaper, while keeping your Toronto job, as you scramble back and forth, hoping that the house's value remains the same, if you ever need to cash it in.

Barrie is in a sort of twilight zone. After many years of fast growth (which was all we had to brag about, as many people came here), the manufacturing base dissolved at the same time. What do we have to boast about, now? Barrie looks pretty, and has a small town feel while at the same time, some features of a big city. Just don't come here, expecting a good job. Or low taxes. Go to Georgian College, and then leave.

While it looks great on paper to everyone, it is only for those who already have money, or some property they own to manage, or a job with the city's government, or, not connected to the city's private marketplace itself, who can come here, and enjoy it. Barrie is indeed, as my friend said, good for a picnic, and if your money and portfolio are not dependent upon this local economy for your income, then come here and live, work somewhere else or not at all, and, play. And vote for Lehman.

This is why my writing is the very best; the local papers and the local electronic media do not know how to read the situation as I do: Lehman, having not made any great blunders and not done anything great, either, is in the same twilight zone that the city itself, is in. That is not a condemnation. How things have evolved here are not his fault, and how would you or anyone else, correct it?

Former mayor, Rob Hamilton, said that Barrie wanted the "good jobs." Who doesn't? He said that "Barrie means business." Again, who does not; who is really not open for business? And so, the ask has already been made for the good jobs. Guess what? We are no different from any other city. What do you want Lehman to do - ask for the good jobs? Fix everything by asking for the good jobs to come here? Hamilton made that the city's slogan, "Barrie means business." It got him elected; it did not bring the good jobs. For a long time, residents have been commuting to the GTA for even a decent job, and they will continue to do so, after this election. There are not going to be any changes, because Ram Faerber is not going to be elected, and even if he was, he could not make any changes. Council and staff would not allow it. At least, not the changes he offers to make. You cannot point a finger and condemn everything and offer to fix it all, and, lower taxes at the same time.

When I ran for mayor, which was a mistake, because I didn't have the money behind me to have a proper chance, I simply offered to fight needless spending at every opportunity, and repeated over and over, that there was no magic formula for

creating jobs, increasing services and lowering taxes at the same time. Naturally, people were not interested.

When Faerber ran for MPP of this riding earlier this year, he said at a debate that he had a good relationship with MP Alex Nuttall and Mayor Lehman, so he would be the perfect bridge between the two of them. Good relationship? His platform is to attack Lehman. Faerber does not even have a website to share his platform, with. All the data on the opposite page beneath both candidates' Facebook pictures is what has been posted on the City of Barrie's website. Lehman has got three addresses with snappy titles that make sense. Faerber has only an email address with the name of Marzena Milczach. That is not his name. Where is the effort, and the focus? Applying for mayor requires a little bit more work than fry cook at McDonald's.

And for that matter, where has Faerber been, for the last four years? Not at council. Where are the other two, who tried, last time? Where are Zachary Gillespie-Rogers and Ray Mawhinney? Not even trying for council seats. With his *Advance* profile, Faerber says, "Reduce spending at city hall, I have a plan." Where is the plan?

He makes statements that are not true, and strays into provincial and federal matters which mayors and their council cannot make decisions on. He promises to spend lots of money, and lower taxes. For all the charm of a protest vote that he offers, he is merely making the same pitch, albeit much more dramatically, that the average pro politician makes.

With his submitted piece to the *Advance*, Faerber cannot even spell former mayor Dave Aspden's name, correctly, while condemning him and Lehman, for...well...everything. If you are going to go on the warpath, then at least check your spelling and know your enemy.

At the time I ran for mayor, I thought that if you could speak well to the matters at hand, you could get some donations, and build some momentum. You can't. At least, not in Barrie. The war chest of money has to be ready, before the game even starts. Lehman is sitting pretty for money. Want to take him on? Well, of course, nobody did, save for Faerber. Joe Tascona would be the one to do it, and he already tried once, before. If he isn't trying, who is going to? Not even Patrick Brown dared to try. With that said, he would have had a 50/50 chance. Of course, those odds don't attract him. Brown has to have an advantage, before he moves. Forgive me, I digress.

With the previous election, Lehman received 92.25% and Faerber, 4.13%, with the other two, Gillespie-Rogers and Mawhinney, receiving 1.86% and 1.76%, respectively. Only 31.75% of the people voted, true, yet that same sad turnout was there for Faerber, himself. Nobody excited the city.

If you don't have the money, the results are going to be the same. The fact that Faerber does not understand this, shows he cannot learn. If he does understand this, and runs, then his attempt is a drama he is playing in his own mind. What he will accomplish, is only to give Lehman a giant victory of more than 90% of the vote. Faerber should have taken a shot at a ward. This makes no sense. The same, I may vote for Faerber. I am letting a coin toss decide my vote. -Darren Roskam



# CROWE picks and passes for Barrie City Council

## Ward 1

Did the idea of George W. Bush following his father into office and Justin Trudeau having done the same, fill you with excitement? Me, neither. Bonnie Ainsworth pays for her own campaigns, and spends big. Her daughter, Shaughna, has been invisible for municipal matters her whole life, so she is not the best choice for councillor of Ward 1. The same, her family will simply spend her straight into office, end of story. And she's a grade school teacher. Just what we don't need. No wonder people choose not to vote, at all. Shaughna is your new councillor, even though it should have been one of the other candidates, with more involvement, and less money to spend, and no incumbent, family advantages. Ah, democracy!



**Shaughna Ainsworth, pictured at left with her mother, is your new councillor, like it or not**

## Ward 2

To be fair, Rose Romita answered my emails, the past four years. Yet when reading her website, and comparing it with the Web Archive tool, the text is verbatim, to what it was, four years ago. Her platform relies heavily on her community dinners, which, while admirable, do not compare to The Salvation Army providing a lunch and dinner every day of the year. I don't see any growth or individual initiatives, carried through. Someone else deserves a shot. Richard Forward looks good on paper, but his many years of service at the City of Barrie were paid for; he even has an endorsement from a City consultant. Keenan Aylwin is a Green candidate *and* gay rights activist. He would grandstand the living daylight out of his job first, before serving anyone else. Yolanda Gallo has been in the trenches for years and years, doing more, for longer, for a lot less money. That shows where her heart is. Her work as the founder and director of the Community Wholeness Centre for the past five years alone, in Ward 2, makes her worth a look. Our pick for this election.



**Yolanda Gallo**  
[www.gallobarrie.ca](http://www.gallobarrie.ca)

## Ward 3

Doug Shipley is what the people of Barrie, and more specifically his ward, could use less of, if only one of them in the ward, had enough money to run against him. A member of The Patrick Brown Loyalists™, Shipley is no more a Conservative than Patrick Brown himself is, or was pretending to be, to get his party's leadership, before turning into a Liberal, soon thereafter. Shipley showed his true colours last year, when voting to replace via appointment, a truly frugal councillor, Michael Prowse, who went on to become the City's CAO, with former councillor for Ward 2, Lynn Strachan. She is a nice person and was popular in her ward, just not at all the right person to replace a frugal councillor, with. Why did she get the vote? She's a member of the Club. What Shipley did was no different from what MP Alex Nuttall, another member of the Club, did against his own Conservative Party interests, to publicly support Brown and his carbon taxes in The People's Guarantee, earlier this year. Shipley spends huge to get elected, with none of it his own money. Enjoy.



**Doug Shipley**  
artist's rendering

## Ward 4

Nobody is beating Barry Ward in Ward 4. The people there have a bizarre appetite for his sleepy way of doing things, and that is the end of it. He will be re-elected. Ward is the worst member of Barrie City Council, who broke his own Code of Conduct by using a City email account to send lies about a resident to a local Small Claims Court Deputy Judge. The people of Ward 4 are what they are; fortunately there is not much spirit in Ward to take up anything and be a champion for it, so he doesn't have a lot of effect on the rest of Council.



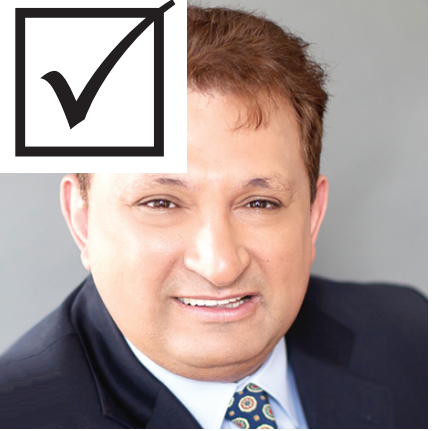
**Barry Ward**  
exactly as illustrated



# CROWE picks and passes for Barrie City Council

## Ward 5

Judging by the signs, literally, the campaign signs, the two heavy hitters are incumbent Peter Silveira and Robert Thomson. Thompson claims with his website that the ward has been neglected. It's just not true. There has been plenty of work done over the years with Silveira as councillor. At this very moment there is a \$6,000,000.00 project underway at Miller and Dunlop. Thomson says he worked in the construction industry and can get big projects done. That is not the role of a councillor; to work on a job site. What is he offering to do - award contracts to himself? Councillors can propose projects, and vote on the proposals tabled by other council members. They do not take over and work it, themselves. As for providing a voice and listening, nobody can beat Silveira. Most people take no interest in politics away from elections. Silveira hosts annual BBQs and movie nights with his own money, and the thousands of invitation cards all have questionnaires, asking people what they want, and to come and talk with him, personally. If only all councillors did that!



**Peter Silveira**  
facebook.com/peterdasilveira

## Ward 6

Micheline Robichaud registered first for Ward 6, and she has the best website of anyone else in her ward. Those are not the most important things, by themselves. What is important, is that Robichaud has been showing the most enthusiasm and putting in the most work for this job. She has already been an outspoken advocate for her community, for years. From sitting on the board of directors for various charities, and working now in a nonprofit in the health field. She was in real estate for years, and has extensive experience in corporate taxation. And those three previous sentences, I admit, I got them from her website. The real story is this: Steve Trotter, the incumbent, who was voted out and replaced by John Brassard years ago, was appointed to this ward after Michael Prowse left to become the CAO. Trotter did not tell council that he was going to stay, and run as the incumbent. Trotter is a dishonest man. No ward deserves that, and he has to go. Robichaud is easily more than qualified to do the job. It has to be her. That's all there is to it.



**Micheline Robichaud**  
www.michelineinbarrie.com

## Ward 7

Patrick Brown said, while campaigning for the leadership of the PC Party, that "this party needs a reset." He was right. Unfortunately for all concerned, Brown broke his promise to fight carbon taxes after he won, and then ran the party in a corrupt fashion, to say the least. *Barrie City Council needs a reset.* It needs all the Patrick Brown Loyalists™ gone. I have not experienced a single one of them that didn't act against the interests of the party that they are members, of. And like Brown himself, they regard their party as a social club, a clique, and always put that clique above any promises they make to the voters. I remind you again, that MP Alex Nuttall acted against his own constituents and his leader, Andrew Scheer, by campaigning for Brown and his carbon taxes with The People's Guarantee. That is not democracy. That is a clique. And with the head off the snake (patrick is gone) in this riding and this municipality, we need to sweep the clique away. The incumbent, Andrew Prince, is a member of the Patrick Brown Loyalists™, gathering with fellow member Sergio Morales and Brown earlier this year to piss and moan at Doug Ford for not jumping at Garfield Dunlop and Nuttall's overtures to run for the PC Party. Who needs this? Enough, already. **Enter Gary Harvey.**



**Gary Harvey**  
www.garyharvey.ca

Endorsed by the Citizens of Barrie Taxpayer's Coalition, Ward 7 has been home for Harvey and his family for the past 19 years, and he has been a member of the judicial system for the past 29 years. Harvey is a graduate of the University of Toronto Rotman School of Management, University of Guelph-Humber, Humber College and the Ontario Municipal Management Institute. Harvey is more than ready to take over, do better, and listen to you first, above anyone else, with no cliques. His platform is fresh, serious, sensible and strong. Give his website a visit and read it for yourself at [www.garyharvey.ca](http://www.garyharvey.ca). Other contacts for Harvey are:

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# CROWE picks and passes for Barrie City Council

## Ward 8

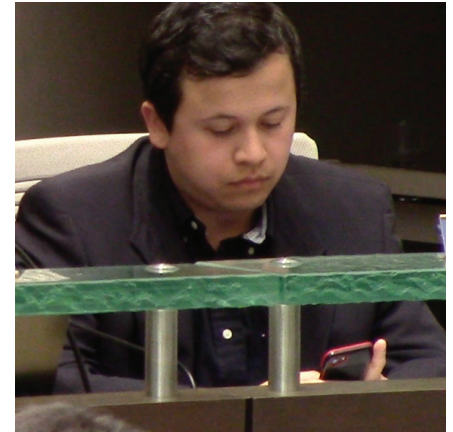
The incumbent has left. So, what have we got? Brian Miller, who is using a Wix freebie website and is refusing to use any campaign signs(!), has a lot to learn. Jim Harris? I read his website, and it is not giving me his history. Two left. Shelley Skinner is a sex toy salesperson and “pansexual” who hosts an explicit sex show on Rogers. Last summer, while speaking at Barrie City Hall, she exploded in a rage and referred to attendees as “white faces,” and attacked Barrie as “an ultra-conservative, closed-minded, uncultured, white town.” Go to my website, [www.thecrowe.ca](http://www.thecrowe.ca) and the VIDEOS section, to watch her racist attack on white people and the City of Barrie for yourselves. She needs professional help for her hate, not a job on council. That leaves us Brad Thompson, a graduate of the University of Western Ontario who moved to Barrie in 1989 on a company transfer from a window and door manufacturer, and who has been a youth counselor for twenty-five years, and a successful entrepreneur from 1997 to 2012, when he retired. He is a dedicated family man and father of two boys, and he has been married to his wife for thirty-five years. This man is an asset, with lots to offer and recently retired, is ready to devote himself full time to the job. This is the guy, and Ward 8 is lucky to have him. Thompson is exactly the type of person we need in government. Get in there early and vote for him.



**Brad Thompson**  
[www.votebradforward8.ca](http://www.votebradforward8.ca)

## Ward 9--acclaimed--Sergio Morales

Of all the members of the Patrick Brown Loyalists™, Sergio Morales was the second most vulnerable to loss, after Andrew Prince. Morales received 967 votes to Brian H. Jackson's 811. Not a huge victory, like some of the other Brownies received. Nobody in the ward tried. So they get what they get, and I'm not going to waste time writing deep criticism because it doesn't matter. Brownies are big on campaigning and networking amongst themselves, and short on doing the job. Brown missed tons of votes and kept his full MP salary while campaigning for leadership of the PC Party, and Morales, when he isn't wearing the mask of that fake smile of his, is laid back. So laid back, that he plays with his phone, reading and texting...while citizens are making presentations, such as Bill Scott of the Allandale Neighbourhood Association. Go to my website, [www.thecrowe.ca](http://www.thecrowe.ca) and then visit the VIDEOS section for the sad footage. A man such as Scott belongs in this seat, and instead, he earnestly speaks while a child plays with his toy. Life stinks, sometimes. Sad.



**Sergio Morales, working hard for...nobody**

## Ward 10

I am an honest person. And as such, I was willing to give Mike McCann a second chance. Then I go to his campaign website, and there he is, with Patrick Brown. Cripes.

I was going to be honest, and ask myself, if someone gave me a list for a ward that they were leaving, and I could cover it with my signs, would I refuse it? No, I would take it, feeling that I was capable, and might as well take the advantage, so who cares, right? Leave things in the past. And there is the past, Brown, posted to McCann's campaign website, for the present. Brown is a liar on a grand scale; a traitor to Conservative values and an enemy of grassroots democracy. He stands for corruption with no apology, and treated the Conservative parties like social clubs. He could just as well have been with the Liberals or the NDP, if not for the fact that the Conservatives and Liberals, for the most part, are the ones who get elected, and Brown's only interest in Barrie was his uncle, Joe Tascona, already being here, as the PC MPP. Once Brown was out of both Conservative parties, he was out of Barrie. McCann is going to be the councillor, so it's disappointing that he cannot stand on his own, without this liar, Brown.



**From left: The head of the snake, someone I don't know and a member of the Patrick Brown Loyalists™**



## Why is Arif Khan leaving public life?



**Arif Khan heads for the door. Why?  
Shhhhhhhh...don't talk about it**

Why is Arif Khan leaving public life? I don't know; I'm asking you, and if you have any suggestions, email them to me at [crowemagazine@hotmail.com](mailto:crowemagazine@hotmail.com).

With his campaign signs unabashedly Conservative Party blue, Patrick Brown Loyalist™ Khan was among the strongest of the bunch. Nobody was going to remove him from office. Why throw it all away?

Khan attacked me with libel to several people years ago. I let him off the hook after Brown met with me and told me to leave Khan alone, promising me that Khan would act like a Libertarian, on council. I made a mistake, believing Brown, as did many others, over the years. Khan likened removing the much-abused personal arts grants program, to taking someone off life support. Another dramatic Liberal, and member of the social club, pretending to be Conservative. Khan voted against me for the Ward 6 appointment, last year. I should have crucified him with a legit libel claim when I could. Live and learn. He is leaving, at least.

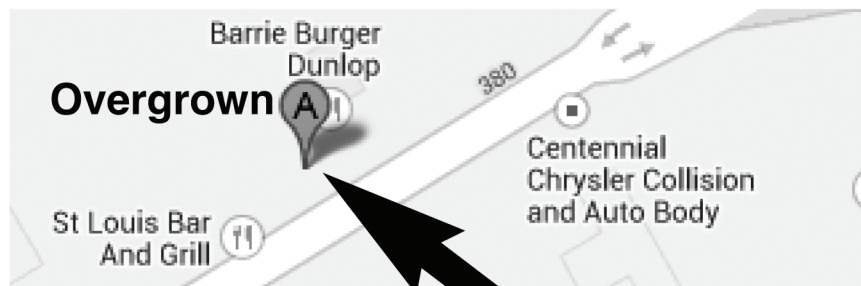
## Steve Trotter: The worst candidate



Properly kicked out of office in 2006 by John Brassard, who is now the MP for Barrie–Innisfil, this mewling schmuck got the appointment to the Ward 6 council seat, last year, beating another former councillor, Lynn Strachan, by a vote of 5 to 4. Michael Prowse had become the CAO and could not vote on his replacement for the ward, and one councillor was absent for a personal emergency on the day of the vote. With his presentation to council, Steve Trotter misled them by not letting them know what he did know, or ought to have known, which was that he intended to run for election in the same ward he was asking to be appointed, to. You cannot get any lower than that, and/or any more incompetent for the job of councillor, if you believe that he did not have any idea as to what he was going to do, or did not think it was important.

Council itself, deserves part of the blame, because there is no standardized test for being a councillor, and no reason to appoint only former councillors, when appointments are necessary. A councillor that was defeated is the worst choice, as the people of Barrie had said that they wanted Trotter off council. What did council do? They appointed a defeated councillor, right back. Mayor Lehman voted for Trotter, who, on his campaign website, lies and asks to be “re-elected.”

Trotter was defeated in 2006, did not run again and his appointment, was not an election. That is why I call him “mewling.” He weaseled his way back, and now lays claim to having been elected, when he was not, to gain an advantage over the others who are trying to be elected in the same ward, in addition to the advantage of being the incumbent.



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