Executive Summary

Rookie Councillor Tim O’Hare Involved in the Oldest Profession in the World? - Part 2 of 5

Article prose word count: 830 • Estimated reading time: 5 minutes.
Headings included. Comic, caption, sign-off, references and disclaimer excluded.

A story about my Pa

This article begins with my recollections of my father, Nicola, and the Thorold neighbourhood where he lived. I remember unlocked doors, neighbours watching out for children, and Halloween visits for fresh doughnuts. These memories frame my concern that population **growth needs supporting infrastructure.** Growth alone does not establish that a municipality is doing well.

I compare poorly managed growth with a body carrying more weight than is healthy. The health risks discussed in the full article are increased risks, not inevitable outcomes. Likewise, strained roads, services, water systems, affordability and municipal finances are potential consequences of growth that outpaces capacity and funding; I do not establish that every problem has occurred in Thorold.

Dad was a devoted husband and father, a gardener and a retired Fraser Paper worker. At about 92, he was still living independently but tired of cooking and cleaning. He told me that a younger woman had offered to stay for 24 hours and do whatever he wanted for $1,000. When I asked whether he had paid her, his embarrassed answer was: “But son, **the house had never been cleaner.**” The punchline concerns housekeeping. These are personal family recollections, and the article’s title is a joke about salesmanship, not an allegation of sexual conduct.

How I came to support Tim O’Hare

I came to know Tim through development concerns. He was dealing with an Ormond Street proposal while I raised concerns about land near DeCew Woods and Richmond. We shared notes and supported each other. Tim and Anna had restored their century building; I had renovated a nearby building for a clinic and the Canadian head office of our medical research institute.

When Tim said he was running for council in 2022, I agreed to help on the understanding that he would be straightforward, **exercise independent judgment**, and avoid joining the voting group whose support for the Canada Games Park agreement I opposed. That is my recollection of our conversation, not a verbatim transcript or independently corroborated account.

I distributed his pamphlets, made a donation in his name to the Terry Fox Run, and displayed his election sign alongside other candidates’ signs. Some people warned that he might eventually join the group I criticised. I nevertheless wanted to give him an opportunity to fulfil the commitment I understood him to be making, and to judge his subsequent actions.

Why the election sign came down

Shortly afterward, Tim came to my house. I recall him saying that people he was working with thought it was not a good idea for me to distribute his pamphlets. I interpreted this as others influencing his relationship with a supporter. I suggested that, following that reasoning, his sign should come down too. He appeared uneasy but agreed and was a gentleman about it.

I promised not to work against him or reverse the support I had already encouraged. I also said I would still vote for him if I remained comfortable doing so. I kept my word. My understanding was that some supporters objected because I had criticised what I regarded as majority bloc voting involving the mayor, Ken Sentance, Nella Dekker and others.

The experience made me question the inclusiveness I later associated with Tim's public message. Still, I believed a first-time candidate deserved room to learn and make difficult choices. I stepped back rather than demand that he choose between supporters. My later understanding of who might have objected remains unverified and does not establish who directed his campaign or prove a secret arrangement.

Independence, recollections and the perceived alignment

I remember telling Tim that I valued the skills I believed he had shown during an Ontario Municipal Board hearing. I did not know the whole file or earlier negotiations. I also recall him saying that he could fight and be aggressive. **My later concern was that this forcefulness** became associated with the voting alignment I criticised rather than **the independent approach I expected.**

The UN-FAB FOUR is my label for a perceived recurring alignment involving Nella Dekker, Tim O'Hare, Ken Sentance and Mike De Divitiis. It is not an official caucus or proof of coordinated conduct. The full article separately identifies Mayor Terry Ugulini as an associated figure. My assessment of his municipal financial decisions differs from my experience of him as an excellent neighbour.

Conversations about which councillors might return, and whether new alliances could form, are informal opinions and speculation, not verified election forecasts. My housekeeping and mice comparisons express my concern that a similar voting pattern could continue; they do not establish recruitment or a concealed arrangement. **Shared votes alone cannot establish motives, coordination or improper conduct.**

I write to share research, recollections, opinions and my way of assessing council's record. Readers may agree or disagree. The accompanying ambulance cartoon is fictional satire expressing my opinion of the perceived alignment. Its meaning and limits are explained in reference [5]. The story continues in Part 3 of 5, released alongside Part 2.

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Satirical cartoon [5]



Satire expressing the author's opinion of a perceived voting alignment. Shared votes alone do not establish coordination or improper conduct.

Source notes and review checks

[1] City of Thorold, Consortium and Co-Tenancy Agreement, sections 10.1, 13.2, 13.3 and 17, and the Legacy Lease. Supports committee composition, operating-cost allocation and voting qualifications. https://www.thorold.ca/en/recreation-and-culture/resources/canada-games/Consortium-and-Co-Tenancy-Agreement---website-version.pdf

[2] Bernard Lansbergen, ThoroldToday, "City Council still debating 'crappy' Canada Games Park deal," October 25, 2023. Reports the solicitor's explanation of ownership during and after the lease. https://www.thoroldtoday.ca/local-news/city-council-still-debating-crappy-canada-games-park-deal-7734304

Where information has not been independently confirmed, I rely on my own recollections and those of others, which I consider reliable. These accounts remain recollections rather than independently verified facts. When I refer to "voting patterns," I mean the perceived patterns that many others and I see; this is our interpretation, not an official finding or proof of coordination. My informal surveys and conversations found that many participants believed this voting alignment existed. In many instances, everyone I asked agreed that they perceived a voting bloc. To me, that indicates a commonly shared concern—not simply a mirage of my own making. Although these surveys may or may not meet everyone's definition of a scientific survey and do not establish the views of all Thorold taxpayers, they do show that my interpretation, and that of others, was shared by many of those I consulted through surveys. **Agreement among participants does not, by itself, prove coordination among councillors.**

Further review: The original approving council vote, the video of public praise, and the source and context of the reported "clown show" remark should be identified. My recollection of that remark comes from watching a video on Niagara Region's website. I have not had time to locate and recheck the recording, so I am relying on my memory; readers may consult the recordings themselves. These editorial revisions do not independently verify recollections or reports from residents.

[3] National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, Health Risks of Overweight & Obesity. Supports the increased-risk wording in the health analogy; it does not establish municipal outcomes. https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/weight-management/adult-overweight-obesity/health-risks

Disclaimer

This draft contains my opinions, personal recollections, interpretations, humour and metaphors, alongside information identified from public sources. Recalled conversations are not verbatim transcripts. Unless expressly documented, my descriptions of motives, independence, inclusiveness or voting alignment are my assessments, not established findings of misconduct. **Shared votes do not prove collusion, and a Facebook restriction does not establish the reason for it.** The family anecdote is my recollection. The "oldest profession" title, jacket comparison, "Night Mayor," "Spendolini," spending-addiction language and cemetery postscript are rhetorical or satirical expressions; they do not allege sexual conduct, a medical condition, an actual treatment fund or a factual message from the deceased. Humour reflects frustration and my viewpoint; it does not substitute for evidence. Readers should examine the cited records and relevant responses. I welcome documented corrections and responses from anyone discussed. This disclaimer does not validate unsupported claims or remove responsibility for accuracy. I am willing to attest to my own recollections, but that is not independent corroboration of another person's words, intentions or conduct.

[4] The director's call, television remake, borrowed jacket and request to Tim are entirely fictional. This passage is a joke and satirical comparison with the Herb Tarlek character; no actual call, production or borrowing of a jacket is being reported.

[5] The 911 cartoon is fictional satire expressing the author's opinion of a perceived voting alignment. It reports no actual emergency or ambulance call and is not evidence of coordination. But it does reflect how many in Thorold view this bloc's overall voting pattern.