

OWEN MADDEN – Council Candidate

QUESTION 1:

[On Active Transportation](#).... Salmon Arm hatched a plan in 2022 to create over 200kms of sidewalks, bicycle routes, multi-use paths and trails. Lets provide short-trip alternative choices that are safe and fun! This falls under my overall top priority of making life more affordable for City residents.

[On Waste Water](#).... our sewage plant (the "Water Pollution Control Centre") is due a major update as a result of our growing city and the estimated cost is \$78M. With proper planning and fiscal patience we can get this done!

[On Homelessness](#)... 80% of our homeless community report both mental health and addiction challenges. Lets improve service-provision whilst also demanding accountability from the few folks that repeat-offend.

QUESTION 2:

I believe that part of the benefit to providing active transportation options to City residents is to make the City synonymous with outdoor pursuits that bring more visitors to downtown. For instance, the trails along the lakeshore remain mostly snow-free throughout the winter and I use them for training for half-marathons in the deep winter.

The Larch Hills Nordic Ski Trails are close enough to the City to have them relate back to the City as a winter sports destination. Winter biking ("fat bike style") has also really grown in popularity in recent years and has an amazing home at the South Canoe Trails.

More broadly we have to ask the question "what can Salmon Arm be well-known for?". There are many amazing craft producers of foods locally (for instance) that are centered around the Zest food hub. Is it possible to host a craft food and beverage event in the Winter to attract outsiders to the downtown core?

Having grown up in Ireland where pubs and restaurants are major drivers of economic activity in every town square, I can't understand why the downtown area is not more alive on a Saturday evening. Any ill side-effects of such development (noise pollution for instance) can be easily mitigated.

QUESTION 3:

See answer to QUESTION 2 above. More broadly I have expressed my view on densification [in this video](#). I believe that the TransCanada Highway Corridor represents a better option for densified housing development – the land is available and access to the highway can better be provided via frontage roads.

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QUESTION 4:

The Salmon Arm Community was extensively surveyed prior to the creation of the Corporate Strategic Plan (CSP) - it should therefore be followed closely.

I believe that the short-term priority of upgrading the Wastewater Pollution Control Centre (WPCC) and the medium-term priority of upgrading the Rec Centre [are in direct relationship](#). The WPCC will cost \$78m to upgrade – by comparison our annual capital expenditure overall is running at roughly \$60m. We can't afford this upgrade and the Rec Centre replacement simultaneously. The fact that the CSP recommended the WPCC upgrade be commenced by 2024 and hasn't been only cements my view there.

What we can do is plan and cost-out the Rec Centre Version 2 so that we are positioned to avail of any major grant-funding opportunities that come our way. The land adjacent to the existing building has been purchased with its replacement in mind. If we partner with local sporting associations and civil society maybe we can come up with an alternative funding model that actually enables us to get it done?

I would like to have seen the walking/biking connectors from Downtown-to-Uptown and along the 30 Street Schools ([including a highway overpass/underpass](#)) listed as a separate project in the CSP

QUESTION 5:

I have expressed my views on the topic of homelessness and the need for downtown business support in the face of repeat-crime [in this video](#).

There needs to be a rapid response group (or task force) whose role is to respond quickly to businesses that are either experiencing or recently experienced destructive activities at their business locations. The feedback I have received is that business owners can be left feeling "high and dry" with the aftermath of such events and under-resourced with the capacity to deal with them when they are happening. Why burden the folks least well trained in such circumstances (business owners) when we can and should have trained professionals available to respond rapidly?