

Bio: Jordan Richardson

Raised in Hanley, Jordan is a conductor with Canadian Pacific Railway. He works on-call, so is not at home as much as he would like, but feels using some of that precious time as a counselor, if elected, is a chance to be part of the change in direction and thinking we need to survive, and thrive in the coming years.

He has been involved with many things in the community including dinner theater, Library board and united church council, as well as volunteering with many different groups from the arena to community hall, and many different events. He has watched how municipal affairs work through his father while he was on council for years, and through stories from his grandfather, who was a councilor, and mayor when the centennial hall was constructed during the centennial year.

He loves his community. He knows what it has been, and he strongly believes with commitment and determination, this community can be as great as it has ever been.

What has spurred you to run for council:

Issues that have arisen within the last few years that I feel could be addressed in other ways more effectively. Issues that I feel affect everyone. From the Bylaw officer, to communication between council and the citizens. Bylaws that I feel are hurting the growth and prosperity of the town merely by how they are worded, to the desperate need for funding for community linch pins like the centennial hall.

What do you love about your town:

I love the people. I have seen what we can be when we band together with one another and strive for a goal. It can be way more than one person could ever imagine.

What would you push to change if elected:

I would push to have the bylaw officer removed, and that duty brought back to council with a revised complaint process put in place. I feel that a officer handing out arbitrary tickets, who does not live in the community or have any ties to it, is only a wedge being driven between citizens, their community, and the government it elects.

I would push to have a clearer line of communication between council and citizens, including dedicated email for concerns and questions that would be tabled at each council meeting. Looking at the viability of streaming meetings live on web cam, as well as posting of meeting dates, times, and agendas on the website, as well as possibly by email notice.

I also want to seriously review where funds are allocated in terms of infrastructure and personnel. Money is tight for all, and so it is for the town, but I feel we need to invest in the town in ways that make it more appealing for people to move here. In the end, our revenue as a town is taxes. Taxes are based on value and number of homes. If we increase neither, we die. It's a sad fact, and one I am not willing to let happen without a fight. Paved roads, green spaces, walking trails, upgrades to the community hall. These are all things that can be if we re think how and where we put our money. They are also all things that make a community more inviting, more livable and bond the people in it together.

Why do you feel you would make a good councilor:

I am a compassionate person who cares deeply for my home town. I believe in looking down every possible angle, and I believe if you want something bad enough, there is always a way to make it happen. I also strongly believe that apathy breeds apathy, and that we as your elected government owe it to every citizen to give it all we have, or step aside and let someone else. I feel we can be great, and I am willing to fight to make that happen.

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