

local news

▼ CIVIC ELECTION

Glennore residents voice their issues to candidates

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The Glennore Valley is falling behind the rest of Kelowna on city services like recreational facilities, parkland and sidewalks, residents told city council candidates Wednesday.

The Kelowna Bible Chapel basement filled to the rafters with Glennore Valley Residents' Association members and city council candidates looking to talk turkey over the issues in their area.

"I do not think there has ever been a more challenging time in this city's history. Our past exponential growth, coupled with our current economic downturn could present some tough decisions ahead," said Kim Dodds, the association's president, as he opened a meeting that would reverse the tables on the standard all-candidates' style.

Growth in Glennore has left the area in a tight spot on transportation issues candidates were told as residents'

association members took the floor to deliver their message to the candidates.

With plans for major new road arteries in their neighbourhoods looming and half-finished changes causing plenty of problems for those trying to walk or cycle through the area, those residents told the candidates they're looking for leadership that listens and champions their causes.

"There is huge potential for affordability in Glennore for student and family housing to service the dramatic development at UBCO," said Dan Middal, association member.

Middal pointed out access to UBCO from the downtown core is shorter by a kilometre than the planned Rails With Trails route and could form a very productive corridor for non-motorized transportation if the city could finish negotiating a right-of-way through Glennore via the back of the university campus.

The residents associa-

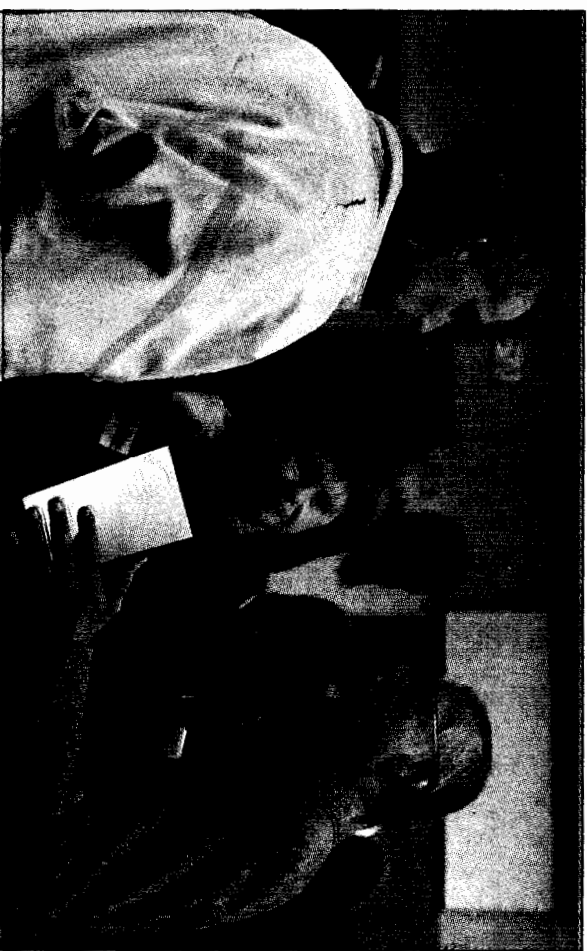
tion believes Glennore uses the transit system heavily and could become among the heaviest users in Kelowna, if the routes improved.

"While a bus route does exist, it requires taking the long way round via Highway 97, adding more traffic to an already choked intersection and four kilometres to the commute," said Middal.

The local cycling association invited fellow riders to the meeting to get their issues out there particularly active in helping to push for proper cycling access on Glennore Road from the landfill through Lake Country and longtime cycling advocate John Suttie took the opportunity to showcase some of their issue.

The lack of sidewalks and cycling lanes surrounding the new Dr. Knox Middle School is a huge hazard, he said, telling the candidates it's the type of situation that needs to be prevented and fixed.

Suttie told the candidates, the time has come to con-



JENNIFER SMITH/CAPITAL NEWS
KELOWNA city council candidates Cheryl Stone and Mo Rajabally talk over the issues with a local cyclist.

centrate on moving people, not moving vehicles and expressed great concern over the proposed Glennore Bypass, saying it will bring more high-speed traffic, pollution and runs counter to the provincial green house gas emission targets.

Their message resonates with first-time candidate Matt Reed, who spent time talking with former council candidate Joseph Iaffrancesco.

Reed has consistently tried to pitch light-trail as a solution to the transporta-

tion problem, and was making that pitch in the meet-and-greet which followed Suttie's speech.

Dodds told the candidates the association is ready and willing to help the city, if the city would take them up on the offer: They like the municipality's Adopt-a-Road program and would be interested in an Adopt-a-Stream effort.

They've been trying to help with the Redlich Pond turtles but have been told the city needs to study their habitat before anything can be

done to fix it. "Our experience with the city has been good, although a lot of information seems veiled in secrecy regarding the sensitive issue of land acquisition," he said.

After the meeting, candidate Murti Penharkar said he liked the format as it was more useful to him to hear their issues than the other way around. He noted it was this type of communication that could begin to reverse the 26 per cent approval rating the city received on its Citizen's Survey this fall.