



Citizen

THE TOWN

ISSUES

AUTUMN



2008

Mayor's Message

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate the opening of Creston's Downtown Spirit Square on October 11. It was a great pleasure to welcome His Honour, The Hon. Steven L. Point, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia for the official opening, and for the unveiling of Creston's new Coat of Arms, flag, and Mayor's Chain of Office.

This year's Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) conference, was a very successful event for the Creston Valley. I was nominated 1st Vice President of the UBCM Executive, and Councillor Wes Graham was nominated to the Board as Member at Large. These positions serve to represent 189 local governments in BC. Creston was also presented with two awards at the event, including a Community Excellence Award for the Physician Recruitment Project.

I hope you will enjoy reading about everything that has been happening in our Town. We are in the midst of some big projects, and are on track for meeting the goals we set, as a Council, in our Strategic Plan for 2008.

- Mayor Joe Snopek

Community-Based Doctor Recruitment a Success!

The Town of Creston and the RDCK were honoured to receive a Community Excellence Award at UBCM, for the Physician Recruitment Pilot Project. The award is in the Best Practices category and recognizes the community-based re-



Their Honours, The Hon., Steven L. Point and Mrs. Gwendolyn Point, Former Mayor of Creston Lela Irvine, wearing the Past Mayor's Badge of Office, Mayor Joe Snopek with the Town of Creston's Chain of Office. Missing: Former Mayor Don Leben.

ruitment model, which has been successfully tried in the Creston Valley, as an example for other communities to follow.

Even as Mayor Snopek and RDCK Directors Kettle and Mann were accepting the award, new doctors were arriving in the Creston Valley. On September 30, Council was pleased to welcome Dr. Daile Hoffmann and family from Gabriola Island, and Dr. Tom Newth and his wife Sally, from England. Dr. Hoffmann has permanently taken over for a retiring Dr. Sid Kettner. Dr. Newth is working as a locum

for six months at the Family Practice Clinic. Acting Mayor Joanna Wilson thanked Sid and Carole Kettner, on behalf of the community, for their 31 years of service in the Creston Valley, and wished them all the best in their retirement.

Dr. Andrew Weaver and family are also relocating to Creston, and will be welcomed by Council at a later date.



From left to right: Economic Development Officer Alan Burt, Dr. Daile Hoffmann, Recruiter Deryn Collier, Dr. Tom Newth, IHA Administrator Cindy Kozak-Campbell, RDCK Area C Director Tom Mann, Councillor Joanna Wilson, Dr. Sid Kettner, Chief of Staff Dr. Atma Persad. Missing: Mayor Joe Snopek, RDCK Area B Director John Kettle, RDCK Area A Director Verna Mayers-McKenzie, Town Manager James Thackray, Former Chief of Staff Dr. Tara Guthrie.

Spirit Square Grand Opening

The new Spirit of Creston Square was officially opened by an array of visiting and local dignitaries on October 11. Special guests included Their Honours, the Hon. Steven L. Point, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia and Mrs. Gwen Point. The Hon. Jim Abbott, MP and Mr. Corky Evans, MLA were also on hand. Insp. Robert Blacker served as honorary Aide de Camp of the Lieutenant Governor, and Staff Sergeant Gordon Stuart, newly arrived to the Creston detachment of the RCMP also attended the event.



Lower Kootenay Band Chief Chris Luke, and his grandson Colton, wrap Their Honours The Hon. Steven L. Point and Mrs. Gwen Point in a blanket to welcome them to the Creston Valley.

Chief Chris Luke of the Lower Kootenay Band welcomed the dignitaries to Creston, and presented the Lieutenant Governor and his wife with a traditional blanket. The Lieutenant Governor and Mayor Joe Snopek unveiled the new coat of arms of the Town of Creston, as well as the new flag, and cut the ribbon for the official opening of the Spirit of Creston Square.

"We must be in Creston!" said Corky Evans, commenting on the beautiful, warm weather, and the community spirit which was evident amongst the crowd of 250 people who attended the event.

Mr. Murray Oswald, Director of Brewery Operations for the Columbia Brewery presented the Mayor's Chain of Office to Mayor Snopek, on which the names of the May-

ors since 1986 have been engraved. "There's room for about 60 Mayors on here," said Snopek. "This is a historic tradition and it is fitting that the Columbia Brewery, which has a long history in Creston, should sponsor the Chain of Office." Former Mayor Lela Irvine was presented with a Past Mayor's Badge of Office.

The Lions Club were on hand, distributing free coffee and hot dogs, and a cake was cut and served, to celebrate the opening of Creston's new town square.



The Hon. Steven L. Point and Mayor Joe Snopek unveil the Town of Creston's new Coat of Arms.



Creston Valley Coat of Arms

30 Year Service Award

While the Lieutenant Governor was in town, he met with local firefighters and presented the Governor General 30 Year Exemplary Service Award to volunteer firefighter Alvin Edwards.



His Honour with firefighter Alvin Edwards

Canada Wood Council

Creston was honoured at UBCM by the Canada Wood Council for using wood in the recent renovations of Town Hall.



Pictured with the award, from left to right: Don Harder, Bob Bergman, Don Saari, Ross Beddoes, Erv Sommerfeld, Mayor Joe Snopek, Tim Cassel

Construction Machines at Work!

A number of construction and public works upgrades have been underway the past few months in Creston. And while the more-than-usual number of detours might be inconvenient at the moment, we can all look forward to enjoying the benefits of these projects before too long.

New Sidewalks and Road Upgrades

Town crews have been hard at work on the construction of a new sidewalk, on the west side of 16th Avenue, between Canyon Street and Hillside Street. This project will enhance pedestrian safety and is a planned extension to the Trails and Greenways Program.



Councillors Vondracek and Wilson, and Mayor Snopek at the site of the new sidewalk on 16th Ave.

Town crews are also working on the first phase of upgrades to Cavell Street. The road is being rebuilt from Northwest Boulevard to 9th Avenue, and curbs and sidewalks will be installed on the north side of the street. A second phase of the project is planned for 2009 and will include upgrades to the intersection at 10th Avenue. If you have questions or concerns about these construction projects, please contact the Capital Works Coordinator at (250) 428-2214 ext. 229.



Town crews at work on Cavell Street.

Community Complex Enhancement Project

Major construction on the upgrades to the Community Complex has begun. The first tenders were let in July and by the end of August the parking lot of the Complex was a beehive of activity. Work is ongoing on the six new change rooms, and the excavation of the new pool site has begun. The new curling slab is scheduled to be completed in November, before the start of the curling season. Community programs are on-going during construction. Regular updates can be found at www.rdck.bc.ca.



Excavation of the new pool site at the Community Complex.

Additional Parking for Downtown Shoppers

Parking spaces downtown will increase considerably in the near future. The Town has recently purchased the southeast lot and a portion of the former Home Hardware property, at the intersection of Cook Street and Northwest Boulevard. The purchase was intended to provide additional parking spaces for downtown shoppers, and may also provide monthly rental parking spaces.

Greening the BC Building Codes

In response to the B.C. Government's initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, new changes to the B.C. Building Code have come into effect. As of September 5, 2008, all new construction and renovations within the province will have to conform to new standards in energy efficiency.

In the Town of Creston, there are only two major changes that will affect you now:

- minimum attic insulation has increased from RSI 7.0 (R40) to RSI 7.7 (R44);
- and all toilets must be ultra low-flush fixtures, with a maximum of 6.0 litres per flush.

Additional information on the changes to the B.C. Building Code can be obtained on-line at the following locations:

Homeowner Protection Office:
www.hpo.bc.ca

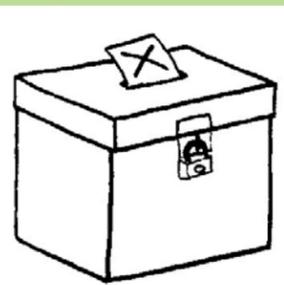
Building Policy Branch:
www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/green/index.htm

Just a Reminder

Building permits are required, not only for new construction, but for many residential renovation projects as well. Please contact Town Hall at 428-2214 ext. 233 for more information.



Notices and Announcements



Municipal Election

General Voting Day for the upcoming municipal election will be Saturday, November 15. Voting will take place from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the main floor of the Creston & District Community Complex (Rec. Centre). Please note the change in location from the last election, which took place at Rotacrest Hall.

Advance voting will be on Wednesday, November 5, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Special Voting will take place at the following facilities on Wednesday, November 12:

- Crestview Care Village,
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Swan Valley Lodge,
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Creston Valley Hospital,
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Please note that voting at these locations is only for patients, residents, and/ or working staff at the facilities listed.

Not on the Voters List?

While the deadline has passed for having your name added to the Voters List, it is still possible to vote in the upcoming Municipal Election. Come in to Town Hall for more information, or give us a call at (250) 428-2214 ext. 233 or 226.

Open Burning Finished for 2008

Creston Fire and Rescue reminds you that open burning is now finished for 2008. Open burning is allowed in April and October of each year, with a permit. Permits are available at Town Hall, for a cost of \$10 each. Permits are good for one week.

Restrictions Lifted

Thanks for your help in saving water this year! Water restrictions have now been lifted until further notice.

Creston Dogs Unite!

Creston dogs are doing a great job reminding their owners to scoop up. Keep up the good work! You are helping to keep our Town clean for both four-legged and two-legged pedestrians.

Downtown Revitalization

Detailed design drawings are underway for Phase 2 of the Downtown Project. Planned upgrades for this phase include changes to the Cook Street pedestrian crosswalk and the expansion of the parking lot on the south side of Cook Street. This phase also includes plans for improvements to Canyon Street, including wider sidewalks at intersections, new streetlights, trees, and street furniture from 10th Avenue to 16th Avenue.

RVs Welcome in Creston

The new Town-operated sani-dump has been seeing some use by recreational vehicle users since it opened this summer. There are plans in place to install a potable water outlet next spring, so that RV owners can top up their water tanks before heading on their way. The sani-dump is located on the north side of Millennium Park. It will be shut down for the winter season and will reopen again in spring.



The new sani-dump is a free service maintained by the Town.

Virtual Town Hall – Coming December 9

A new website for the Town of Creston is under construction. The site, which will be located at www.creston.ca, will focus on areas of core Town of Creston business. The first phase of the site will be unveiled at the regular Council meeting on December 9 at 7 p.m. Initially, the site will include frequently requested information and many common forms that, until now, have only been available by calling or visiting Town Hall. Later, e-government capacity will be added to the site, and residents will be able to pay permit fees and taxes on-line.

Santa Claus Is Coming to Town – December 5

Santa will be making his annual pre-Christmas appearance in Creston at the Santa Claus parade on Friday, December 5. The parade will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Community Complex. This popular annual event is sponsored by the Community Pride Committee. Volunteers are needed! Please call (250) 428-2214 ext. 226 to get involved.