



Mayor Ron Toyota welcomes torch bearer Alex Nilsson as the 2010 Olympic Torch arrives in Creston.  
Photo by Brian Lawrence.

## Mayor's Message

Town Council and senior staff met in November to update our Strategic Plan for 2010, and review what we'd accomplished in 2009. The following priorities for 2010 were identified:

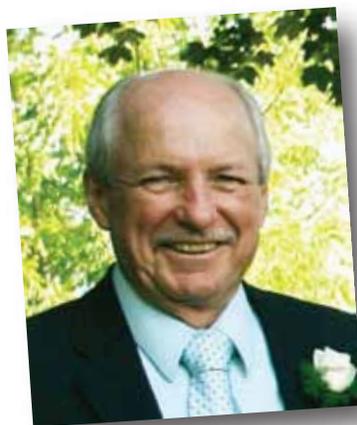
1. Meet with the province to begin planning the Cook Street realignment;
2. Negotiate an agreement with the province, RCMP and municipal partners for an enhanced Police Service;
3. Complete the design and construction of upgrades to the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Please see our website, or stop by Town Hall, if you'd like a complete copy of our 2010 Corporate Strategic Plan.

On behalf of everyone here at Town Hall, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new employees: Lou Varela, Director of Development Services; Colin Farynowski, Manager of Engineering and Damon (Toby) Todaro, Chief Operator for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. We are pleased that we were able to fill all listed vacancies at Town Hall with such experienced candidates.

This newsletter and our website at [www.creston.ca](http://www.creston.ca) are our ways of letting you know what is happening here at Town Hall. If you have an idea to help us improve the quality of life in our community, please get in touch. I'm always happy to hear from you!

Mayor Ron Toyota  
Email: [Ron.Toyota@creston.ca](mailto:Ron.Toyota@creston.ca)  
Phone: (250) 428-2214 ext. 227



### *In Loving Memory*

On Friday, January 8th, flags were lowered to half-mast at the Town Office and the Fire Hall, in honour of the passing of former Councillor Lawrence Lavender. Lawrence served two terms on Town Council, from 2002-2005, and 2005-2008. He will be sadly missed.

## 2010 Council Meeting Schedule

COMMITTEE	COUNCIL
January 5	January 12
January 19	January 26
February 2	February 9
February 16	February 23
March 2	March 9
March 16	March 23
April 6	April 13
April 20	April 27
May 4	May 11
May 18	May 25
June 1	June 8
June 15	June 22
<b>JULY No Mtgs.</b>	<b>July 13 Only</b>
<b>AUGUST No Mtgs.</b>	<b>Aug. 10 Only</b>
September 7	September 14
September 21	Sept. 28-No Mtg.
October 5	October 12
October 19	October 26
November 2	November 9
November 16	November 23
December 7	December 14
<b>Dec. 21-No Mtg.</b>	<b>Dec. 29 No Mtg.</b>

Regular Council and Committee Meetings are open to the public and are held in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 238 - 10th Avenue North, Creston, starting at 4:00 p.m.



## Snow Zone

### Ice melt products

Last year, Town crews had to carry out repairs to several new sidewalks, because of damage from salt and ice melt products. We have since researched various products, and have found that a fertilizer product called Urea seems to be the least harmful to both concrete and the environment.

We would ask that Urea be used on sidewalks, rather than other ice melt products. Urea is stocked at the following local businesses:  
Bahamas General Store;  
Home Hardware Building Centre;  
Pyramid Building Supplies Ltd;  
Sunset Seed Co.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping to preserve the Town's infrastructure.

### Sidewalk clearing

We'd like to remind all property owners and occupiers that Town of Creston Traffic Regulations Bylaw No. 1546 requires snow and ice be removed before noon each day, on sidewalks adjacent to your property. Thank you for doing your part to ensure the safety of pedestrians.

### Snow removal priorities

The Town's new Snow Removal and Ice Control Policy outlines priorities for how we will clear snow effectively while meeting budget objectives. A copy of the policy, and a Snow Route map, which shows the priority rating of each street within Town boundaries, is available on our website at [www.creston.ca](http://www.creston.ca), or can be picked up at Town Hall.

### Street parking

Please ensure that parked vehicles do not hamper snow removal operations. Vehicles may not be parked on any street for a continuous period exceeding 24 hours, or they may be towed at the owner's expense.

## From the Building Inspector's files

### TOWN OF CRESTON TEN YEAR BUILDING SUMMARY

YEAR	NO. OF DWELLING UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE	COMMERCIAL VALUE	TOTAL VALUE
2009	26	\$4,682,700	*\$15,951,821	\$20,634,521
2008	42	\$8,953,240	\$5,990,000	\$14,943,240
2007	48	\$10,400,200	\$5,622,000	\$16,022,200
2006	22	\$5,650,200	\$1,304,500	\$6,954,700
2005	37	\$7,034,365	\$7,954,350	\$14,988,715
2004	18	\$3,201,220	\$10,800,063	\$14,001,283
2003	10	\$1,392,350	\$802,100	\$2,194,450
2002	46	\$2,595,150	\$1,648,000	\$4,243,150
2001	10	\$2,004,630	\$300,000	\$2,304,630
2000	14	\$1,766,740	\$2,831,980	\$4,598,720
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>\$47,680,795</b>	<b>\$53,204,814</b>	<b>\$100,885,609</b>

<b>10 YEAR AVERAGE</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>\$4,768,080</b>	<b>\$5,320,481</b>	<b>\$10,088,561</b>
<b>5 YEAR AVERAGE</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>\$7,344,141</b>	<b>\$7,364,534</b>	<b>\$14,708,675</b>

\*includes \$15 million Coummunity Complex upgrade project.



(From left) Olympic torch relay committee chair Tanya Ducharme, Creston Mayor Ron Toyota, Nelson-Creston MLA Michelle Mungall, B.C. Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations Naomi Yamamoto, Kootenay-Columbia MP Jim Abbott and Alex Nilsson. Photo by Brian Lawrence.



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## Message from the Fire Chief

I'd like to wish a happy, fire-safe New Year to you and yours. A few recent fires have been caused by blocked chimneys, and I'd like to remind you to have your chimney flue checked, and cleaned, on a regular basis.

It is not too early to start preparing your home for wildfire season. We have new fire safety information available, including the new Fire Smart Manual. You can find it on our website [www.creston.ca](http://www.creston.ca), or stop by the Fire Hall to pick up your free copy.

The first week of February is Burn Awareness Week. Please take the time to check your hot water temperature to make sure it is not over 40 degrees Celsius. Water above that temperature can cause third degree burns. And, as always, don't leave lighters and matches out in places where kids can access them.

Bruce Mabin  
Fire Chief, Creston Fire and Rescue

## Fire engine replacement



Creston Town Council is asking for residents' approval for long-term borrowing toward a new fire truck. The funds will be used to replace our Engine #2, which will need to be out of service by the Spring of 2011. An Alternative Approval Process (AAP), is now underway on "Fire Engine Replacement Bylaw No. 1734, 2009".



2010 Olympic mascots Quatchi and Miga greet Crestonites at the Olympic Torch Relay.

An AAP is a method commonly used by municipalities and regional districts to get approval from electors, without having the cost of holding a referendum.

For those residents who are entitled to vote in the Town of Creston, elector response forms are available at Town Hall until February 15, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

## Utility rate increase 2010 UTILITY INVOICE NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS

There was an error in the information pamphlet included with your 2010 Utility Invoice mailed earlier this month to all Town of Creston property owners.

The pamphlet stated the 'Water and sewer rates have increased by 15% and 10% respectively over last year; and 'The combined increase for 2010, for both frontage tax and utility rates, will be \$66.50 –

approximately \$5.50 per single family residence per month'. The actual rate increase is 15% for water and 15% for sewer over last year; and the combined increase for both frontage tax and utility rates will be \$74.50 – approximately \$6.21 per single-family residence per month.

The utility invoices for 2010 are correct and have been billed in accordance with Water Rates and Regulations Amendment Bylaw No. 1729, 2009 and Sewer Rates and Regulations Amendment Bylaw No. 1731, 2009, therefore there will be no billing adjustments.

The Town of Creston apologizes for the error contained in the information pamphlet.

Steffan Klassen  
Director of Finance & Corporate Services



## Notices and Announcements

### 2010 Grants-in-Aid

Applications are now being accepted for funding through Council's Grant-In-Aid Policy. Grants will only be issued to non-profit organizations, with preference given to local applicants. A financial statement for the previous year and budget for the current year must be included before Council will consider the request.

Application deadline is Tuesday, March 9, 2010. Please submit applications in writing to Town Hall. Applications can also be sent by fax to: (250) 428-9164, or by email to: bev.caldwell@creston.ca.

### Business licence renewal

Business Licence fees are now due for 2010. If you are starting, expanding or relocating a business within Town limits, you will need a valid business license. Further details, and a printable application form are available on our website.

### For pets only

All Creston dogs and cats are asked to remind their owners to stop by Town Hall to renew your pet licence for 2010. Cats, we are counting on you to remind your owners about the new cat licensing bylaw. Your owners can also renew by mail, if that is easier for them, and they can also find more details on our website.

### For dogs only

The snow might hide your droppings, but only temporarily. Please remind your owners to scoop up – even in the snow. Everyone will appreciate the cleaner streets come springtime.

### Pet adoption

Pets available for adoption are now listed on our website. Check the Quick Links at [www.creston.ca](http://www.creston.ca), or call the bylaw officer at (250) 428-2214 ext. 231 for more information.

### Christmas tree disposal

Christmas trees are being accepted for disposal at the RDCK landfill. The cost is \$2.00 for one tree, or three trees for \$5.00.

### Parking meters in effect

We'd like to remind you that effective January 1, 2010, all parking meters are in full effect. Your cooperation is appreciated.

### Keep your hands on the wheel

A recent change to the Motor Vehicle Act makes it illegal to talk, type or dial any type of hand-held device while driving. As of January 1, 2010, only hands-free devices that need one touch to activate will be permitted. The province will charge a fine of \$167 as of February 1, 2010, for those caught talking on a hand-held device. Drivers caught texting or emailing will receive three penalty points, in addition to the fine. Exemptions are made for motorists who need to call 9-1-1 in case of an emergency.

### Claim your prize!

2009 Citizen Satisfaction Survey Draw prizes are available for winners to pick up. Claim your prize by presenting the bottom portion of the winning ticket in person at Town Hall. The Town sincerely thanks all of the respondents to the 2009 Citizen Satisfaction Survey. A full report of the survey results, and a list of winning ticket numbers and prizes, are available on our website.



Torch bearer Alex Nilsson lights the Olympic Flame during the Creston Valley Torch Relay, January 23, 2010. Photo by Brian Lawrence.