

## Mayor's message

Welcome to fall! It is hard to believe that the three year term of this Council will soon come to an end. The time has flown by, but I think it's safe to say that as a team we've accomplished a lot. We tackled the feral cat issue through the new cat licensing bylaw. We've continued to build on the success of the physician recruitment program and built a stronger relationship with the Lower Kootenay Band. Our Development Services Department has issued permits for the construction of major new buildings, including Tim Horton's, a new Ramada hotel, an affordable housing complex for seniors and several multi-family residential buildings. And of course, we've seen the new aquatic facility open, and what an asset this has been to our community!

On behalf of Council I would like to say a warm welcome to our new Town Manager. Lou Varela is a familiar face, and we are excited to have her in this new role!

Mayor Ron Toyota

## Town Manager hired

The Town of Creston is pleased to announce that Lou Varela has recently been hired as its new Town Manager. With a background in the private and public sectors, Lou brings a wealth of experience in planning to the position, which has been vacant for one year. A self-described "people person," Lou looks forward to helping build on Council's philosophy of Creston as a community that is "open for business". She promises to strive for consistency, fairness, timeliness and transparency in her new role. Prior to this,



*Mayor Toyota welcomes Lou Varela to her new role as Town Manager.  
Lorne Eckersley photo.*

Lou was Director of Development Services and has served as Acting Town Manager for a period of six months. Welcome, Lou!

## Downtown parking survey

Council recently heard from summer student Marc Miller about his survey of parking trends within the downtown core from June 1 to August 31. While parking was free in metered spaces during that time, Miller monitored spaces to determine the number of cars that were parked and how many were parked for longer than the two hour maximum.

Canyon Street was the busiest zone over the three months, averaging only 64% capacity. Vehicles parked on Canyon Street were in compliance with the two hour parking limit 98% of the time.

The busiest days of the week for parking were Tuesday and Wednesday. The time for peak parking volume is close to the lunch hour (roughly between 12:10 and 1:10 p.m.).

The Cook Street parking lot was the worst area for non-compliance with the two-hour limit. The Town would like to encourage people parking all day to park in the gravel lot south of Cook Street (the Cook Street Overflow and RV Parking Lot) to ensure parking for those visiting and shopping in the downtown core.

Miller's data will be incorporated into a parking strategy that staff will bring to Council in the near future. In the meantime, Council has extended free parking in the downtown core until the end of the year.

## Green Zone

### Water ambassador program

Do you know what the Town's watering restrictions dictate about water use? If you answered "no," you're not alone. But after the Town and RDCK employed a Water Smart Ambassador over the summer, more residents now have a better idea of how much water they should be using on their lawns and gardens.



The Water Smart Program, funded in part by Columbia Basin Trust, was led by "ambassador" Brittany Anderson, who spent much of her summer educating residents about residential water use and water quality issues. She also conducted 44 free residential irrigation assessments and eight agricultural irrigation assessments, as well as numerous assessments of town parks, community buildings and outdoor irrigation systems at public facilities.

According to Brittany's final report, more than 50 sprinklers in the Town's parks were found to be broken, leaking, misaligned or with poor pressure. Of these, 13 were replaced, two were removed and a further 20 or more were marked to be fixed. The pressure and alignment were fixed on another 15 sprinklers.

Moreover, she noted that most residential turf, including that in Town parks, could reduce water requirements if the soil was improved. This could be accomplished through adding topsoil and compost in the spring and fall and drought resistant seeds in the spring. "People with the best soils water the least and have the greenest lawns," says her report.



*Water Ambassador Brittany Anderson tests the lawn at Town Hall.  
Photo by Brian Lawrence.*

### Solid waste removal

Reduce! Reuse! Recycle! Ka-ching! Every kilogram of waste we are able to divert from the landfill not only makes the world a better place but also reduces the cost of solid waste removal. In an effort to keep this cost to a minimum, we are asking residents to limit the amount of waste they put out for pickup.

To assist in this initiative, the local waste disposal contractor will be tagging bags as "refused for pickup" for the following reasons:

- Over the limit of two bags per residence
- Over weight (50 lbs/23 kg max.)
- Found to contain compostable or recyclable materials or other nonwaste material.

Garbage tags are available for purchase at Town Hall at a cost of two dollars each. We will be investigating the feasibility of curbside pickup for recyclables later in the year.

### Get unplugged!

As of October 1, 2011, Creston residents will be able to recycle their used or broken small appliances, through a new and unique program called Unplugged, the Small Appliance Recycling Program.

Province-wide, Unplugged will divert approximately two million small appliances previously destined for the landfill, helping to reduce pollution, save energy, and protect the environment.

Introduced by the Canadian Electrical Stewardship Association (CESA), Unplugged is the first small appliance recycling program of its kind in Canada and the only government-approved small appliance recycling program in B.C. The program will accept more than 120 small appliances for recycling, ranging from toasters and electric toothbrushes to countertop microwaves and vacuum cleaners.

The Creston drop-off location is New Life Furniture, located at 112 - 116 Northwest Boulevard. For more information on the program, please visit [www.unpluggedrecycling.ca](http://www.unpluggedrecycling.ca).



**Let's be water wise!**

We can all make wiser water choices.

**Brought to you by** The Town of Creston  
in partnership with  
Columbia Basin Trust's Water Smart Initiative

**For more info:** [www.cbt.org/watersmart](http://www.cbt.org/watersmart)

## Municipal Election

### Voter registration

Municipal Election Day is Saturday, November 19, 2011. Are you eligible to vote for Mayor, Councillors and School Trustees? Is your name on the current list of electors?

If you are not sure, you can find out by visiting Town Hall, or by calling 250-428-2214, ext. 233 or 226. The office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday (excluding holidays).

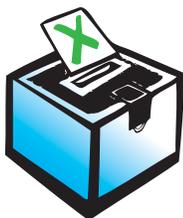
Advance registrations will be accepted at Town Hall until September 27, 2011. With the exception of registration on voting days, elector registrations will not be accepted from September 28 to November 19, 2011.

Please be advised that registrations will be taken on Advance Voting Days, November 2nd and 9th, as well as on General Voting Day, November 19th.

### Voter eligibility

You are eligible to vote in the municipal election if you are:

- age 18 or older
- a Canadian citizen
- a resident of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before the date of registration
- a resident of the Town of Creston for at least 30 days immediately before the date of registration
- not disqualified by any enactment from voting in an election or otherwise disqualified by law.



## Nominations

Thinking about running for Council? Nominations for the offices of Mayor, Councillor and School Trustee will be received by the Chief Election Officer at Town Hall from October 4 to 14, 2011. Nomination documents are available at Town Hall.

## News about town

### Improvements to Erickson Road

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) and the Town of Creston have been collaborating closely to assess the work that needs to be done to improve Erickson Road.

There are a few challenges involved, including:

- **Governance:** The boundary between the RDCK and the Town lies roughly in the centre of Erickson Road.
- **Road Condition Assessment:** The road needs to be structurally assessed to determine the required type of upgrades necessary. MoTI has already completed assessments on the structure as part of their preliminary planning.
- **Services:** Before any upgrades can be completed, existing services within the road right-of-way of both jurisdictions need to be assessed and replaced if required. New proposed services need to be assessed for placement within the right-of-way.

This road is a priority for both the Town and the Ministry. We'll keep you informed of further updates as the project progresses.

## Pine Street Intersection

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) and the Town of Creston are currently in the planning and design stages for a proposed realignment for the Railway and Pine Street intersection.

The intent of this collaborative effort is to look at improving the safety and mobility of the Pine/Railway intersection by realigning the intersection legs to 90 degree angles.

Tentative dates for this project are as follows:

March 2012 - Design 75% complete;  
December 2013 - Construction complete.

## Fire Training Centre

Work on the Creston Valley Fire Training Centre is moving ahead as scheduled. The ground has been filled and levelled, and Canyon Lister Fire Department has obtained a mobile home for victim search training which is now located on the training ground.



*The ground has been levelled at the new fire training centre.*



## Notices and Announcements

### Farmer's market

This year the Creston Valley Farmer's Market expanded to include a midweek market in the downtown Spirit Square. The Town of Creston was pleased to partner with the market to provide the license and weekly set-up for this event.



### Pet adoption

Pets to be claimed or pets available for adoption are listed on our website under Quick Links at [www.creston.ca](http://www.creston.ca). If you are interested in adopting a pet and have a suitable home or property, such as a farm with a barn, please contact the Bylaw Enforcement Officer at 250-428-2214, ext. 231.

### Do you need a permit for that?

The Building Inspector would like to remind you that building permits are required for any new building over 10 square metres (107 s.f.) in size. This includes garden sheds and greenhouses. Please refer to our web page under the Building Division for further details and requirements.

### Burning permits

Open burning is allowed during the months of April and October – with a permit. Permits cost \$10.00 each and are issued for a period of one week. Fires must not be larger than 1 square metre and there must be a minimum of 5 metres from buildings, fences, or any other combustible structures or object. Burning is limited to 4 hours duration at a time during daylight hours only. Fires must be supervised by an adult at all times. A charged garden hose that can reach the fire must be kept nearby. Some other restrictions apply. Please stop by Town Hall or the Fire Department to purchase a permit, or give us a call at 428- 2214 ext. 0 for more information.

### Free parking

Free parking has been extended until December 31, 2011 on all meters in the downtown core. Please respect the two-hour time limit. The Town would like to encourage people parking all day to park in the gravel lot south of Cook Street (the Cook Street Overflow and RV Parking Lot) to ensure parking for those visiting and shopping in the downtown core.

### Wildfire mitigation update

The Town of Creston has applied to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities to continue the fuels reduction on Town properties. This will continue the 2010 project to further reduce the dead trees and brush that can allow fire to move into the upper forest. Even though we experienced few fires this year, we must remain aware of the danger that fire can pose to our community. Climate change is bringing unpredictable weather from year to year. What we do now can help reduce the fire impact in future years.

Stop by the Creston Fire Hall, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., to pick up a FIRE SMART brochure to learn more.

### Online tax and utility information

Homeowners: Did you know you can access your tax assessment and account information at [www.creston.ca](http://www.creston.ca)? If applicable, you can also complete the homeowner grant application for the current year online. Your access code and account number will be found on your Tax Bill and Utility Bill.

### Outstanding tax and utility reminders

Reminders about outstanding tax and utility amounts will be mailed out at the beginning of October. Utility charges for 2011 are due on December 31, 2011, and any outstanding charges will be transferred to property taxes on January 1, 2012, at which point they will start accruing daily interest charges.

### Last chance to claim your 2010 Homeowner Grant

If you haven't claimed your 2010 Homeowner Grant, come to Town Hall before December 31, 2011 to fill in the application. Or, give us a call for more information at (250) 428-2214, ext. 0.



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