

## I Love Creston December 2016 -- FINAL

### **2 YEARS IN AND 2 YEARS TO GO!**

It's hard to believe that our current Town Council is half way through its 4 year term already. In this time there have been challenges, rewards and most recently loss; events that have drawn us together as a group.

It is with great sadness that I reflect on the passing of two Members of Council; one former and one current. Former Councillor Ed Gatzke passed away in January at the age of 88. Ed had served the Town of Creston as a Councillor for 26 years, from 1973 to 1999. Former Mayor/Councillor Joe Snopek passed away more recently in September at the age of 75. Joe served 12 years in two elected official roles, first as Mayor and then as Councillor. Both of these fine gentlemen served our community well and will be sadly missed.

With Councillor Snopek's passing, an upcoming challenge for our group in 2017 will be the undertaking of a bi-election. This event will mark the community choosing a new Councillor to serve out the remaining term. This date will be announced early in 2017, with the bi-election happening in the first half of the New Year. Watch for more information on scheduling in upcoming months.

I believe that achieving community successes is the impetus that drives us forward as elected officials; these lasting legacies will remain in the landscape for many years to come. As I highlighted in my I Love Creston article last month, the receipt of our recent \$4.1 million Federal and Provincial funding for the Arrow Creek Water mainline replacement project is a tremendous advancement for the citizens of Creston and Erickson. Stay tuned for construction of this project to happen in 2017.

A municipal project that actually hit the ground in 2016 is the recently constructed sidewalk on Railway Boulevard; a project that enhances both safety and connectivity. As a point of interest, the sidewalk was constructed on the westerly side of the road because this area is municipally owned property; the opposite side of the road is owned and controlled by CP Rail. It took a short two months to construct this project, comprised of approximately 140 meters of sidewalk, curb and gutter. Design features included an expansive retaining wall, a lengthy hand rail and large shade trees. Final treatments will include installation of two seating areas and street lighting. What a great compliment to our new intersection on Highway #3, at the junction of Pine Street and Railway Boulevard!

Another project that stands out in my mind as a great addition to the community landscape is the new Rotary Pavilion and the public washrooms in Centennial Park. A heart felt thank you to the Creston Valley Rotary Club for their organization and construction talent. This \$130,000 project was started and completed in only 2 months with support from the Creston Rotary Club, the Town of Creston and many local businesses. Together we continue making our community an awesome place to live and play.

To me, the way in which this community pulls together is a defining component of what makes us a place like no other. Building on this thought, I'd like to thank Chief Louie for honouring me with "the Friend of the Ktunaxa Nation" award in July of this year. When I was bestowed this honour at the Ktunaxa First Nation Annual General Assembly, I knew it would be a highlight of both 2016 and my career as a whole.

With 2016 drawing to a close, I realize that last year at this time we were gearing up for a visit from the CP Holiday Train. While this is not our year to see the bright lights of the Holiday Train pull into Town (this happens every second year), it's important to remember that a key purpose of the Holiday Train is to bring awareness and raise funds for local FOOD BANKS. With December upon us, I wish to remind everyone to give what they are able to the Gleaners and/or the Ministerial Food Hamper project banks. Your generosity and kindness can make a huge difference in the lives of others.

Merry Christmas and Season's Greetings to all !

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