

I Love Creston January 2017 -- FINAL

Regional District – Residential taxes

Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) taxation has long been a line item on our Town of Creston property tax notice. At my last Coffee Talk session, the question was asked, “What is paid for with the RDCK taxation that the Town collects?” I thought this was a great question and realized that many people may be interested in knowing more about what this money goes toward – the short answer is “shared services”.

Did you know that the RDCK and the Town of Creston share in thirteen (13) different services that benefit both residents of the Municipality and the entire Creston Valley? It is for these shared services that the Town collected \$2,193,563, on behalf of the RDCK in 2016.

Of this \$2,194,000, 12% is allocated to the following eight (8) shared services:

- Museum
- Airport
- 911
- Cemetery (this service includes 7 cemeteries found throughout the Valley)
- Road Rescue
- GIS (mapping)
- Emergency Operations Planning
- Economic Development (including our Physician Recruitment program, the Visitor Center located at the Armitage Building and our newly created Community Initiatives Program)

The remaining five (5) shared services account for 88% of the taxation: General Administration (provided from both the RDCK offices in Nelson and Creston) represents 3.5%; the BC Transit Service represents 3.7%; the Library represents 7.5%; Refuse Disposal (which includes the landfill facility on Mallory Road and the green bins on Helen Street) represents 11.4%; and lastly our Recreation Service represents 61.7% of the taxation for shared services.

At 61.7% or \$1,354,000 the Recreation Service is a big ticket item which includes our Creston & District Community Complex. It should be noted that in addition to taxation, approximately 35% of the operating revenue for this facility comes from program fees and facility rentals. This community project was a major undertaking and I am pleased to have been a member of the “Design Team” in 2007 and 2008. All of the Valley’s hard work and financial contribution has certainly paid off, as there is no denying that this community jewel is well used – and well loved. It’s an amenity of which we, as Valley residents, can all be proud.

I still find it hard to believe that six years have passed since the undertaking of the Complex’s renovation and upgrade. In June 2010, as I’m sure most of you know, the Complex was officially opened with an indoor aquatic center; a new foyer lobby and front entrance; a new indoor walking track (the fitness center opened in early 2011); a renovated curling arena; a renovated ice arena; new hockey change rooms; a commercial kitchen, meeting rooms, and a fully replaced roof system.

Too many times to count, I have received comments that one key reason people are attracted to live in our Creston Valley is because of having access to a recreation facility of this great quality. Even our Physician Recruitment program promotes our Community Complex to potential new physicians and their families as a key community draw! If you haven’t been in a while – why not treat yourself to the leisure pool with lazy river, have some fun on the new aquatic climbing wall, or challenge yourself with some personal fitness training. There’s no time like the New Year....

If you have other topics that you would like me to comment on, please contact me:

Don’t hesitate to contact me by: Visiting me at my office in Town Hall (238 - 10th Avenue North);
Email me at ron.toyota@creston.ca , or
Calling me at (250) 428-2214 (extension 227).