

## **Our MUNICIPAL BY-ELECTION**

The Town of Creston will be holding a “By-election” on **Saturday, June 10, 2017**. This election is the time when our community will democratically choose a representative to serve as Town Councillor for the remainder of our municipal term (to November 30, 2018). This newly elected Member will fill the vacant seat that was created with the passing of Councillor Joe Snopek. Joe passed away at 75 years of age, after decades of community service as an active volunteer, a Mayor and a Councillor.

Our governance framework is comprised of a Town Council with 7 Members; myself as Mayor and Councillors Boehmer, Comer, Elford, Unruh, Wilson and our soon to be newcomer. This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> term as Mayor and Joanna Wilson is serving her 4<sup>th</sup> term. Kevin Boehmer, Jen Comer, Jim Elford and Karen Unruh were elected in November 2014 to their first term at Creston’s Council table. Karen had previous experience as a Councillor in Fort Nelson. Together, this team continues to achieve great successes for our community.

Serving on our Town Council is NOT a full-time position, but it is a LOT of work! For example, as Mayor I am officially in my Town office a minimum of 3 days a week. However, there are many months during the year that I log over 200 hours of working for our community. Official duties and protocols, combined with a plenitude of meetings, keep me very involved – and very busy!

As we prepare for the By-election I was inspired to reread an article produced by Danikloo Consulting (Danielle Klooster) entitled: “Six Awesome Reasons to Run for Municipal Office”. These six reasons, detailed in this read-worthy article, are:

1. You care deeply about your community and want to make a positive impact
2. You have proven leadership experience
3. You’ve done your homework
4. You are prepared to be part of a team
5. You’re a long-term thinker, prepared to build for the future
6. You can remain committed to serving the community and doing what you believe is best, no matter what.

For the full article, check out <http://danikloo.com/six-awesome-reasons-to-run-for-municipal-office>. Note – Danielle has also authored an article entitled: “Five Terrible Reasons to Run for Municipal Office. Take a look at <http://danikloo.com/five-terrible-reasons-to-run-for-municipal-office>.

So what does the commitment to be a Councillor look like? As a Council we meet formally 2 to 4 times a month. On top of these regularly scheduled meetings, there is

extensive time required to attend public meetings, committee meetings, community celebrations, and to travel for attendance at a variety of local government conferences. Further to this, meeting preparation (reading agenda's, staff reports, resolution booklets, and more) takes up significant time. And this is just the normal course of business. For our newcomer, the learning curve will be steep and the orientation material will be fulsome. The time commitment of being a newly elected Council member will be compounded by having to dive in mid-stream of the Council term. We certainly need someone who will be ready to roll up their sleeves and get to work!

Despite the complexities and challenges of the job, serving as a Council Member is a chance to fill an honourable role founded on the selfless notion of community service. I immensely enjoy the opportunity to work for the betterment of our community, and am honoured to continue serving as your Mayor. I know my fellow Councillors will echo this sentiment.

As an aside, our BC provincial election will take place on May 9<sup>th</sup> and this is another opportunity to exercise your privilege to VOTE! Fun fact - 3 of the candidates in our Nelson-Creston riding have served as Councillors in their respective communities.

Exercise your right to vote:

- ✓ in the municipal By-election on **Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup>**, and
- ✓ in the provincial election on **Tuesday May 9th!**

694

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 - 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue North);  
Email me at [ron.toyota@creston.ca](mailto:ron.toyota@creston.ca), or  
Calling me at (250) 428-2214 (extension 227).