

Our Canada Day 150 project

Last year the Government of Canada announced that our Nation would be celebrating Canada’s 150th anniversary in 2017. To mark the occasion, the Federal Government invited communities and organizations across the country to create special, local community events and experiences (yes, that’s why our hanging baskets are white and red this year). Our Town Council enthusiastically accepted the Fed’s challenge and Councillor Joanna Wilson stepped forward to volunteer as our municipal “Ambassador” for Canada’s 150th.

Joanna has been busy working with numerous local community groups to bring events to fruition this year. Don’t miss out on the Canada Day events on July 1st. This year is the first joint Creston Valley Canada Day Celebration, with all daytime activities hosted at the Canyon Park and evening activities at the Creston and District Community Complex (CDCC), including special events.

Morning & day activities will be hosted at the Canyon Park from 7:00 - 4:00 PM, including:

• the pancake breakfast	• baseball tournament
• Canada day Cake Cutting w/ dignitaries	• kids activities provided by the Creston & District Museum
• equestrian contest	• a dog agility contest

Late day and evening activities will be held at the CDCC from 2:00 PM - 11:00 PM, including:

• Youth/kids activities including a Volleyball Tournament	• Free Swim (4:00-6:00 PM)
• An Outdoor Food Court & Market	• Canada Fireworks display
• An evening outdoor Canada Day concert featuring the Velle Weltham band and Violinist Megan Bibby	

With the encouragement of Councillor Jim Elford, Town Council also decided to mark the occasion of Canada’s 150th anniversary with the raising of a new Canadian Flag in the farmers’ market site, located adjacent to the Visitor Centre/Armitage Building. Working on making our local Canadian Flag Pole a reality began in 2016 when we approached the Mayor of Bonners Ferry (David Sims) and asked him to provide information/feedback on their large U.S.A. flag. Mayor Simms advised that their flag pole was installed in 2005 and measured 100 feet high with a 30ft by 50ft flag. A project of this size cost about \$20,000 and all the funds were privately donated.

Here in Creston we committed to install a 7.5ft by 15ft Canadian Flag on a 60ft cedar pole (out of the ground 52ft). The pole, including delivery and installation costs, was donated. Notably, Councillor Elford and a number of good sport volunteers worked for two days to stain the pole prior to its installation! The “wood cedar pole” serves to remind us that forestry is a very important natural resource to our Valley’s economy.

Councillor Elford coordinated several organizations in order to make our downtown Canadian Flag a reality. A special thank you to:

Creston Valley Forest Corporation	organizing the pole and providing transportation
Fortis Inc.	providing employee volunteers and equipment
Brisco Wood Products	providing the 60 foot cedar pole at a great discount
Jim Elford, Ian McDowell and Jerry Bauer	for the prep and staining needed.
Town of Creston	research, hardware and flags

A commemorative plaque will be attached to say a more permanent “thanks” to the above participants.

Personally, I will always remember this as “Elford’s Flag Pole”

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).