

Town of Creston next 5 years

My personal vision of our community for the next 5 years is one of growth and enhanced vibrancy. Working together, we have the ability to map out a bright future. The Town of Creston's Official Community Plan (OCP) serves as the blueprint for this vision.

The OCP was adopted in May 2017 after an estimated 137,000 minutes of community input (the equivalent of 93 days of around the clock work!). As you may remember, community engagement consisted of: community events, interviews, kitchen table talks, school visits and workshops, walkable challenge checklists, a "scavenger hunt" style survey and more. Our OCP theme was "Freshly Picked Future" and that's what we, as a community, continue working towards!

Last month's announcement that the Town of Creston, with the support of the Regional District of Central Kootenay Electoral Areas A, B and C, had an accepted offer to purchase two key properties from School District #8 (SD8) was great news for the community. This purchase meant that SD#8 would continue their Homelinks, Wildflower and other school programs at the Creston Education Center for at least the next 5 years. Additional opportunities for the CEC will be explored moving forward.

The other property that the Town purchased from SD8 was 1607 and 1621 Canyon Street; the fenced area immediately adjacent to Highway 3 that excludes the Prince Charles Secondary School's playing field in its entirety. This area is a key property to the future "Highway #3 Re-alignment, from Canyon onto Cook Street; a goal that the community spoke strongly to throughout the OCP process.

A common OCP theme was the desire to reclaim our downtown as a vibrant space that accommodates vehicles while prioritizing the pedestrian experience; a clear link to economic development. The highway realignment also presents the opportunity to create wins for the high school's outdoor amenities – think about an enhanced playing field, tennis courts or....? All it takes is a shift in thinking and approach!

With commitment to create win-win situations (rather than win-lose thinking), it is evident that this property acquisition represents a clear opportunity for the community at large. Imagine our "downtown main street" from 10th Ave. to 16th Ave. being made available for weekend markets and community events. Imagine sitting in an outdoor space visiting with friends without the impact of large trucks driving past. Imagine a hub where residents and visitors alike stop to shop and wander for the sheer enjoyment of the Creston experience.

I believe if we stay the course defined in our Official Community Plan, continue with strong and respectful leadership in the governance realm, and maintain our networks at the local, regional and provincial levels we will continue to see big wins achieved for our community.

Thankyou!

Don't hesitate to contact me by:

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