

## Mayor's Message

Creston Town Council's main responsibility is to conduct the town's business as best we can for the term that we are elected. Our number one priority is to make sure that our community's infrastructure is well looked after - to maintain and preserve these essential assets so that they serve our community now and for generations to come. That means we always have our eye on water treatment, waste water treatment, solid waste disposal and road maintenance.

In addition to our focus on maintaining and upgrading infrastructure, we have set some ambitious priorities in several areas, including supporting land use development, highway 3 realignment, regional policing and first nations involvement. You can find a full list of our priorities in our Strategic Plan, which can be found at [www.creston.ca](http://www.creston.ca), or feel free to stop by Town Hall to pick up a copy and/or meet with me.

When citizens have concerns in other areas, we do our best to understand the situation and to get involved where we can. For several years we have been working with local stakeholders through the Creston Valley Health Group. I have recently joined this team, which includes two Town staff members, a local physician, an IHA representative and a contractor. We are hearing concerns from the community about accessing family physicians, particularly since Dr. Paterson announced his retirement. The Health Group has a track record of bringing together key stakeholders to find innovative solutions to maintain and sustain health care services in

our community. I look forward to working with this group to bring all the players to the table to resolve current challenges.

Another community concern I hear often is affordable housing. We should see the ground breaking of 24 new units of affordable housing for seniors in November. This project is a partnership between the Town, BC Housing and Columbia Basin trust.

Keep an eye on my monthly Mayor's Communiqué for updates on these and other Council priorities. You can find it on our website at [www.creston.ca](http://www.creston.ca). Or give me a call at (250) 428-2214 ext. 227. I'm always happy to hear from you.

Mayor Ron Toyota



## We got it wrong!

In the last issue of the Town Citizen we neglected to mention that the new playground at Centennial Park was a joint project by both the Creston Rotary Club and the Creston Valley Rotary Club. Corporate and individual donations were

also made toward the project. The Town of Creston would like to express a sincere thanks to the many groups and individuals involved in this very successful project. It's definitely a hit with the kids!

## Tested and approved



Mayor Toyota took advantage of a family holiday recently to visit the Ferrara Fire Apparatus Factory in Holden, Louisiana. There he had a first-hand look at Creston's new fire truck and grandson Tak gave the vehicle a thorough inspection. It passed with flying colours and two days later Fire Chief Bruce Mabin and Creston firefighter Dennis Marchi took delivery of the truck and drove it back to Creston.

Mabin and Marchi arrived home safe and sound, after a 4000 km journey, on October 25th.

## Garbage collection public meetings



The Town of Creston is considering a new garbage bylaw and is looking into how residents should pay for garbage collection in the upcoming year.

The option being considered is to fund garbage collection through utility fees. This would transfer charges for garbage collection from annual property taxes to annual utility bills.

### Get informed!

Town staff would like to meet with residents to discuss garbage collection fees at one of two upcoming meetings.

WHEN: Monday, November 8, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

OR

Tuesday November 16, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: Council Chambers at Town Hall

- Learn the facts
- Increase your understanding
- Discuss your issues

### Tell us what you think!

How should you pay for garbage collection? Residents will have several opportunities to communicate with the Town on this proposal. Please come out to the meetings and make your voice heard.

For more information, please call (250) 428-2214, email [info@creston.ca](mailto:info@creston.ca) or visit [www.creston.ca](http://www.creston.ca). Feedback forms will also be made available at Town Hall.

## Wildfire protection work gets underway

The Town of Creston has hired consultants BA Blackwell & Associates to begin fuel reduction work in the Town's woodlot site. This work is an important part of Creston's Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which aims to reduce potential damage from interface fires. In this case, interface is defined as an area "where forest meets community". The work will include removing dead trees, forest undergrowth and increasing the space between treetops in forested areas that are close to residential neighbourhoods. This has been shown to be an effective way to reduce the threat to the community, in the case of an encroaching wildfire.

Work will get underway in November and will be complete before the end of 2010. Due to

the distance from roads, chipping and removing wood from the site is not feasible and some burning will be required. The contractor will comply with provincial and local regulations during burning, which include alerting nearby residences and facilities one week prior to burning, and burning only on days with good venting.

Creston Council and staff have considered this question carefully, and, because of the remote location of the work, are expecting little if any impact on the air quality within the community. In order to complete this work, Council has approved an extension to open burning until the end of 2010.

Residents who have concerns about smoke produced from this project may contact BA Blackwell & Associates at (604) 986-8346 or email [inquiries@bablackwell.com](mailto:inquiries@bablackwell.com).



Please feel free to stop by Town Hall at 238-10th Avenue North. We are open for business Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except for statutory holidays.

### Town of Creston

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## 2010 Capital Projects update

Town crews have been busy getting as much work as possible done before the ground freezes this winter. Some projects completed in 2010 include:

The new **16th Avenue sidewalk**, including cement work and landscaping was completed to Scott Street. Weather permitting, crews will finish off this project with a gravel trail further up 16th Avenue before the snow flies.



*New 16th Avenue sidewalk*

Work has started on the replacement of the **Highway 21 sewer**. The current aboveground steel pipe will be replaced with a new plastic pipe, which will be buried next to the highway. Town crews expect to complete the project before the end of 2010.



*Highway 21 sewer pipe replacement*



*Highway 21 sewer pipe replacement*

The second round of **smoke testing** was completed this summer. This process lets us know the exact locations where storm water is infiltrating the sewer system. We can then work with residents to remedy the situation. Keeping storm water run off out of the sewer system helps get the maximum life span out of the waste water treatment system. This system is very expensive to repair and replace, and preventative maintenance such as this will help us get the most out of this important community investment.

The Town of Creston worked in tandem with six other municipalities to commission a **water leakage survey**. By putting this project to tender as a group of six communities, we were able to negotiate a very competitive price to get the work done. The contractor used specialized listening equipment and was able to pinpoint the exact location of leakages within the Town water system.

Half of the leaks have already been fixed, and the rest are scheduled for repair within our planned maintenance schedule.

The **Fire Hall** had a new 30 year roof installed in 2010.

After receiving tenders on **waste water treatment upgrades** that were well above budget, the Town of Creston is looking to see if a better, and more economical, way can be found to make the required upgrades. It is possible that alternative methods might save on operational and capital costs, while still meeting provincial and federal standards. We have issued a request for expressions of interest and are waiting to hear from experts in the field, about the most economical, environmental and safe ways to meet Creston's wastewater treatment needs.

## Scooter safety

The Town of Creston teamed up with a whole host of community partners to hold a Scooter Safety Awareness Day in September. Activities included free scooter safety and maintenance inspections, a skills challenge course with prizes for participants and free refreshments. Loaner scooters were available for those who wanted to give this popular mode of transport a try. Over 30 people attended the event, with over 20 of them actively participating.



*RCMP Cst. Marty McKenna learns about scooter safety*

### Thanks everyone!

We'd like to thank the many local businesses and organizations that came out to lend a hand, and/or donated items for this very successful event. Sponsors included:

- Lawrence Ward of Kootenay Medical Supplies
- Ray Zimmerman
- Betty Williams
- Creston Valley Insurance staff
- Overwaitea Foods
- Tim Hortons
- Pharmasave
- Art Tremblay of Tremlock Properties
- RCMP Cst. Marty McKenna
- Insurance Corporation of British Columbia
- Intact Insurance
- Invacare Canada
- Wawanesa Insurance
- Creston & District Community Complex
- Erickson Community Association
- Bylaw Enforcement Officers Bill Doleman and Brad Ramsay
- Councillor Tanya Ducharme
- Occupational Therapist Erin Rouse

**The most frequent comment we heard was: "Let's do it again next year!"**



## Bear in area

Grizzly bears have been sighted in the vicinity of the airport. All trails in this area are closed to the public until further notice. Residents are reminded that bears are wild, potentially dangerous animals and should never be approached, fed or antagonized.

## Hydrant flushing

Town crews will be carrying out their annual hydrant maintenance and flushing program throughout the month of November. During this period water may become cloudy. If this happens, please flush your lines by running cold water, to clear any murkiness. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works department during regular office hours at (250) 428-2214 ext. 222.

## Tax reminder

Please be sure to pay your 2010 utilities invoice, and property taxes before the end of December. Outstanding utility balances will roll over into property taxes on January 1, 2011. Unpaid property taxes as of January 1 will be subject to interest charges.



## Santa Claus coming... on a different day!

Santa has rearranged his schedule this year and will make his annual appearance at the Creston Community Pride Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 4. He's just finalizing his plans, with help from the local elves at the Chamber of Commerce. Watch local newspapers, and the Town website for further details.



## Off road parking please

Town crews are getting ready for fall street sweeping and winter ploughing and sanding operations. Please make sure that all recreational vehicles (including trailers, boats, etc) are removed from Town streets and stored on private property as per the provisions of Town of Creston Traffic Regulations Bylaw No. 1546. Your cooperation in ensuring the safe and efficient transition to fall and winter street operations is appreciated.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please feel free to contact the Bylaw Enforcement Officer at Town Hall (250) 428-2214 local 231.

## Free Parking

Enjoy free parking at all downtown parking meters during the month of December! Please support Creston merchants and shop locally this holiday season. Happy Holidays from everyone at Town Hall.