

I Love Creston September 2016 -- FINAL

Friends of the Ktunaxa Award

Recently in July, the Ktunaxa Nation held their Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Creston; an event that was hosted by the Lower Kootenay Band (LKB) over multiple days. During this time, I was invited to attend an evening event on July 20th and, much to my surprise, I was presented with the “Friends of Ktunaxa Nation” Award. When making the presentation, Chief Jason Louie stated, “Thank you for supporting us and believing in our vision”. The bestowing of this honour was totally unexpected and serves as a career highlight – I’m extremely proud of the relationship that has developed with our neighbours over the past years.

The practice of the AGA host community presenting the “Friends of Ktunaxa Nation” Award started in 2008. When the Lower Kootenay Band hosted the AGA in 2012 the local recipient of the Award was RCMP Constable Dan Cameron, who congratulated me by saying “you’re in a select special group!!”

The relationship between the Councils of the Lower Kootenay Band and the Town of Creston was formally recognized in December 2009, when a Memorandum of Understanding AND Friendship was signed by both Councils. Since then, we have held many “Community to Community” forums, which provide an opportunity for both Councils to come together for relationship and rapport building. From this foundation, great things can grow.

On December 1, 2014 our Councils held a “joint inauguration” to celebrate and pledge our respective oaths of office, before a packed house. This was a great event that celebrated our commitment to continue building strong community ties. In June 2015, the Lower Kootenay Band Youth Canoe Trek, from Kuskanook to Gambling Otter Beach at Burden’s Cut, ended with an overnight campout for participants on my family’s property near Sanca. On January 29, 2016 members from both Councils, and some other hardy participants, joined in a Winter Health Challenge - plunging into the Kootenay River. What a novel way to build respect amongst us!

During my time as Mayor, the relationships that have been forged between our two communities and Councils are a gift that I will carry with me long after my role as Mayor has ended. My life is richer for having made these friendships.

visiting me at my office in Town Hall (238 - 10th Avenue North)
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