

My “Mayor’s Fire Fund” Proposal

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The Village of Creston established, by a motion of committee, to form a **Fire Department on February 21, 1899** at their meeting held at the Sirdar Hotel. A motion was also made to appoint Mr. Joseph Wilson as the first Fire Chief of the Fire Department. The first Creston Fire Department volunteers list contained 29 names. In 1925, Matt York was named full time Fire Chief and a building was purchased on 11th Avenue North for use as a fire hall. This building was demolished in 1961 and a new fire hall was constructed on 11th Avenue North (next to the Credit Union) in 1962. In 1976, fire protection was extended to surrounding areas through an agreement with the Regional District of Central Kootenay. In July 1980, Reginald (Reg) Longhurst was hired as Fire Chief and grew the Creston Fire Department from less than 12 volunteer firefighters to a membership of 21 firefighters (part time, paid on call) upon his retirement in August 2000. In 1981, the Town purchased the old Overwaitea store on 10th Avenue North and converted it into the Fire Hall we know today. In 2014, our WEP (Work Experience Program) was created and with the addition of the five WEP firefighters, enrollment in the Creston Fire Department is 32 active members. Today, in 2019, Creston Fire Rescue has an enrollment of approximately 34 members. This is just a brief synopsis of the in-depth history of the evolution of the Creston Fire Department which is located on Town of Creston website - www.creston.ca (Government/Fire Department/Our History).

The growth of the department meant that there was a lack of space at the existing Fire Hall to conduct weekly training sessions. In 2010, the development of the firefighter training grounds began. This property, located on Davis Street (the old municipal dump site) was donated by the Town. The development of these training grounds over the years have been made possible by the generous contributions (dollars and in-kind) from the firefighters, private citizens and various community organizations. Every Thursday evening, Creston Fire Rescue conducts training sessions which generally take place at the firefighter training grounds. The development has been slow and steady!

With the successful referendum in 2018, the citizens of the Town of Creston have authorized the Town to borrow \$4.5 million to construct a new Fire Hall. My **“Mayor’s Fire Fund”** proposal is to raise monies to reduce our mortgage borrowing for the new Fire Hall and to complete the Firefighters Training Centre which needs approximately \$100,000 for completion. As Mayor, I will personally donate \$2,000 in 2019 (\$1,000 for our Fire Hall and \$1,000 for our Firefighters Training Centre) and I will make pledges of \$1,000 in 2020 and \$1,000 in 2021 towards the Fire Hall mortgage – a commitment of \$4,000. I encourage individuals, families, community groups to join me in contributing to these invaluable projects! Any amount is appreciated and tax receipts will be issued by the Town of Creston. By contributing, you will be helping to ensure that our new Fire Hall and Firefighter Training Facility will continue to serve the Town and the Creston Valley for the next 50 plus years!

Don't hesitate to contact me by:

Visiting me at my office in Town Hall

Email me at ron.toyota@creston.ca

Call me at 250 428 2214 (extension 227)