

Mayor's Communiqué

DECEMBER 2014

The Road Ahead

As I write this article, the election has just occurred and by the time this message hits the press the outcome of this democratic process will be old news. However, at this current moment, I can't help reflecting on the intensity of the race. In that brief campaign period, we saw a lot of the good, the bad and the ugly associated with campaigning. Some of it was hurtful, much of it was frustrating, but a lot of it was inspirational and heartwarming. I cannot thank my family, friends and supporters enough! I realize the trust this community has placed in me once again and I commit that I am up for the challenge.

While it would be easy to focus on the negatives of the campaign process, I am choosing to focus on new beginnings as we move past this chaotic time and get down to the business at hand; working and achieving good things for our community. My last article focused on the accomplishments of the past Council, of which there were many. Given this consideration, it seems fair to address the possibilities of our newly elected Council. A four year term is a significant window in which many exciting achievements will be made. And I believe that you, our citizenry, have elected a dynamic team to continue moving our community forward. It will be a busy time for Council, accompanied with an intense learning curve, but I'm convinced that this team is up for tackling the issues at hand.

So what's on the immediate horizon for this Council?. First up - orientation. There's a lot to take in and a lot to learn. While the learning never stops in the role of elected official, the "out of the gate" learning curve is a steep one. Orientation is followed by strategic planning and budget. What are the goals and objectives that will be prioritized? How will expectations be aligned with financial costs? How will scarce resources and staff time be allocated? It's easy to commentate on decision making from the side lines, but these courageous individuals are charged with making the hard decisions up front and centre. Council will also need to get up to speed on the projects already underway; studies, bylaws, development applications... and the list goes on.

With this capable team at the proverbial helm, I know the next four years will be rewarding and full of success, despite the many challenges that will surely be encountered along the way. Effective decision making requires factual information and



public participation, and this is where I want to keep the good momentum of the recent campaigning moving forward. Get and/or stay involved in the decision making process! Be reminded that the democratic process isn't only carried out at election time; what happens throughout the term is a key part of that process. Make written submissions. Attend an informal "coffee talk" with the Mayor, the Staff Sergeant, the Fire Chief and the Bylaw Compliance Officer. Visit the municipal website. Read the Town newsletters. Make suggestions about how Town Hall can get people more involved with what goes on in your local government.

Most of all remember that my "posted days" in my Town Hall office are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday every week.

Thank you to everyone who got out and voted – regardless of who you voted for. I look forward to the next four years!

Contact me

I want to hear from you:

Please share your concerns, your experiences, and your issues (both positive and negative) on how we can improve the quality of life in our community (the Town and the Creston Valley).

Thanks

Mayor Ron Toyota

Email: Ron.Toyota@creston.ca

Phone 250-428-2214, extension 227

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL!