

# Mayor's Communiqué

February 2012

## What topic would you like me to write about?

Since October 2009, I have submitted 28 articles for the “I Love Creston” magazine. In these articles I have covered a wide array of topics from building stronger relationships with the Lower Kootenay Band to Council’s achievements over the previous three year term. However, the single toughest aspect of writing these monthly articles remains the act of choosing a topic that is both fitting and timely. As such, I’m challenging those that read these monthly articles to contact me directly with suggestions for topics that will be of interest to you and others.

**Crestbrook Gardens** is a new housing development for seniors’ and persons with disabilities. The 24 unit housing project, which opened on November 1, 2011, was the result of a partnership between BC Housing Corporation, the Columbia Basin Trust and the Town of Creston. For information regarding availability and eligibility, please contact the Canadian Mental Health Association for the Kootenays at 1-800 257 7756; they have offices in Cranbrook, Trail and Nelson.



Five key factors typically influence or determine eligibility for tenancy:

- Seniors age 55 or older, or persons with a disability.
- Pets are NOT permitted.
- Property is NON-SMOKING.
- Maximum gross annual income cannot exceed \$33,780.
- Personal assets may not exceed \$100,000 (not included are RRSPs, personal effects including a vehicle, etc.).

The rent is determined by a formula closely connected to 30% of a tenant’s annual income.

**Ramada Inn & Conference Center with restaurant** has a tentative opening date of May 15<sup>th</sup> this year. Last month I had an opportunity to tour this 3 floor facility, which will have 71 rooms. I was impressed with both the room layout and size, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor views will be amazing. Additionally, there are main floor rooms available for persons with physical challenges or those that require longer-term accommodation. The separate restaurant (Ricky’s All Day Grill) will have seating for 100 in the dining area and 30 in the lounge, plus outdoor patio space. Much favourable interest is being reported by several organizations and persons for booking at the venue later this year, once construction is complete.



This photo, taken September 28, 2011, shows the construction site of Creston's new Ramada hotel. Photo courtesy Vic Van Isle Construction Ltd.



**The Creston Valley Health Working Group** (Physician Recruitment Committee) that I have the opportunity to participate in, along with a dedicated team, has achieved great success in 2011. A new physician has been recruited from South Africa and is practicing at the Osprey Medical Clinic (located in the Mall on Northwest Boulevard). Additionally, three locums have been recruited to the Valley to provide coverage for existing physicians. With ongoing attendance at recruiting events, coupled with the dedication of our talented physician recruiter, we hope for more favourable news regarding physician recruitment later this spring. Keep an eye on the CVHWG “quick link” on the Town website [www.creston.ca](http://www.creston.ca).



**Policing in the Creston Valley** is provided by the RCMP and we are covered by a Provincial Agreement that provides our local detachment with 13 officers plus civilian staff. On February 8<sup>th</sup>, the Canada Census was announced and the Town of Creston exceeded with an official population of 5,306, we will automatically be moved from a Provincial Agreement to a Municipal Agreement which would see major changes to our local policing. Stay tuned!



These are a few topics that may interest the reader. Let me know what you think – thanks!

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 new webcam at  
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 then click Town  
 web cam



***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  
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