

# Mayor's Communiqué

January 2012

## Tone at the TOP!

I'd like to express my sincere thanks to *everyone* who voted in the recent municipal election, regardless of where you marked your X on the ballot sheet. As your newly re-elected Mayor I will continue to work hard to represent this beautiful community of ours to the very best of my abilities at the local, regional and provincial levels.



Ongoing learning is key to a *knowledgeable* Council making *informed* choices. At the end of November, I attended a 2 day orientation and training seminar in Rosland. The seminar was designed to improve knowledge and understanding of some of the many organizations, policy & regulatory documents, and issues that affect our Municipality's operations: the Municipal Insurance Association, the Municipal Finance Authority, Union of BC Municipalities, Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments, Local Government Management Association, the BC Assessment Authority, the Community Charter, the Local Government Act, Official Community Plans, priority setting, governance issues and much more! Also in attendance were Councillors Scott Veitch, Jerry Schmalz, Wesly Graham and our Town Manager, Lou Varela.

During this high intensity seminar, a comment by facilitator George Cuff stuck with me. He noted that the "tone at the top" is essential to running an effective organization. As Mayor, it is important that my attitude and my approach to service be both positive and proactive. A positive tone at the top filters down through to Town Council, to Town management, to staff and, eventually, to the citizens of Creston and the Creston Valley. I realize that as Mayor, I am the "ambassador" and the "representative" of our community and I want to do the best job I can in representing you.

During my last campaign, I was able to meet with and talk to many citizens and friends about their hopes for our community. While I will not be able to please everyone, I did appreciate the opportunity to listen and hear the many different viewpoints of our diversified citizenry. I encourage ongoing feedback throughout the next three year term.

One discussion item I'd like to address is the timing/scheduling of our Town Council meetings. These meetings start at 4:00 PM on Tuesdays, and not later in the evening when interested citizens that are employed in a 9:00 am to 5:00 pm work structure could more easily attend. The reasons for this decision are numerous; many delegates are employees of other agencies that present to Council during their work day, statutory holidays often fall on Mondays which requires rescheduling of meetings, and the ability for staff to prepare for meeting in an efficient and timely manner. Our Town staff are on regular time versus possible overtime when meetings are scheduled in the evening. It is also important to note that when warranted, special meetings can be called to accommodate citizen requests for addressing of key issues. Meeting times and dates can be structured specifically to accommodate such delegates. Given these considerations, we'll be continuing with the current meeting schedule of Tuesday at 4:00 pm, twice a month.



The position of Mayor is an honour and I want to earn your respect. While I am not beyond occasionally making a mistake (the burden of being human), my good intention and dedication to this community are unwavering.

Wishing everyone in the beautiful Creston Valley a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year !

***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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