



Mayor's Communiqué

(October 2010)



The annual UBCM (Union of British Columbia Municipalities) Conference was held in Whistler, BC at the end of September. I attended along with Councillors Folkman, Gadicke, Graham and Wilson, as well as our acting Town Manager, Lou Varela, as the representatives for the Town of Creston. Having members of the Town Council and our Acting Town Manager attend UBCM is a valuable opportunity for us to attend meetings and seminars with our peers and government ministers. Each Councillor will be reporting on what they learned at UBCM and what information they have obtained to help the Town of Creston.

One highlight for me was to spend the entire day on an Agriculture Study Tour that involved about 150 people travelling in 4 buses to the Pemberton Valley, which is north of Whistler. We visited the Pemberton Meadows Natural Beef Farm, Dreamcatcher Meadows (an equine training facility), and the Van Loon's Pemberton Valley Farm for lunch and to learn about the seed potato business. Our final stop was the Pemberton Distillery where vodka is made from potatoes. Accompanying us our tour was the Minister of Agriculture, Steve Thomson, and the new Chair of the ALC (Agriculture Land Commission), Richard Bullock. The opportunity to learn the importance of the ALR (Agriculture Land Reserve) from the local farmers and business families was a beneficial learning experience for me.

Other highlights of this Conference for me were participating in meetings with several Ministers and their staff.

Minister of Agriculture – Steve Thomson
ALC Chair – Richard Bullock
Solicitor General/Attorney General – Mike de Jong
Minister of Health Services – Kevin Falcon
Minister of Community & Rural Development – Ben Stewart
Minister of Energy and Mines – Bill Bennett
Premier Gordon Campbell
Ministry of Transportation – Norm Parkes (acting Regional Director)
BC. Ambulance Services – Carl Roy, Les Fisher, Larry Jackson



At each of these meetings, our group was able to discuss openly with the Ministers and their staff issues that concern the community of the Creston Valley. Examples of these discussions include; Medivac Services at the Creston Valley Airport, the Enhanced Regional Policing model, the Physician Recruitment program, the sub-regional Governance Study, and the truck route Highway re-alignment project as part of the Highway #3 improvements from Hope to the Alberta border. All of these are important issues, and each one takes time to build a strong understanding and relationship to have the opportunity to evolve into realities.

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

