

Mayor's Communiqué

October 2011

A Dedicated Town Staff!

My first term serving as Mayor will soon be concluding. In making my decision to run again for the office of Mayor, I realize that it is both the people that I serve, as well as the people that I serve with, that make me want to continue in this role. As Mayor, I have had the opportunity to witness first-hand the dedication of both the Town of Creston's Council and staff.

Town staff serves to maintain and expand our infrastructure, advance development within the community, deliver "front line" customer service, provide protective services, and much more.



The Public Works crew is responsible for maintaining the 48kms of roads located within the Town on a year-round basis. The crew has just finished "chip-sealing" to improve the surface of our roads, many of which are reaching the end of their lifespan. During the snow season, these same crews plough and clear all our roads, plus the alleys and laneways.

In addition to keeping our community safe and beautiful, the Public Works Department is also responsible for maintaining the miles of pipes that make up our aging infrastructure. Our waste water treatment system (which treats both sanitary sewer and storm sewer) has over 47km of pipes which flow into the treatment plant. Using federal and provincial grant funds, which have already been approved, this treatment plant is being redesigned and rebuilt to meet the needs of our community.



Our Department of Development Services staff has moved numerous projects, currently under construction, through the approval process. A few of these projects include: the Ramada Hotel, the new building on Canyon Street (Creston Place), the 24 units of seniors housing located behind Extra Foods and Tim Hortons providing 24 hour coffee & goodies. It will be exciting to see what 2012 and the future holds for new development in Creston.

Our office staff is also very dedicated to the performance of their duties, providing information and service to the public. It's not always easy being the front line person who has to interpret the "rule books", accept payment for parking tickets, or deal with an occasional disgruntled individual, but I've seen it carried out time after time with both patience and professionalism.





Our firefighters, including approximately 30 volunteer members, are a dedicated group of individuals who give up their personal time for ongoing training and potentially assume risk of their personal safety in responding to emergency callouts. As a side note, I recently had the privilege of participating in the *Fire Hose Laying Competition*, held last month in the College of the Rockies parking lot. From this event I gained an increased appreciation for the required skillset it takes to be a firefighter. Additionally, in discussion with participants, I came to better understand the motivations of these public servants who provide emergency response to a wide range of emergencies in our community.

Additionally, this year we were able to hire six summer students to work with the Public Works crew to maintain and beautify our community; implement a water smart conservation program; undertake data collection for inclusion in the pending downtown parking study; and, assist with operation of the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

In addition, to our hardworking staff, I would also like to commend our management team. I have worked with them daily and their commitment to ongoing improvement within the local government framework is highly commendable. In my previous life as a business owner, I could make a decision and have it executed immediately, be it right or wrong. In the municipal world, the emphasis is on process. Rules and policies must be followed to protect YOUR (the public's) best interests. Understanding this process has at times been frustrating for me, but I've come to know the challenges of good governance and the responsibilities associated with it.

Lou Varela, our new Town Manager was appointed in June 2011 by a unanimous Council decision; a decision that was also strongly supported by our senior management team. The hiring process, in which all of Council was involved, allowed us to be sure we were building on an already solid team.



As you can see, I hold all of our Town staff in high regard. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their dedication and ongoing hard work.

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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