



A Publication for Town of Creston Residents

TOWN VIEWS

MARCH 2022

Let's Talk about Affordable Housing



On March 9, the Town of Creston held a public meeting to discuss the Affordable Housing issue in Creston. There were 59 people in attendance (not including Council and staff) with representation from a large majority of organizations and non-profits in town, as well as business owners, land owners, investors, builders, developers, realtors and tenants. Also in attendance were 7 town of Creston staff, 5 Councillors and Director Garry Jackman- RDCK Area A.

Chief Administrative Officer Michael Moore began the discussion by presenting information gathered over the past years including data from the RDCK Housing Needs Report. Margaret Durnin with the Creston Valley Community Housing Society (CVCHS) also spoke highlighting the ongoing work of the CVCHS in addressing the housing affordability issue in Creston. The meeting was then opened up to attendees for input, comments, and solutions on how we can 'as a community' address the situation moving forward.

At the Council meeting on March 22nd, Council approved the establishment of an Advisory Select Committee. Once members are selected and appointed by Council, the Advisory Select Committee will consider housing issues and report findings and opinions to Council. Staff will advertise for committee membership in the coming weeks.

Commemorative Plaque Policy



Are you looking to donate a plaque to recognize a past or present resident, business or organization in Creston? The Town of Creston has a Commemorative Plaque Policy that outlines the process to make this happen!

Previously, commemorative plaques could only be placed on tree grates in Creston. We're updating this policy to allow for plaque placement on donated commemorative items such as picnic tables, benches, public art, bike racks, or other outdoor improvement items. All requests are subject to Town approval.

Get in touch with our Community Planning and Development Department if you're interested in learning more.

Filling you in on Potholes

It's that time a year again, the warming temperatures have started to thaw the ground in places, and with that comes potholes. Potholes are formed when water seeps into small cracks in the asphalt and freezes. The expansion of the ice in the crack causes the asphalt to crumble, and potholes eventually form after repeated freeze-thaw cycles. Potholes, technically speaking, are larger than a hard hat (as opposed to cracks) and are in the roadway (as opposed to in the curb or boulevard).



The Town of Creston patches potholes throughout the winter with a cold mix asphalt product. The cold mix is only a temporary patch and will fail when moisture enters and then freezes again. Proper repairs that will seal the pavement from moisture can only be completed in warmer months when hot mix is available.

The Town's Public Works crews are continually patrolling the roads for potholes as part of their routine road maintenance but they don't always notice them all. If you notice a pothole please report it on our easy to use app SeeClickFix - available for free in the app store. Or visit creston.ca and look for the "Report an Issue" button near the top of the page.

Street sweeping



As the snow begins to melt, and the streets are left dirty and dusty. Unfortunately, we can't just rush out and clean the streets right away, as there are many factors involved.

Street sweeping cannot begin until the pavement temperatures consistently remain above zero. The sweeper uses a fine water spray to keep the dust from the street dampened down. If the temperatures

are below freezing, the water spray freezes, and the dust and debris remains frozen to the pavement and cannot be removed. Also the ice may produce unsafe roadways for vehicles, foot traffic at crosswalks and intersections.

The sweeper works most efficiently when in tandem with a water truck. This causes less wear on the sweeper and provides a superior level of sweeping. The Town water truck serves as a dual-purpose vehicle and converts from a sander in the winter, to a water truck. We try to judge when sanding will be over for the season, before the change from a winter to a summer function.

It is anticipated that the sweeper will begin operations during the month of March, but this could spill into April. Factors, which may affect the start and routine of the sweeper are, weather, equipment failure, and the need for the sweeper and manpower on emergency jobs.

Once sweeping begins, the routes are as follows:

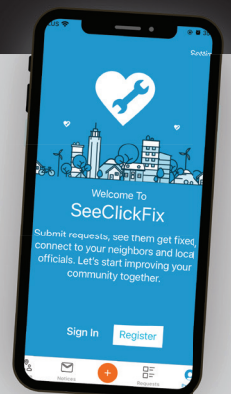
- Downtown
- School zones
- Hospital area
- Senior complexes
- Residential areas (Done on a rotational basis in order to be fair to all)

The Town owns two sweepers. The mechanical sweeper starts by removing the larger rock which is screened and reused. The vacuum sweeper will start a few days later or the next week picking up the fines. Completion timeline varies with weather and equipment failure. There are times that large infrastructure emergency repairs may require sweeping staff to assist.

Please be patient as it takes several weeks to cover all of our roads in Town.

Report a Pothole

If you notice a pothole please report it on our easy to use app "SeeClickFix" - available for free in the app store. Or visit creston.ca and look for the "Report an Issue" button near the top of the page.



Spring Yard & Garden Curbside Pickup



The Town of Creston will be conducting the Spring Curbside Yard & Garden Curbside Pick-Up in April.

The collection week will be April 19 – 21, 2022. Yard waste is collected by the Town Crew and is scheduled for your regular garbage day. Due to the overwhelming amounts set out, it is possible that the crew will not collect it all in one day. Leave it out and they will continue where they left off the previous day. If it has not been collected 2 days after your garbage day, please call and let us know.

How to prepare:

- Branches and prunings (no larger than 6" in diameter) are to be wrapped in bundles of 3 feet (1 meter) - a manageable size for 1 person to pick up.
- Leaves, twigs, grass cuttings, and organic garden waste must be placed in rigid, weather proof containers (e.g., garbage cans, cardboard boxes), something that can be quickly dumped and returned to the curbside.
- Paper garden bags are permitted.
- NO plastic garbage bags with yard waste will be accepted.
- We ask that you please keep all organic yard waste separate from household garbage when placing curbside for pick up.
- Yard and garden waste may not be picked up if materials are not prepared as requested.

Please note:

- The second curbside collection week will be October 26 – 28, 2022 (on whatever day your garbage is normally picked up).
- A reminder that yard waste is for organics only and not 'anything found in the yard'. For example: broken lawnmowers, paving stones and garden gnomes are not accepted.

- The Creston landfill also takes yard waste for free in the months of April and October. Shrubs and tree branches must be less than 6" in diameter. Large loads (larger than 2.5m³ / one truck box) are at the discretion of the site attendant and may be turned away if the site is too full for the day or it looks like it is a commercial load. Plastic and paper bags are NOT accepted at the landfill. Bags must be emptied and not left on location.

Burning Yard Waste



If you live within Town of Creston limits, you are only permitted to burn yard waste during the months of April and October, and you need a permit from the Town of Creston. Permits can be purchased at Town Hall – Monday to Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm.

Open Burn Permit Pricing:

- Residential leaves, foliage, weeds \$15.00
- Freestanding grass and brush \$50.00
- Large Piles \$85.00
- Land Clearing \$250.00

Please note: The Venting Index Interactive Map must be checked each day before burning. Creston area must be blue or green the day of the burn. No burning is permitted when Venting Index is Red. Fires must be extinguished at the end of each day. The Venting Index can be found by Googling "venting index interactive map BC" or for a recorded message call 1-888-281-2992 (opt. #4 Castlegar).

Cooking Fires

Open air fires are permitted throughout the year in fireplaces, grills or barbecues. This includes small fires fueled by clean dry wood in a contained fire pit with a covering grate to be used for cooking only. Consideration of neighbouring properties and structures is required. The Fire Chief or the fire department member in charge may require extinguishment of the fire if deemed necessary.

Zoning Bylaw Re-write



On April 19th, 2022, the new Zoning Bylaw draft will be going to the Committee of the Whole for review by Council. Along with the Zoning Bylaw will be some proposed changes to the Official Community Plan.

The look and feel of Creston is shaped by the Official Community Plan, and the Zoning Bylaw must reflect this vision. For the Zoning Bylaw rewrite process to move forward, we will need to update the Official Community Plan. Over the past 5 years, property uses, and community desires have changed. These updates will be the first step in our upcoming Official Community Plan 5 Year Review and our next step in pulling the Zoning Bylaw across the finish line.

An Open House will be happening on April 13th to present the proposed changes, and gather feedback from the community. We will also be hosting a Public Informational Meeting in Council Chambers on May 11th. On May 17th the Bylaw will be going to Council for a public hearing and 3rd reading. Pending any unforeseen circumstances, the new Zoning Bylaw will be adopted in May 2022.

It's going to be a busy couple of months. We hope you come along with us!

Licence of Occupation Policy



The Town of Creston is introducing a Temporary Licence of Occupation Policy. The Town wants to encourage outdoor dining areas, cafes, markets, public events, and fitness classes in public outdoor spaces because vibrant public spaces improve quality of life to our community.

The policy outlines guidelines to allow seasonal and short-term use of outdoor public spaces. You can now apply to use a public space for a seasonal outdoor purpose. Whether you want to host an event in a park or create an outdoor patio, you can do it through a Temporary Licence of Occupation. This is first-come, first-serve, so make sure you check it out!

All applications will go to Council to ensure they meet the policy's intent and are subject to an Agreement with the Town. Licence fees may apply.

Creston Emergency Services Building Update

The construction of the new Creston Emergency Services Building is continuing on the inside and has reached a number of significant milestones. With all the rooms and spaces framed and drywall installed, the building is taking shape inside to house the fire department and ambulance paramedics.

While much of the mechanical and electrical systems are nearing completion, there will be a delay in completing these two systems. With supply chains disrupted and increased construction demand, the project will need to wait until June for the main electrical distribution panel and into July for the main HVAC unit. This will delay the completion of the building until at least August.

Despite the unanticipated delays, the remainder of the building will continue to move forward. Flooring and painting will begin by the end of March. The installation of doors and windows will take place in April. Exterior painting of the building will take place as the weather warms as well as the start of landscaping.

Questions? Contact Us - We are here to help! • 238 10th Avenue North, Creston, BC

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