

# THE Town Citizen

FALL/WINTER 2015

## Town of Creston

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## Business Walk



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The Town of Creston, Creston Valley Chamber of Commerce and BC Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, delivered the first of three Business Walks on May 25, 2015. Volunteers from the Town, Chamber, Basin Business Advisors, Central Kootenay Regional District, Community Futures Central Kootenay, Invest Kootenay, KAST, KRIC, Kootenay Employment Services, and the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training visited close to 70 downtown businesses.

The group asked business owners a series of questions ranging in topic from identifying their greatest challenge to number of employees to rating the current state of the business. The information will provide valuable information that support agencies can tap into to help develop programs and services that will better support local small businesses.



Staff from Cresteramics, Kim Goodall-Ministry of Jobs, Tourism & Skills Training (2nd from right) and Mayor Ron Toyota

Results indicated 94% of the businesses visited have an overall positive outlook, 58% said business is good or increasing and 41% plan to sell or retire by 2020. Increasing tourism, group marketing and encouraging local shopping were among the suggestions given by owners. It was determined that 457 people are employed at the 68 businesses visited.

The second business walk was conducted in early November 2015 along parts of Northwest Boulevard and a third is planned for rural businesses ■

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## Physician Recruitment

Creston Valley Health Working Group (CVHWG) this past September was pleased to announce the successful recruitment and arrival of Dr. Stacey Hoselton and her family (see photo) to Creston! They have been enjoying the sights and welcoming community of Creston, as well as enjoying many activities.



Dr. Hoselton is providing Locum services for Dr. Troughton's patients at Family Practice Associates (FPA) through Spring 2016.

As well, CVHWG is pleased to announce Dr. E. Huettmeyer has joined Blue Heron Medical Clinic, and welcomes Dr. O. Szymanska who has returned, providing additional locum coverage at Summit Medical Clinic ■

## Mayor's Message



As an organization, the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) is the recognized advocate for local governments in BC. UBCM's mandate is to facilitate government relations, as well to undertake policy development and implementation – important work that affects local governments throughout the province.

The UBCM Convention is an invaluable opportunity for local governments of all sizes to come together and share their experiences.

Knowing the importance of this annual event, Council recently attended the 2015 UBCM Convention, which was held in Vancouver from September 21st to 25th – with approximately 2000 other attendees! This event was packed

with meaningful learning opportunities and significant meeting sessions. Importantly, Council met individually with five Provincial Ministers and their staff, as well as the Chair of the Agriculture Land Commission, to discuss matters relevant to Creston. Meeting highlights included:

- ◆ The **Honourable Peter Fassbender (Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development)** to discuss the Build Canada Fund grant our Valley recently received for improvement to the Arrow Creek Water pipeline and Erickson reservoir.
- ◆ The **Honourable Norm Letnick (Minister of Agriculture)** and the **Honourable Shirley Bond (Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training)** to discuss promotion and expansion of Agri-tourism and Agri-food programs within our Valley. At this meeting, the RDCK Directors for Areas “B” and “C” also attended to ensure representation of our Valley as a whole.
- ◆ The **Honourable Suzanne Anton (Minister of Justice & Attorney General)** to discuss components of our Municipal Policing model that was implemented in April 2012.
- ◆ The **Honourable Todd Stone (Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure)** to discuss our recently completed Highway Intersection at Pine/Railway and to promote Phase 2 of the Highway Re-alignment from Canyon Street onto Cook Street.



In addition to these meetings, I also participated in the:

- ◆ Highway #3 Mayors' & Chairs' Coalition. The Coalition's mandate is to work with the Provincial Government to improve the highway corridor from the Alberta border to the Eastgate of Manning Park.
- ◆ BC Mayor's Caucus. Approximately 50 Mayors attended. At this meeting, I was appointed to the Caucus's “Steering Committee” and 10 of us will be meeting in the near future to outline our next steps.

The value of being able to attend the Convention's countless events - designed to enhance learning, networking and the understanding of common challenges and successes - is immeasurable. Thank you to our committed Council for taking the time away from their jobs, family and friends to further our community's endeavours!



Left to right: Councillor Jen Comer, Theresa Elford, Councillor Jim Elford, Lou Varela (Town Manager), Councillor Karen Unruh, and Councillor Joe Snopek



Left to right: Steffan Klassen, Director of Finance & Corporate Services, and Bhar Sihota, former Town of Creston's Research & Legislative Analyst

## "YES"

Two and a half years ago, the Town of Creston embarked on a process to develop a Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) for the Creston Valley. The Town contracted BC Healthy Communities Society to assist in the consultation and creation of this strategy which included: youth and service provider surveys; youth asset mapping sessions; key informant interviews; and, consultations with youth, service providers, and the community.



The YES reports were received by Council in August of this year and Council created a YES Select Committee to continue the momentum of the strategy. The Committee represents a cross section of voices that were involved in the YES process, including youth program providers, teens and Council members.

A launch for the YES Reports was held on November 13, 2015 to showcase the report findings and reunite and engage the community in celebrating YES successes. There was a great turnout for the event with over 70 people in attendance including youth, parents, youth program providers, Regional Area Directors and Town Councillors. Thank you to all who came out to celebrate Creston Valley youth!



To receive copies of the Reports, come to Town Hall for a hardcopy or download the Reports from the Town of Creston's website at

<http://www.creston.ca/2217/Youth-Engagement-Strategy> ■

## Ladder Truck



Picture Credit: Brian Lawrence

An aerial platform truck was added to Creston Fire and Rescue's fleet earlier this year. It saw its first action at a fire at Trinity United Church on September 22, 2015 ■

## Teens Have a Space

*Creston's Teen Action Committee is proud to announce that a new Teen Space has been set up at the Snoring Sasquatch on 11th Avenue North and is open for Creston Valley teen use.*

The Snoring Sasquatch has partnered with the Teen Action Committee to provide a safe, warm and supervised place for teens to hang out and socialize on Wednesdays from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm, and Fridays from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm.



The Teen Action Committee also intends to host lots of fun events like Movie Nights! All youth aged 13 to 19 are welcome to drop in and see what is happening. Parents can rest assured that under strict supervision your children will be able to enjoy wholesome social activities with other youth, in a safe environment.

Parents are welcome to visit and check it out too.

Volunteers are always welcome!



## "SCEEP"



The Town of Creston hosted a Strategic Community Energy & Emissions Planning (SCEEP) Workshop on November 3, 2015. The workshop was facilitated by Community Energy Association and Fortis BC.

Town of Creston Council members, staff, Rural Area Directors, staff from the Recreation Complex, Interior Health Authority and Labatt Brewery gathered to discuss and evaluate the community's existing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

One of the main goals of the workshop was to develop actions and strategies to reduce energy consumption and emissions, improve efficiency, and increase the local renewable energy supply.

Topics covered included composting programs, active transportation options, land use planning and food transportation.

A Strategic Community Energy and Emissions Plan will be compiled and presented to Council as a tool for future energy and emissions planning and long-term decision making ■

## 2015 Water Conservation

The Water Smart Ambassador Program has become a very successful water conservation program offered by the Town and the Regional District of Central Kootenay. The Water Smart Ambassador (WSA) Program was started in 2011 with partial funding from the Columbia Basin Trust. The WSA Program objectives are to conserve the Valley's water supply and protect against the impact of drought during the hot, dry summer months.



2015 was one of the hottest and driest summers in recent memory; this reality, coupled with historical low water discharge in Arrow Creek, resulted in Water Conservation Level 3 being introduced at the end of June. Overwhelming support in the months of July, August and September helped reduce Creston's average summer water usage by 20%. That's 124 million liters!

The Town of Creston thanks all the homeowners and businesses for working together this summer to conserve drinking water and maintain water storage for fire protection ■



## Winter Sidewalk Clearing

As the winter season approaches and snow begins to fall, it is important that we all do our part to ensure ease of pedestrian passage.

Build-up of snow and ice creates a safety hazard for everyone, especially those with mobility difficulties. Because of this safety issue, the Town of Creston Traffic Regulations Bylaw No. 1546 requires that all property owners ensure that snow and ice are cleared from sidewalks adjacent to their property by noon of any day following a snowfall (excluding Sundays and Statutory holidays). This time extension is provided to allow individual owners and tenants a reasonable amount of time to comply with the Bylaw.

As snow removal is a public safety issue, non-compliance may result in fines. The Bylaw also allows the Town to undertake the work at the expense of the property owner if it is not completed within the required time frame. Failure to pay these labour costs by December 31st of the year in which the work was undertaken will result in the charges being added as taxes in arrears for that property ■



*Do your part to keep our sidewalks safe!*

## Building Permit Needed?

Building Permits are required not only for new construction, but for many addition and renovation projects as well.



You may need a Building or Plumbing Permit when you wish to:

- ◆ construct a new building, including temporary buildings;
- ◆ construct a shed over 10 square metres (107 square feet) in area;
- ◆ renovate a building;
- ◆ construct an addition to a building;
- ◆ alter the interior of a building, including finishing a basement;
- ◆ move a building;
- ◆ demolish a building;
- ◆ change the use or occupancy of a building;
- ◆ create a secondary suite;
- ◆ install a mobile home in a Mobile Home Park;
- ◆ install a modular home on a lot;
- ◆ install a new drainage or water piping system in a building;
- ◆ alter or remodel a plumbing system;
- ◆ install a fire sprinkler system;
- ◆ install a fire alarm system; and,
- ◆ install a swimming pool.

*For further information,  
please call the Building Inspector at (250) 428-2214, or  
email to [building.inspector@creston.ca](mailto:building.inspector@creston.ca) ■*

## Town Crews News

The Town of Creston has completed its yearly road restoration program for 2015, which included chip sealing approximately 2.59 kilometers of our local streets.

Look for continuation of this program in the late summer of 2016 ■



Do you need to empty the holding tanks of your RV? For your convenience, the Town of Creston offers a free sani-dump service.

This site is located on the North side of Millennium Park at 401 - 16th Avenue North.

Services at this location include a garbage receptacle, non-potable water for washing your holding tank and a potable water supply to fill your water holding tanks.



*If you require further information,  
please contact Town Hall ■*



## Scooter Rodeo

On September 26, 2015, the Town held its bi-annual Scooter Rodeo at the Creston & District Community Complex. 11 people participated in this Scooter Safety Awareness Day event. The participants found the Rodeo very informative and fun.



The Town partnered with Pharmasave Home Health Care and the Community Complex to host this event and wants to express appreciation for the support of these partners!

*Those interested in attending a future event may contact the Town of Creston at (250) 428-2214, ext. 521 ■*



## Pine Street Intersection

Improvements to the Pine Street - Railway Boulevard intersection with Highway 3 were completed in 2015. Major construction works was undertaken by Maglio Industries Ltd. of Castlegar and had a total project value of approximately \$5.4 million. Funding came from the Province of B.C. and the Town of Creston.

The intersection at Pine Street - Railway Boulevard was realigned to create a cross intersection with traffic signals. These improvements have improved safety for motorists travelling on Highway 3 through Creston, and improved access to and from the highway for Creston residents ■



BEFORE

*Prior to Project Start*



AFTER

*Prior to Landscaping Completion in Summer 2015*

## Electric Vehicle Chargers

The Town of Creston has installed three electric vehicle charging stations downtown.

Two chargers are located at the Creston Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Information Centre and the third charger is located in the Cook Street Parking Lot.

Two of the chargers are exclusively for Tesla vehicles and the other is a universal charger ■



HELP US CONSERVE WATER!  
**LOW FLOW TOILET**  
REBATE PROGRAM



The Town of Creston is pleased to continue the Low Flow Toilet \$50 Rebate Program. This program is open to both residents and commercial businesses of the Town of Creston who install low flow toilets in their homes or businesses.

*This offer is available for multiple toilets per household or business, until funds are exhausted ■*

*For more information or to download a copy of the rebate application, please go to our website [www.creston.ca](http://www.creston.ca) or call us at (250) 428-2214 ■*

## Wood Stove Exchange



For the remainder of 2015, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) continues to coordinate the regional Wood Stove Exchange Program.

The program offers residents of the RDCK, which includes the Town of Creston, a \$350 incentive to replace their old, inefficient wood stove with a new, cleaner-burning heating appliance.

*For more details visit*

*<http://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/sustainability-environmental-initiatives/air.html> ■*

## Hey Creston!

Would you like to be:

- ◆ Informed about what is happening at Town Hall?
- ◆ Notified immediately when something of interest is posted on the Town website?
- ◆ On an email list to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter?

*Sign-up for email or SMS Text notifications about events, newsletters, public notices, bids & tenders, and much more by clicking on the red Notify Me® graphic button on the home page of the Town's website or follow this link*

*<http://www.creston.ca/list.aspx> ■*

 Notify Me®

## The Compost Bin Rebate Program is a

part of the Town of Creston's organic waste reduction program aimed at reducing curb side waste.



The program provides a financial incentive for you to purchase a commercially available compost bin.

This program offers a maximum of 200 \$25 rebates, available on a first come/first serve basis; one rebate per residence.

*NOTE: Submitting an application does not guarantee a rebate. It is your responsibility to fully complete the application and to ensure you meet the program requirements. Remember, only one rebate per property*

Compost bins are available at:  
Home Hardware, 1608 Northwest Blvd.  
Pyramid Building Supplies Ltd., 1220 NW Blvd.  
Morris Flowers Garden Centre, 1403 Erickson Street

*For more information or to download a copy of the rebate application, please go to our website [www.creston.ca](http://www.creston.ca) or call the Town Hall at (250) 428-2214 ■*

## Remember!



Open burning is only allowed during the months of April and October - with a permit.

Stop by Town Hall or the Fire Department to purchase a permit, or call us at (250) 428-2214 for more information ■

## Utilities & Taxes Due

Please be sure to pay your 2015 utility invoice and property taxes on or before December 31, 2015.

- ◆ Outstanding utility balances will roll over into property taxes on January 1, 2016.
- ◆ Unpaid property taxes, as of January 1, 2016, will be subject to daily interest charges ■

## Thank You!

Our thanks to Biffy In A Jiffy for donating 2 port-a-potties for Centennial Park users this past summer.

Your community spirit is greatly appreciated ■

YARD WASTE DROP-OFF AREA HAS BEEN  
**CLOSED INDEFINITELY**

Due to continued disposal of non-compostable material and use by commercial enterprises, the Town has closed the facility.

Yard waste and other material may be taken to the Creston Landfill located at 1501 Malory Road, Lister where there is free drop-off for the month of October.

We are sorry for the loss of this facility and will be seeking further input from the public on a more functional and secure facility moving into the future.



## Town of Creston Council Meetings

are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, starting at 4:00 pm, in Town Hall Council Chambers.

December 15, 2015

Check out [www.creston.ca](http://www.creston.ca) for 2016 meeting dates ■

## Fall, Winter & Spring Closure Dates

The Town Hall will be closed on the following dates:

December 21 - 25, 2015

January 1, 2016

February 8, 2016

March 25 & 28, 2016

May 23, 2016 ■