

## Mayor's Message

On behalf of Council, I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Our sincere appreciation goes out to all Town of Creston residents for their assistance and support over the past year, especially during the devastating windstorm that passed through the area in June. The cooperation and understanding from everyone in the community served to remind us of what we already knew – Creston is a great place to live.

Council's 'wish list' for 2008 includes improvements to Cavell Street, construction of a new indoor swimming pool, and the completion of phases 1 and 2 of the downtown redevelopment. These are all large projects, but with the hard work and cooperation of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, Town crews and staff, Council continues to work towards its Vision:

*"Working together to maintain & enhance the quality of life in the Creston Valley"*

In closing, I personally pray that the message of the angels "Peace on Earth, Goodwill to all Mankind" is someday realized. All the best in 2008.



Best wishes for the Holiday Season from the Mayor and Council.

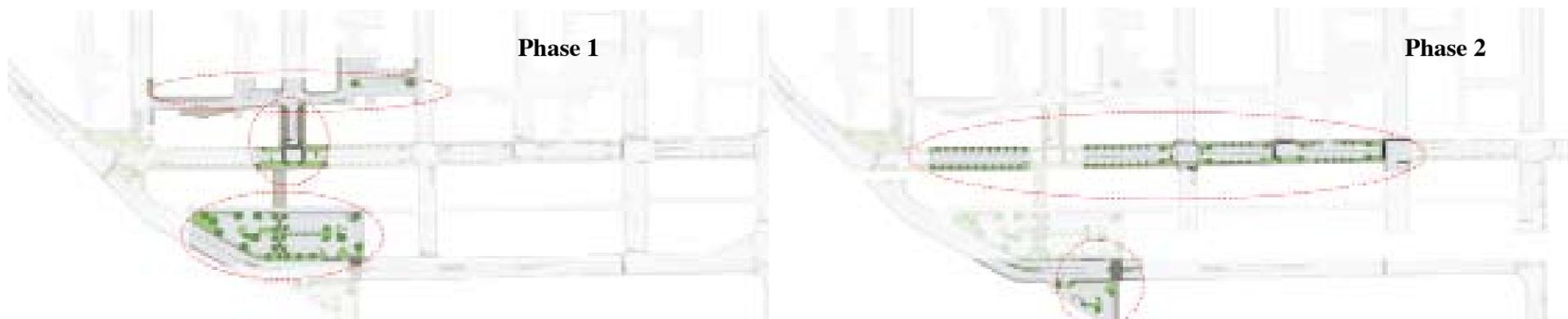
## Top Priorities for 2008

### Redevelopment of Cavell Street

The redevelopment of Cavell Street was identified as a top priority for the Town in 2008. The reconstruction will likely take place in two phases, with more details available as the project undergoes a budget review process. Pennco Engineering is planning the design of the project. A widened, paved road, with a paved sidewalk on the north side of Cavell Street, will increase safety for both drivers and pedestrians.

### Downtown Revitalization Project phases 1 & 2

Construction will soon begin on phases 1 & 2 of the downtown revitalization project. Phase 1 includes creating a celebration space on 11th Avenue at Canyon Street, and upgrades to the Cook Street parking lot. Phase 1 construction will begin in January and is expected to be complete in time for Blossom Festival weekend. Construction on Phase 2 is planned to begin later in 2008 and will include upgrades to Canyon St. from 10th Ave. to 15th Ave., with curb extensions, landscaping, and new street lights.



## New Grant Policy

Town Council adopted a Grant-In-Aid Policy in October of this year. The new policy is in place to continue to ensure a fair and transparent process for the many eligible groups that apply for grants every year. Grants are issued to non-profit organizations, and preference is given to applications from local groups. Council will advertise for submissions in February of each year, beginning in 2008. In the past, the Town has supported a wide variety of community groups through the grant-in-aid funds, including:

- Community of Creston Arts Council;
- Creston Citizens on Patrol;
- Creston Pet Adoption and Welfare Society;
- Creston Ministerial Association;
- Creston Judo Club;
- Creston Valley Thunder Cats;
- Creston Valley Minor Hockey Association.

## Ongoing Grant to Success by Six

Council has committed ongoing grant-in-aid funding to Success by Six, an early childhood development initiative, which is also sponsored by the United Way and the Gleaners. "Ongoing funding means that we can plan in advance for programs and events for children and families that otherwise would just not happen in our community," Success by Six coordinator Andrea Suprowich-Dirk said recently. "Knowing that those funds are there provides a solid foundation for our programming, and allows us to request matching grants from other organizations."

The community is very fortunate to have a strong network of partners and childcare professionals who have come together to provide programs and services to families and young children. Daily preschool activities are held at the Family Place at the Creston Education Centre, and special events such as parenting conferences and early-childhood CPR classes are also offered. Please visit [www.crestonearlychildhood.ca](http://www.crestonearlychildhood.ca) for a schedule of events.



A magician delights his audience (and his helper!) at Kidapolooza in 2007. The popular children's festival, organized by Success by Six and sponsored in part by the Town, is held on Blossom Festival weekend.

## New Covered Reservoir for Town



“This covered water storage facility is another step in providing safe, clean water to the residents of Creston,” Mayor Joe Snopek said after a recent inspection of the new Crawford Hill Reservoir. A total of 800 cubic metres of concrete was used to build the reservoir, which can hold up to 4.5 million litres of water.

## Town Crews Ready for a White Christmas

Being fully prepared for snow and ice conditions is a high priority for the Public Works Department during the winter season. Town crews clear streets along five predetermined snow routes, which evenly distributes the workload among the available snow-clearing equipment. Streets considered a higher priority are main arteries, bus routes, key intersections, and streets with steep grades. All streets within Town boundaries are cleared within one full working day of a snowstorm.

Once all the roads have been cleared and sanded, attention is given to alleys, the airport, municipal parking lots, the cemetery, and the sewage treatment plant. Snowplowing, sanding, and salting of Highway 3 is the responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation and currently performed by Yellowhead Road & Bridge (YRB).

## Top Ten Seasonal Safety Tips from the Fire Chief:

1. Test your smoke alarms regularly and replace the batteries annually.
2. Replace your smoke alarms every 6-8 years.
3. Make sure your Christmas tree always has enough water.
4. Keep Christmas trees away from heat sources to prevent them from drying out and creating a fire hazard.
5. Do not overload electrical outlets.
6. Beware of articles around and near baseboard heaters and other heating appliances – minimum 24” clearance.
7. Have your wood stove or fireplace inspected by a professional and clean the chimney at least once a year.
8. Maintain good housekeeping practices around furnaces and water heaters.
9. Create and practise a home escape plan.
10. Have your fire extinguisher inspected and serviced by a professional.

*Wishing you a fire-safe  
Christmas and New Year from  
Creston Fire and Rescue!*

## Important Phone Numbers:

**911 Emergency – Ambulance, Police, Fire**

**Local:**  
Town Hall 428-2214  
Service BC (Formerly Government Agent) 428-3211  
Creston & District Community Complex (Rec Centre) 428-7127  
Post Office 428-4615  
Public Health 428-3873  
Creston Transit and Handi-Bus 428-5533  
Safe Home Crisis Line (24hr) 428-6856  
Landfill 1 800 667-4321 Tue-Sat 9AM-4PM  
Ray's Garbage 428-9887

**Non-Emergency Numbers:**  
Police 428-9313  
Fire Hall 428-4321  
Ambulance 428-6999  
Creston Valley Hospital 428-2286

**Regional:**  
Regional District 1 800 268-7325  
Call before you dig 1 800 474-6886  
TerraGas 1 888 234-2710  
School District #8 (200) 352-6681

**Provincial:**  
Enquiry BC 1 800 663-7967  
MLA, Conky Evans, call Enquiry BC at 1 800 663-7967 and ask to be connected  
Ministry of Employment Assistance 1 866 277-9914

**Federal:**  
MP Jim Abbott 1 800 668-5522  
Canada Pension Plan / Old Age Security 1 800 277-9914

**Not a Resident of the Town of Creston?**  
Snow removal: Please call Yellowhead Road & Bridge at 428-7806.  
Animals at large: Please call PAWS (Pet Adoption and Welfare Society) at 428-7297.  
Building Inspection: Please call the RDCK Building Inspector at 428-3717.

## Notices and Announcements

### Winter's Here!

Remember that there is a town bylaw that requires residents to clear snow and ice from the sidewalks in front of their houses. Please do your part to keep the sidewalks safe for kids, seniors, and everyone out for a breath of fresh air this winter.

### Enjoy Local Shopping – and Free Parking!

Once again this year, the Town is offering free parking throughout the month of December at all downtown parking meters. Come on downtown and enjoy the excellent service and selection at Creston's local shops – on us!

### Tourists Welcome

Next summer, Creston will offer an added enticement to draw tourists to the downtown core. A sani-dump has been constructed on the north side of Millennium Park and will be in service next year. This free service, for recreational vehicle users, will be maintained by the Town.

### Got Garbage?

You are entitled to place two bags or cans of garbage on the curb, per week, for pick-up. Tags for extra bags can be purchased at Town Hall for \$2.00 each. If your bags were missed, please call Ray's Garbage Pick-up at 428-9887.

### For Dogs Only

Creston dogs are asked to remind their owners to scoop up! Don't let your humans leave home without a bag, a spare, and one to share. Remind

them to keep the streets clean for everyone out walking, and the parks clean for everyone to play in – whether on four legs or two!

### Alternative Funding of Airport in the Works

The RDCK has completed an Alternative Approval Process (AAP) for funding the Creston Airport, which until now has been funded entirely by the Town of Creston. The changes mean that the taxpayers of Creston and Electoral Areas A, B, and C will share the costs of having the airport. The airport has been improved in recent years with the paving of the runway, the installation of elk fencing, and a card lock system for 24-hour fuel sales. These are positive moves to support recreational tourism in the Creston Valley. These important changes also enhance security and safety for provincial government uses such as fighting wildfires and air ambulance. “Everyone benefits from the long-term stability of the airport. It gives us all the security of quick medical attention by the air ambulance,” says Mayor Snopek.

### Lights Out?

We would like to hear from you if there is a problem with a street light in your area. Please call Town Hall at 428-2214, ext. 0, to report the problem. We will ask you for the location of the street light and whether it has a metal or wooden pole. Why? Because the Town is responsible for repairs to lights on metal poles, while FortisBC repairs lights on wooden poles. Report the problem to us, and we will advise FortisBC.

### Recreation Complex Update

The RDCK held an Open House on November 20 to give Creston Valley residents a chance to see the preliminary designs of the planned upgrades to the Creston Community Complex. RDCK directors and members of the Local Design Team were on hand to answer questions. Also in attendance were architect Vic Davies and representatives from the construction management company Septra Projects Ltd. Keep an eye out for regular updates on this project by visiting [www.rdck.bc.ca](http://www.rdck.bc.ca), or call 428-7127 for more information.

### Santa's Helpers

Santa would like to thank all of his elves in Creston who helped make his annual parade such a success! In particular, thanks to Mel Joy and Holly Pender-Love of the Community Pride Committee for all of their help. A big thank you to all the local businesses and community members for their support once again this year! Congratulations to Justice Hansen, Grade 7 student at ARES, for winning a \$2500 trip to Disneyland, courtesy of the Downtown Business Association.



The Creston Community Band keeps warm during the Santa Claus parade.