



## Mayor's Message

Your new Town Council has now completed 4 months of their 3 year term and for me, the largest challenge has been the enormous learning curve. We have a lot to learn, to understand the systems at Town Hall, Council procedures and especially the Regional District methods. It is exciting to learn the processes and protocols but at the same time can be frustrating not understanding the reasons behind them.

Council and Senior Staff recently reviewed the Town's Corporate Strategic Plan. While this might sound like just more bureaucracy, I believe it's a really important process. It means that when it comes to setting priorities and making decisions on behalf of the community, we have a framework to work from. We have a plan and are working together to achieve it. You can review the plan on our website, or pick up a copy at Town Hall. If you have any questions about our Strategic Plan, please feel free to stop by during my office hours. I'm always happy to talk to you.

The snow season is behind us and now we need to contend with the spring dust and grime. Our crews have converted

their winter equipment to spring configuration and as the weather warms up, they will be out in full force to clean up the winter mess.

Stay up to date with what's happening by visiting our web site at [www.creston.ca](http://www.creston.ca), or stop by Town Hall.

Mayor Ron Toyota  
April, 2009

## Waste Water Treatment Upgrades

Creston's outdated waste water treatment plant will soon see major upgrades, thanks to a \$3.14 million grant from the federal-provincial infrastructure fund. The funding is one of 41 "shovel-ready" projects in BC that will benefit from \$110 million dollars flowing to BC communities, targeting infrastructure

construction in 2009 and 2010.

The existing treatment plant, which is over 30 years old, serves almost the entire population of Creston, and the Columbia Brewery. With an out-of-date operating system, however, the plant is unable to keep up with the demands of the community in a sustainable way. The funding will support upgrades to the existing wastewater treatment plant so it meets provincial and federal regulatory standards.

"The Town of Creston acknowledges that this critical project could not proceed without the financial support of our federal and provincial governments. We are most grateful," said Mayor Ron Toyota.

Work is expected to begin in late May or early June. The project will create an estimated 47 direct and indirect jobs.



*From left to right: MP Jim Abbott, Mayor Ron Toyota and Town Manager James Thackray celebrate the recent announcement of a \$3.14 million grant for waste water treatment plant upgrades from the federal-provincial infrastructure program.*

## Emergency Planning and Preparedness

In the event of a local emergency, residents are encouraged to stay informed using local radio stations, if they do not have internet access. “We use every available media to keep people informed, including CIDO and KBS radio, as well as television and internet,” says Emergency Services Coordinator Alanna Garrett. “And we encourage every household to have their own 3-day emergency bag, packed and ready to go.”

Copies of important documents, including house insurance, driver’s licence and out of town contact numbers are important to include in an emergency kit, along with bottled water, food that won’t spoil and a wind-up radio and flashlight.

Visit [www.pep.bc.ca](http://www.pep.bc.ca) for a complete list of recommended emergency kit items, or pick up a copy of the RDCK’s Emergency Services Newsletter, which is available at the Library.

## 110 Years of Creston Fire and Rescue

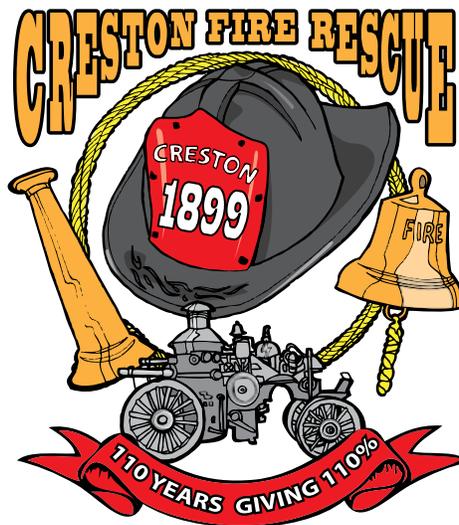
The Creston Fire Department was founded in 1899, when members began meeting on Thursday nights. 110 years later, the fire department still meets on Thursday evenings for weekly training sessions.

Even though the names and faces of the fire fighters have changed, the commitment and pride towards serving the community in which they live remains strong, year after year.

On May 9th in the Creston Valley Mall parking lot, join all the valley fire departments from Creston, Canyon-Lister, Wynndel-Lakeview and Yahk-Kingsgate as we look for new prospective members

to join our local fire services. Our fire trucks will be on hand, and fire fighters will be serving up hot dogs and handing out prizes. Stop by and find out more about becoming a fire fighter in the Creston Valley.

Look for the Antique Fire Truck display at the Blossom Festival parade. Come join us in celebrating 110 years of Creston Fire & Rescue!



## Parking Spot with a View

If you’ve been downtown lately, you’ve probably noticed that the storage sheds at the former Home Building Centre site are being removed, opening up a beautiful vista of the Valley that can be seen from downtown. For this year, interim parking will be available on this site. Council will review and consider a number of options for the longer term. Some possibilities include a more formal parking lot, landscaping, and a link to the walking trail.

The site will be included in a downtown parking study and strategy that is being prepared by staff, at the request of Council. The study will look at parking supply and demand and how to best manage parking, including time limits and fees, for the benefit of the downtown. This is expected to be completed mid-year.



*The storage sheds at the former Home Building Centre are being removed, opening up a vista of the valley that can be seen from downtown.*

# We Appreciate Our Volunteers

- Free Refreshments • Snacks
- Entertainment • Door Prizes  
(Bring a friend)

**When:** April 26, 2009 (Sunday)  
**Time:** 2:00 to 4:00 pm  
**Where:** Creston Room  
 Creston & District  
 Community Complex  
 312 - 19th Avenue North

This is our opportunity to show appreciation to volunteers in the Creston Valley. Enjoy an afternoon of fun and entertainment. You will be served refreshments and snacks while you enjoy a visit with fellow volunteers and friends. The Creston Valley Hospice Society will be hosting a unisex fashion show (guys – see what you would look like in the latest sporting outfit!), you may even see yourself on the ongoing slide show of local volunteer events, or win one of the many **DOOR PRIZES!**

Volunteer organizations are encouraged to display information, photographs, brochures, etc. of their initiatives at the reception.

*Want to display information on your organization? Contact Gerry at (250) 428-5655 or email to: gg@kes.bc.ca.*

If you are a volunteer, or are interested in volunteering in your community, we welcome you to this celebration.

*For more information on this Volunteer Appreciation event, phone (250) 428-2214, Ext. 226, or email bev.caldwell@creston.ca.*



Canada Day activities supported by the Community Pride Committee

## Are you Proud of your Community?

The Community Pride Committee was formed to advise Council on activities and projects that foster a sense of pride in town residents. The Volunteer Recognition Social, being held on April 26th, (see ad at left) is just one of the annual events that Community Pride supports. Other events and projects include the Community Clean Up Day, Canada Day activities and the Santa Claus Parade. New volunteers and fresh ideas are always welcome. Contact Town Hall for more information at (250) 428-2214, ext. 226.

## Many Hands – Light Work!

Community Pride is sponsoring its annual spring clean up day on Saturday, May 9. Make it a family event! Come out and get some exercise, meet your neighbours and help make our community spic and span in time for the Blossom Festival Parade. Gloves, garbage bags and refreshments will be provided. Meet at the Canyon Street walk-through at 9AM. For more information, please call Community Pride volunteer Jerry Cyr at (250) 428-9990.

## Do you need a Permit for that?

Building permits are required, not only for new construction, but for many residential addition and renovation projects as well. You will need a Building or Plumbing Permit when you wish to:

- construct a new building, including temporary buildings;
- 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;
- build a fireplace, install a woodstove or install a chimney;
- install a new drainage or water piping system in a building;
- alter or remodel a plumbing system.

Please see our website at [www.creston.ca](http://www.creston.ca) for more information, or to print a permit form. Or give us a call at (250) 428-2214 ext. 233.



## Notices and Announcements

### Street Sweeper at Work

Street sweeping has begun for the season. The sweeper rotates through a route that covers downtown, school zones, the hospital area, seniors complexes and residential areas. Please be patient as Town crews work as quickly and efficiently as possible to remove the sand and debris that built up over the winter months.



### Earth Hour Results

On the evening of March 28, people in 3,937 cities and towns in 88 countries participated in Earth Hour. Citizens were encouraged to turn off their lights and reduce their energy consumption for one hour. FortisBC reported an 8.9 MW, or 2.2% reduction in consumption throughout their service area, when compared to energy usage during the same hour on the previous Saturday night. This is the equivalent amount of energy needed to light 135,000, 60W bulbs.

### Renewal Reminder

We'd like to remind you that Business Licence and Pet Licence fees are now past due for 2009. If you have not done so already, please stop by Town Hall to have your licences renewed.

### Spring Garbage Clean up

Town Crews will be out collecting compostable yard waste, such as tree prunings, garden rubbish, and other compostable articles from the yard that are not picked up during regular collection. Spring collection will take place on May 5, 6, & 7, 2009, on the same day as your regular garbage pick-up. Tree or bush trimmings should be cut into three (3) foot lengths and wrapped in bundles. Grass clippings, leaves, etc., must be in dumpable containers (garbage cans). Please keep all compostable material separate from household garbage and place at the curb for pick-up. For more information, give us a call at 428-2214 ext. 222.

### Burning Permits

Open burning is allowed during the month of April – with a permit. Permits are issued for one week and burning is limited to two hours at a time. Fires must not be larger than 2 square metres and there must be a minimum of 5 metres from buildings, fences, or any other combustible structure or object. Some other regulations and a fee do apply. Please stop by Town Hall or the Fire Department between April 1 and 30 to purchase a permit, or give us a call at 428-2214 ext. 0 for more information.



### For Dogs Only

All Creston dogs are asked to remind their owners to scoop up! Do your part to keep our sidewalks, streets, lawns and parks clean for everyone to enjoy.



### Capital Works Projects – Coming Soon

The Department of Engineering and Public Works have several capital projects planned for 2009. Phase 2 of the Downtown Project will get underway, including curbs with bump outs at intersections for landscaping, upgrades to crosswalks, new streetlights, street furniture and other improvements on Canyon Street from 10th Avenue to 15th Avenue. The intersection at 10th Avenue will not be included in this phase. The Town will be receiving a \$50,000 tree grant for this phase of the project through the Trees for Tomorrow program.

Phase 1 of the Cavell Street project is scheduled to be completed this year as well, and will include completion of the asphalt, sidewalks and landscaping from Northwest Boulevard to 9th Avenue.

The Town has received a \$117,450 grant from the Ministry of Community Development's Localmotion program for sidewalk construction. Plans are in place to extend the sidewalk on 16th Avenue all the way to Scott Street this year.

If you have any questions about these capital projects, please contact the Capital Works Coordinator at (250) 428-2214, ext. 229.