



Mayor's message

It is exciting to see the Tim Horton's construction get underway, with plans for it to be open by Father's Day.

This spring there will be two green pilot projects, organized by Council's Organic Waste Management Select Committee. You can find full details inside this newsletter, and on our website. Our overall aim is to give Creston residents more options – to make it easier to be green. In the long run we'd like to lower the town's carbon footprint. We hope you will help by taking steps to conserve water, compost, grass-cycle and reduce landfill waste. Every little bit helps!

I will be attending a Highway 3 Mayor's Coalition Meeting in April. The key item on the agenda is Highway 3 realignment through downtown areas. Council and staff have been meeting with the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure and other parties, and some positive responses are being received. It is a slow process that involves much consultation, but we are taking steps in the right direction.

And of course, spring 2010 has been long

anticipated as the opening season for the new and improved Creston and District Community Complex. We hope to hear the official target opening date soon. I have been touring the complex once a week and the progress on this very complicated construction project is impressive. In addition to the construction of the aquatic facility, the roof of the original structure is now being replaced. The aquatic facility has come in under budget, and I know people will be impressed with the final result.

Be sure to stop by and say hello at the Home and Garden show!
Mayor Ron Toyota

Yes, it's true!

Construction crews are at work on a new Tim Horton's franchise, at the intersection of Northwest Blvd. and Helen Street. Once completed, the popular coffee and donut shop will employ around 40 people. You can expect to order your own double double, right here in Creston, by the end of June.

Finance corner

New 5-year Financial Plan

The Town's 5-year Financial Plan was reviewed on March 30, and will soon be available on the Town's website. The 2010 fiscal year budget highlight is the planned \$9,750,000 of capital expenditures for 2010, mostly for infrastructure improvements. The plan includes a 4% increase, or approximately \$31 on a \$200,000 house, for the municipal portion of your property

taxes which are about 35% of your total tax bill. The majority of the tax increase will support the improved public works maintenance program that was started in 2009. There is also the previously communicated increase in utility frontage taxes that will add approximately 1% to the average tax bill, to help fund capital infrastructure improvements for water and sewer.

On-line tax payment

Creston residents can now pay their taxes from the comfort of their own homes. In addition to paying their taxes, homeowners can also access their tax assessment and account information, and complete their homeowner grant application form at www.creston.ca.

Property tax deferment

The provincial government has recently announced that its Property Tax Deferment Program will be available to families with children under the age of 18, for the 2010 tax year. The deferment program for homeowners who are facing financial hardship due to recent global economic events continues in 2010 as well. The deferment program for homeowners 55 years of age or older, and for people with disabilities, continues to be available to residents of British Columbia.

The complete lists of eligibility requirements for all BC Property Tax Deferment Programs is available at www.sbr.gov.bc.ca



In with the newer

The Town's new fire truck (pictured above, right) was purchased in January 2010. The 1997 E-One Heavy Rescue Truck replaces the old 1976 GMC Support Truck. The newer support vehicle can carry more firefighters, and more equipment, including wildfire and rehabilitation equipment.



John William Carman 1950-2010

It is with sadness that Creston Fire and Rescue marks the loss of retired firefighter John William Carman. John retired from the fire department in 2008, after serving in Creston since 1992. We extend our condolences to his wife Sue, son Paul and daughter Laura.



Come see us at the Home and Garden Show! April 16 & 17 at the Creston and District Community Complex.

Green Zone

Organic waste management

The Town has recently set up an Organic Waste Management Select Committee, as part of Council's guiding principle of environmental responsibility. It is part of an overall effort to work together with residents to lower Creston's carbon footprint.

The Committee has two parts to its mandate:

- to support the RDCK's initiative to remove the organic waste component from solid waste going to the local landfill;
- to improve the air quality in the Creston Valley through the reduction of backyard burning.

Organic food waste pilot project

A pilot project is underway to reduce organic waste through the use of Green Cone organic digesters. Green Cones use solar energy and air movement to break down all of the food waste produced by a family of four to five. The waste becomes a nutrient rich water which is absorbed into backyard soil. It is estimated that if every house in BC had a food digester, 750,000 tonnes of waste could be diverted from landfills every year.

The Town has purchased 20 Green Cones, and will be offering them for sale at \$100 each. Visit the Town's booth at the Home and Garden Show, to view the cones and obtain more information. Put your name in the draw to win a free garden cone.

Organic yard waste disposal

In an effort to reduce backyard burning, the Town of Creston is offering residents the opportunity to dispose of their organic yard waste in town. The yard waste disposal site is located at the south end of the Waste Water Treatment Plant and is accessible via Davis Road.

The site will be available each Saturday in April, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Accepted yard waste:

- Tree prunings
- Grass clippings
- Leaves

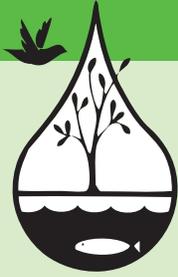
Other plant matter.

Materials must be sorted with plastic bags, twine or other bundling materials removed. The Town coordinated site is open to Town residents only. Please bring your Tax Notice or other current utility bill as proof of residency.

Grasscycling

If you are looking for a simple way to improve the quality of your lawn, consider grasscycling. Once you've finished mowing, just leave the clippings where they fall, and allow them to decay naturally on the lawn. The clippings will leech valuable nutrients into the soil, and act as a mulch, which will cut down the amount of watering that you need to do. You don't need a special mower to grasscycle. For best results, keep your mower blade sharp, and mow only when the grass is dry.

For more information on grasscycling, stop by the Town of Creston booth at the Home and Garden Show.



Green Zone

Why conserve water?

Did you know that high water use results in increased costs of supplying drinking water, treating wastewater and maintaining infrastructure? Conserving water helps to preserve town infrastructure. That's because water that is saved is water that does not have to be treated through the Wastewater Treatment Plant. If we all do our part, and use a little less water each time we turn on the tap, we can work together to get the most out of the infrastructure upgrades that we are all investing in.

Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades

The construction upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant will begin in the fall of 2010. The upgraded plant will use current innovative processes that have been successfully used in other BC communities, with an emphasis on reducing energy consumption, maximizing resource recovery and lowering the Town's carbon footprint.

Where can you cut back?

The average household uses water in the following areas:

- Showers and baths 35%
- Toilet flushing 30%
- Laundry 20%
- Kitchen and drinking 10%
- Cleaning 5%

A few easy ways to save water:

- soak pans before washing;
- install an ultra-low flush toilet;
- take a five minute shower;
- wash only full loads of laundry and dishes;
- insulate your water pipes.

For more water conservation tips and information, check out the Environment Canada website at: www.ec.gc.ca.

Creston water conservation

To help achieve the Town's water conservation goals, residents are asked to cooperate with the following water restrictions:

Lawn watering between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., according to the following schedule:

Odd house number addresses - Sundays, Tuesday and Fridays;

Even house number addresses - Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Residents are asked not to water on Wednesdays, in order to replenish reservoirs. These restrictions apply to lawn watering only. Flower and vegetable gardens may be watered at other times, except on Wednesdays.

Creston is water smart

The Town of Creston and RDCK have been selected by the Columbia Basin Trust as one of ten communities to participate in the Water Smart Initiative. In the fall of 2010, the Town will receive one on one support from water conservation experts, and work toward developing a Water Conservation Action Plan. The initiative includes up to \$5000 in matching funds toward the implementation of Action Plan initiatives.



Please feel free to stop by Town Hall at 238-10th Avenue North. We are open for business Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except for statutory holidays.

Town of Creston
238 - 10th Ave. N.
PO Box 1339
Creston, BC
V0B 1G0

Ph: 250-428-2214
Fax: 250-428-9164

Email:
info@creston.ca

After hours
emergency phone:
250-428-3450

www.creston.ca



Notices and Announcements

Business licences due

Business Licence fees are past due for 2010. If you are starting, expanding or relocating a business within Town limits, you will need a valid business licence. Further details, and a printable application form are available on our website.

For pets only

All Creston dogs and cats are asked to remind their owners to stop by Town Hall to renew your pet licence for 2010. Cats, we are counting on you to remind your owners about the new cat licensing bylaw. Your owners can also renew by mail, if that is easier for them, and they can also find more details on our website.



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.

RV parking

Creston residents are asked to park their RVs on private property, rather than on the street. Street parking will obstruct the Town's ongoing dust control and street cleaning efforts.

Pets at large

A pet running at large can be a danger to itself, other animals, pedestrians, and motorists. Please keep pets under control while on your property and secured on a leash or in a pet carrier when taken from your property. Please contact Town Hall if you would like more specific information about animal control bylaws.

Spring clean up

It is spring clean up time! Town crews will be collecting tree prunings, garden waste, and other compostable articles from yards that are not picked up during regular collection. Spring collection dates are May 4, 5 & 6, 2010. Please keep your compostable materials separate from household garbage, and place them at the curb for pick up on your regular garbage day.

Trees or brush should be cut into three (3) foot lengths and wrapped in bundles. Grass clippings and leaves must be placed in rigid containers, such as garbage cans. Please note that plastic garbage bags and non-compostable items will not be accepted.

Back yard organic waste can also be dropped off by Town residents each Saturday in April. See page 2 of this newsletter for drop off location and details.

Burning permits

Spring clean up and organic waste drop off initiatives are an effort by the Town to reduce backyard burning and improve air quality in the valley. However, open burning is still 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 applies. 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.

2010 sidewalk construction

The Town will be continuing with the installation of the sidewalk on 16th Avenue North this summer, from Hillside Street to Scott Street.

Join Community Pride

The Community Pride Committee is looking for new members and new ideas! Contact Cheryl at (250) 428-2214 ext. 236 for more information on how you can get involved.

WELCOME TO CRESTON ROTARY
SPLASH PARK
THIS PARK IS NOT SUPERVISED
DO NOT LEAVE CHILDREN UNATTENDED
USE CAUTION ON WET SURFACES
NO SKATEBOARDS OR BICYCLES ON SPRAY PAD
OPEN FROM MAY 1 - OCTOBER 1
Hours of operation 10:00 am to 8:00 pm 7 days a week
Splash Park use is prohibited outside operating hours
In case of emergency call 911
Report damage or maintenance concerns
to Town of Creston 250-428-2214

**Splash Park
opens for
the season
May 1!**