

## Grants Received In The Creston Valley

I Love Creston December 2021/ January 2022

As this article goes to print, it has been 13 years since I was first elected as Mayor for the Town of Creston. With certainty, I can say that being Mayor has been an amazing, educational experience. One of the things that I have come to appreciate the most during my “watch” is the ability for local government to receive grant funding from other levels of government (the Regional District, Provincial and Federal) as well as organizations such as Creston Community Forest, Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) – just to name a few! The Town of Creston also benefits from grants that the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) obtains for services that are managed through the RDCK such as Emergency Management.

**During my time as Mayor, the Creston Valley has been the fortunate recipient of over \$24 million dollars in grant funding!** For a community of approximately 5,300 residents, this is quite significant. The grant application process itself is quite complex, and requires many hours of staff time to prepare the application, ensuring that the eligibility criteria is met and budgets are established. One of the largest components are the written sections where we must succinctly define the project and the impact to our community. Almost always, the written sections have character limits which requires intensive proofreading and proofreading again, by multiple individuals. As you can imagine, it is an extremely competitive process as the requests for funding far outweigh the amount of funding available. Our success with grant applications translates into a much improved and vibrant community for us all!

Here is a brief synopsis of some of the grants that Creston has obtained since 2008. This is not a complete list, but has some of our major highlights:

- Our drinking water provided by the Arrow Creek Water system has received over \$7 million in two separate grants to provide a new pressurized pipeline and new reservoir tanks
- Our Wastewater Treatment Plant received \$4.7 million in 2009 and then another \$2.8 million in 2018, which allowed us to upgrade our facility to meet current environmental regulations. It is important to note that the Columbia Brewery is a partner in this community system, and they provide financial contribution to our annual operations.
- The Creston Valley Youth Network (CVYN) has received approximately \$345,000 between 2014 and 2021 for operational costs from CBT. The CVYN also received just under \$57,000 for the renovations of the youth centre from CBT in 2019.

- In 2018, RDCK's Creston Community Park (the skate park, basketball courts, beach volleyball, pickleball courts and playground) was completed with a \$3.1 million grant received through the Federal Gas Tax Fund, which was administered by UBCM in partnership with the federal and provincial governments, with an additional \$150,000 provided by CBT through their Recreation Infrastructure program. The Creston Community Park has really enhanced our first class Community Complex!
- The Schikurski Pump Station was upgraded in 2019, thanks in large part to the 2/3 funding grant funding received for the project (\$750,000). This upgrade prevented our community from running out of drinking water when the Erickson Improvement District had a water mainline break which affected the delivery of drinking water to the Town of Creston's reservoir.

The Town of Creston has also been the recipient of grant funding for our downtown beautification projects (approximately \$44,000 received from the RDCK through their Community Development grant), emergency operations equipment (over \$18,500 received from UBCM), and most recently, the Crawford Hill Reservoir Open Space project (\$75,000 received from CBT and \$75,000 from Creston Community Forest).

No matter where we stand on the various issues that have been particularly divisive in our community, I think that we can all agree that we are grateful for the generous contributions that have attributed to the development and assets of our beautiful Town and Valley. As another unprecedented year draws to a close, I would like to thank everyone who has supported the growth and progress of our community through your words and actions.

Merry Christmas to you and yours! Wishing you all the best for this holiday season and for the upcoming year ahead!

Ron

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