



TOWN VIEWS

A PUBLICATION FOR TOWN OF CRESTON RESIDENTS | MAY 2025

You're Invited: A Fun-Filled Family-friendly Open House!

Mark your calendars for an exciting evening of fun, food, and community connection at our family-friendly Town of Creston Open House on **Wednesday, June 4 from 4-7 PM** at ʔakuᑭni (formerly Market Park).



This isn't your typical open house—we're turning it into a kid-approved adventure! Families are invited to come meet the friendly faces behind the Town of Creston in a relaxed and playful setting.

But it's not just for families—everyone is welcome to join in on the fun!

Here's what you can look forward to:

- Free hot dogs courtesy of the awesome Creston Valley Youth Network
- A visit to the tipi with Robin Louie from Lower Kootenay Band, who will be sharing cultural stories
- A police car, fire truck, and a piece of equipment from Public Works for kids to check out up close
- Our radar speed sign—test how fast you can run!
- A giant Jenga lawn game and other fun games
- A big parachute to play with
- A bubble machine, and more!



This event is all about creating a space where everyone—families, individuals, kids, and adults—can connect with Town staff. Chat with each department of the Town of Creston, enjoy an evening in the park, and learn more about your local government.

We can't wait to see you there—bring the whole family and come say hi!

Bylaw Officer of the Year!



We're thrilled to share some exciting news—Dwayne MacKenzie, Public Safety Compliance Officer, has been named **Bylaw Officer of the Year** by the Local Government Compliance and Enforcement Association of BC at their Annual General Meeting!

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Honouring the Heart of Healthcare: Celebrating Nurses Week in Creston Valley

May 12–18 is Nurses Week in Canada, and there's no better time to shine a spotlight on the remarkable nurses who provide essential care in our community. Whether they're supporting seniors, delivering babies, or handling emergencies, nurses in the Creston Valley are vital to our well-being — and they deserve our heartfelt thanks.



On a 12-hour shift, a nurse can walk 6-8 kilometres!

Crest View Care Village

At Crest View Care Village, a dedicated team of nurses provides around-the-clock care for 32 long-term care residents each shift. The team includes four full-time and one part-time Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs), all working 12-hour shifts from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Among the team is a nurse with 13 years at Crest View, and another who, although newer to the site, brings 24 years of experience in long-term care. Travel nurses have also played a critical role, especially during the pandemic, filling in staffing gaps and ensuring continuity of care.

Creston Valley Hospital (CVH)

Creston Valley Hospital is home to 50 nurses, who also typically work 12-hour shifts. One of these incredible professionals has been serving our community at CVH for over 40 years — an amazing career dedicated entirely to Creston.

Last year, 50 babies were born at CVH, not including home births or those delivered outside the community. Whether it's maternity care, emergency services, or medical-surgical support, the nurses at CVH are always ready.

Swan Valley Lodge & Home Care Nurses

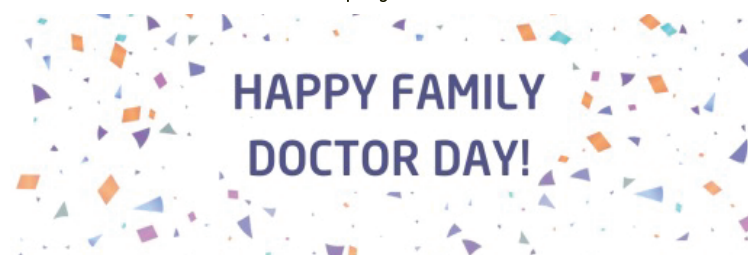
We also want to recognize the skilled nurses at Swan Valley Lodge, one of Creston's largest long-term care facilities, who provide invaluable support to residents every day. While we weren't able to connect with them in time for this article, we know their contributions are deeply felt across the community.

Equally important are the home care nurses who travel throughout the valley, supporting people in their homes with compassion, expertise, and consistency. Their work is often quiet but never goes unnoticed — thank you for the vital role you play in keeping our community healthy and supported.

What's the difference between an RN and an LPN?

Registered Nurses (RNs) complete a Bachelor's degree in nursing and have a broader scope of practice. They assess patients, develop care plans, coordinate treatments, and often supervise LPNs and other healthcare staff.

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) complete a practical nursing diploma and provide essential, hands-on care such as administering medications, monitoring vital signs, and supporting patients' daily needs—all under the direction of an RN or physician.



Celebrating BC Family Doctor Day – May 19

On May 19th, the Town of Creston proudly joins communities across the province in recognizing BC Family Doctor Day. This annual day of appreciation celebrates the vital role that family physicians, residents, and medical students play in keeping our communities healthy.

Family doctors are often the first point of contact in the healthcare system, providing essential primary care, building lasting relationships with patients, and supporting us through every stage of life. From routine checkups to complex care, they are at the heart of a strong healthcare system.

Thank you to the dedicated doctors who serve our community and make a lasting impact on the well-being of Creston residents. Your care makes a difference every day!

Local Doctor Wins Award!



The BC College of Family Physicians received nearly 700 heartfelt nominations for awards this year – an incredible testament to the deep appreciation and respect British Columbians have for their family doctors.

Please join us in celebrating the 2025 BCCFP Award recipient - Dr. Chelsea Hart for winning the **First Five Years in Practice** award!

Dr. Hart completed medical school in Prince George in 2019 and graduated from Nanaimo Family Medicine Residency Program in 2021. She then spent some time doing locums and settled in Creston in September 2022 where she has been practicing full scope family medicine ever since.

Her nominators say that she has “not only come back and work rurally in the first years of her independent practice, but to set up roots in the community and invest for the long term”.

Currently, Dr. Hart’s work includes family practice, working in the Emergency Room at Creston Hospital, rounding on admitted patients, spending time at the addictions clinic in Cranbrook, and providing care at Ktunaxa Nation Medical Clinic. She also “has a passion for teaching and supporting the next generation of rural physicians” and has the opportunity to teach medical students and residents on a frequent basis.

She loves the variety of medicine that she gets to practice and that she is continuously challenged to learn more. More than anything she appreciates the opportunity family medicine provides to build meaningful longitudinal relationships with patients,

FUNFACT



In Canada, generally the fastest time to become licensed is 9 years from high school but depending on

specialty and challenges to be accepted can be 10 to 14 yrs. Or even 15+ years for some specialties (neurosurgeon)

Applying to UBC Medicine, the average is 2.8 times (years) before being accepted into school.

and the ability to walk with them and their families through both life’s joys and trials – a true privilege.

Dr. Hart is known as a “culture setter.” Outside of work, she loves spending time with family and friends, and enjoys doing anything in the beautiful outdoors.

Locums and Residents: Understanding Temporary and Training Roles

A locum (short for locum tenens, Latin for “to hold the place of”) is a temporary physician who steps in when a regular doctor is away—whether on vacation, leave, or otherwise unavailable. These doctors play a crucial role in maintaining consistent care, especially in rural or underserved areas.

A resident, on the other hand, is a medical school graduate undergoing post-graduate training in a specific specialty. Residents work in hospitals or clinics under the supervision of fully licensed physicians, gaining hands-on experience while contributing meaningfully to patient care.

Thanks in part to the support of locum doctors and medical residents, the Creston Valley Emergency Room has remained consistently open—even as other ERs in the region have faced temporary closures. It’s a quiet success story that deserves recognition.

Creston Valley Health Working Group

The Creston Valley Health Working Group has been actively recruiting since 2006. Over the past 18 years, we have successfully recruited more than 17 physicians and provided relocation assistance to numerous other health care providers and medical professionals. Our most recent recruit arrived in March 2025.

While an average of one arrival per year might not sound like a lot, the success of our program has become a model for many community recruitment efforts—including those in Castlegar, Nelson, Invermere, Clearwater, Surrey, Vernon, Kitimat, and others. More and more communities are recognizing the need to supplement Interior Health’s efforts and ‘fly their own flag.’

As part of our recruitment efforts, Creston participates in 4 to 5 conferences each year, collaborates with Interior Health and the East Kootenay Division of Family Practice, posts on employment websites, and works closely with local clinics to welcome students, residents, and locums.

2025 Property Tax Notices & Potential Canada Post Service Disruption

Please note that the due date for property taxes remains July 2, regardless of possible mail service interruptions. It is the property owner's responsibility to ensure payment is submitted on time. Late payments are subject to **provincially legislated** penalties, even in the event of a postal disruption. The local government is unable to waive late penalties, no matter the circumstance. For payment options, please refer to your tax notice.

Parks Master Plan



The Town of Creston Parks Master Plan was adopted by Council on April 22nd, 2025. This exciting plan features a needs analysis, recommendations for future amenities and land acquisition, maintenance

and asset management recommendations, accessibility recommendations, reconciliation opportunities, consideration of climate change, and conceptual designs for three municipal parks.

The objective of the plan is to guide management and maintenance of our current parks, while planning for the future and meeting community needs. To see the plan visit creston.ca/parks-master-plan.

Congratulations to Ferd Schmidt on his Retirement after nearly 25 years of dedicated service

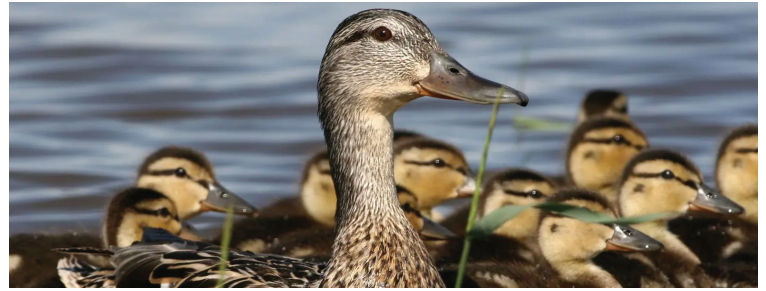
Ferd Schmidt, Director of Infrastructure Services, retired on April 30th. Ferd has been an invaluable part of the Town of Creston team, and his deep knowledge and steady leadership have left a lasting mark on our community. We thank him for his years of commitment and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement!

Attention Dog Walkers!

We love that you and your furry sidekicks are enjoying Moore Community Wetlands up on Crawford Hill, but let's keep it fun and friendly for everyone—including the ducks, bats, and snakes!

Leashes ON, please! This isn't an off-leash zone, and our feathered and slithery residents would rather not have an unexpected game of tag with your dog.

No swimming! Wetlands are for wildlife, not for impromptu doggy swim sessions. The ducks have made it clear—they're not into sharing their pond.



Watch your step! Some plants are attractants for birds and other creatures, and we'd hate to see them trampled by a serious case of the zoomies.

Scoop the poop! We've recently had some complaints about some messes left behind. Conveniently, there are dog bags and a garbage can at park—so no excuses!

Let's keep Moore Community Wetlands a paradise for all creatures. Thanks for being a responsible human!

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This prestigious award recognizes Dwayne's exceptional contributions to our community through his work with Bylaw Services. The selection committee praised his dedication, integrity, and impactful approach to bylaw enforcement, highlighting several standout achievements that earned him the province- wide honour:

- Strengthened partnership with the RCMP, leading to a significant reduction in local crime and infractions.
- Commitment to community beautification, particularly through the consistent and fair enforcement of our Property Maintenance Bylaw.
- Process improvements that streamlined operations and reduced both investigation and processing times.
- Meaningful engagement with vulnerable populations, including coordinated efforts with the RCMP to support unhoused residents and address repeat offenders.

Dwayne's professionalism, and community-minded approach have made a lasting impact across the Creston community.