

## 2026 FireSmart™ Program Launch

The Town of Creston is excited to announce the launch of the 2026 FireSmart BC program!

Delivered by the Town of Creston FireSmart Coordinator and aimed at reducing the risk of wildfire damage to homes, FireSmart is based on scientific evidence that suggests changes to the built environment are the best and most cost-effective way to increase homes survivability from wildfire.

### Here is what you can look forward to in 2026:

- Biweekly social media posts on the Town's Facebook and Instagram pages, providing FireSmart guides, tips, and program announcements.
- Register for a FREE Wildfire Mitigation Assessment, delivered by experienced fire professionals. These in-depth, on-site assessments provide a detailed follow-up report with customized mitigation actions designed to measurably reduce the risk of wildfire to your property.
- Residents can receive up to 50% of \$10,000 (\$5,000) in rebates after completing eligible mitigation works as identified in an assessment.
- Connect with your FireSmart Coordinator and members of the Creston Valley FireSmart Resiliency Committee during Wildfire Preparedness Day, on May 2nd at the Creston Valley Farmers Market.
- Additional opportunities to connect with your FireSmart Coordinator at FireSmart pop-up events and various community events.

To learn more visit [em.creston.ca](https://em.creston.ca) or [firesmartbc.ca](https://firesmartbc.ca), or contact your local FireSmart Coordinator at [crestonfiresmart@creston.ca](mailto:crestonfiresmart@creston.ca).

## Dogs in our Parks: What you Need to Know



- Spending time outside with your dog is one of the best parts of living in our community. Whether you're heading to a park, trail, or green space, it's important to know the rules so everyone can enjoy these shared spaces safely and comfortably.
- Here's a simple breakdown of the dog rules under Bylaw 2030 – Parks, Trails and Public Spaces:
- **Where Can Dogs Go?**
- Dogs are welcome in many public spaces, but there are different rules depending on the location.
- **On-Leash Parks:**
- In the following parks, dogs must always be on a leash:
- Kinsmen Park
- Dwight & Rosamond Moore Community Wetlands
- Dodd's Creek Park
- ?aku#ni

- Schikurski Park
- Downtown Green Space
- Ken Huscroft Park

**Off-Leash Area:**

Creston Dog Park is the only designated off-leash park where your dog can run free.

**Leash Rules**

In most public spaces, your dog must be on a leash that is no longer than 2 metres (about 6.5 feet).

**Clean Up After Your Dog**

Keeping our parks clean helps make them enjoyable for everyone:

- Always pick up after your dog
- Put waste in a sealed bag
- Either take it with you or place it in a public garbage bin

**Enforcement - Patrols will be increasing**

Due to the increasing amount of complaints, patrols will be increasing:

- First-time issues will receive a warning
- Repeat offences may result in a \$50 fine

By keeping your dog under control, using a leash where required, and cleaning up after them, you're helping make our community a better place for all.

As this bylaw was recently adopted, we recognize that some of the signage in our parks is outdated. We are currently working to update it. In the meantime, please refer to the bylaw for the most up-to-date rules and regulations.

Thanks for doing your part!

**Firefighter Work Experience Program (WEP) Now Recruiting**

If you've ever thought about becoming a firefighter, or you're ready to take the next step toward that goal, this is your chance to get started.

The Work Experience Program (WEP) offers a unique opportunity to gain real-world firefighting experience, build valuable skills, and work alongside a dedicated team responding to real emergencies. It's a challenging and rewarding experience—and exactly the kind of hands-on training fire departments look for in new recruits.



WEP firefighters are remunerated for responding to emergencies (payment is issued only for calls they sign up for and physically attend), as well as for attending regularly scheduled training and completing standby duties.

Participants live at the Creston Emergency Services Building in single-room dorms equipped with a bed. Common areas include full laundry facilities, a kitchen, washrooms, showers, and a lounge space. Additional amenities include internet and television.

In addition, WEP firefighters receive a \$300 monthly stipend to assist with living expenses. A membership to Iron Soul Fitness—a state-of-the-art facility located in the former Creston Fire Hall—is also provided to support physical fitness.

The application deadline has been extended to the end of April.

Learn more and apply here:

[creston.ca/firefighter-work-experience-program](http://creston.ca/firefighter-work-experience-program)

**Got Something to Sell? We've Made It Easier!**

Think about a kid selling lemonade on a hot summer day. Or someone wanting to sell their handmade jewellery.

Now imagine taking those ideas a step further. Maybe you want to run a food truck, sell flowers from a stand, or serve ice cream in the park all summer long. Sounds pretty great, right?

If you want to do that in the Town of Creston, all you need is a business licence. The reason a business licence is needed is because the Town checks that

vendors are selling safe products and not putting people at risk (like unsafe food or unsafe setups).

### The Good News!

The rules were updated recently, and things are now much easier:

- You no longer need a special vending permit
- You only need a business licence, and it lasts for one year
- You don't have to list every place and time you plan to sell
- There are now more places where you can set up, although some rules still apply



If you've got something like a food truck, ice cream cart, art, or mobile flower stand, you may be able to set up in different approved spots around town where vendors are allowed. Pictured to the right and below are a few examples of areas allowing commercial vending, but there are many more locations listed in the business bylaw.

You can also sell on private property (like a parking lot or someone's land), but you need permission from the property owner. The Town can give you a simple form

to fill out for that.

There are still a few important details to understand to make sure everything is done correctly. We recommend reviewing the Town of Creston Business Licence Bylaw, which includes helpful diagrams showing where commercial vending is permitted in town—including both vehicle-based and stall-based setups, which are regulated differently.

And if you're ever unsure, Town staff are always happy to help you sort it out!



Some locations allows both vehicle and stall vendors



Some of the downtown locations that allow stall commercial vending



Last year's event was such a hit, we could barely keep up—hot dogs were flying off the grill so fast we cleared out local grocery store shelves trying to restock! It was an incredible turnout, and we're bringing that same energy back this year—with even more fun planned.

Mark your calendars for an exciting evening of fun, food, and community connection at the Town of Creston Community Connect on Wednesday, June 24 from 4–7 PM at ʔakuᑦni (formerly Market Park).

This isn't your average open house—we're turning it into a fun-filled, kid-friendly experience! Families can meet the friendly faces behind the Town of Creston in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere.

That said, it's not just for families—everyone is invited to come out and enjoy the evening!

Watch our social media and website for more details closer to the event.

## Canada Day Fireworks Cancelled

Following Council's direction on February 10, 2026, the Creston Valley Fire Service will no longer plan or run the annual Canada Day fireworks show. This decision comes after a careful review of the significant challenges involved in organizing a safe and reliable display.

In recent years, the fireworks show has become increasingly difficult to deliver. Provincial fire bans are now frequently in place during the summer months, limiting the ability to move forward with a display. At the same time, stricter safety and storage regulations require fireworks to be kept in approved, secure, and ventilated facilities located at safe distances from buildings and property lines. The Town does not have an approved storage magazine, and temporary storage at the fire hall no longer meets current legal and safety standards. In addition, the requirement for firefighters to be licensed to handle fireworks has reduced the pool of qualified personnel available to organize the display. Licensing ensures expertise and safety but adds another layer of logistical complexity.

Fireworks also come with a substantial cost — approximately \$10,000 per year. Historically, a federal grant has covered this expense; however, the funding is restricted to Canada Day celebrations and cannot be applied to fireworks at any other time of year. Without grant funding, the full cost of the display would need to be covered by local taxpayers, representing a significant additional financial burden on the community.



Mayor DeBoon commented, "Canada Day is about bringing our community together. While fireworks have been part of that celebration, evolving safety regulations and fire risk mean it's time to rethink how we celebrate. We're excited to explore new ways to create a fun, safe, and memorable Canada Day for everyone."

While the Town will no longer organize a public fireworks show, residents or organizations may still apply for permits to set off fireworks within Town limits. Anyone handling fireworks must be properly trained and licensed, and follow all requirements outlined in the Town of Creston Fireworks Bylaw.