

Bringing the
Creston Valley together.

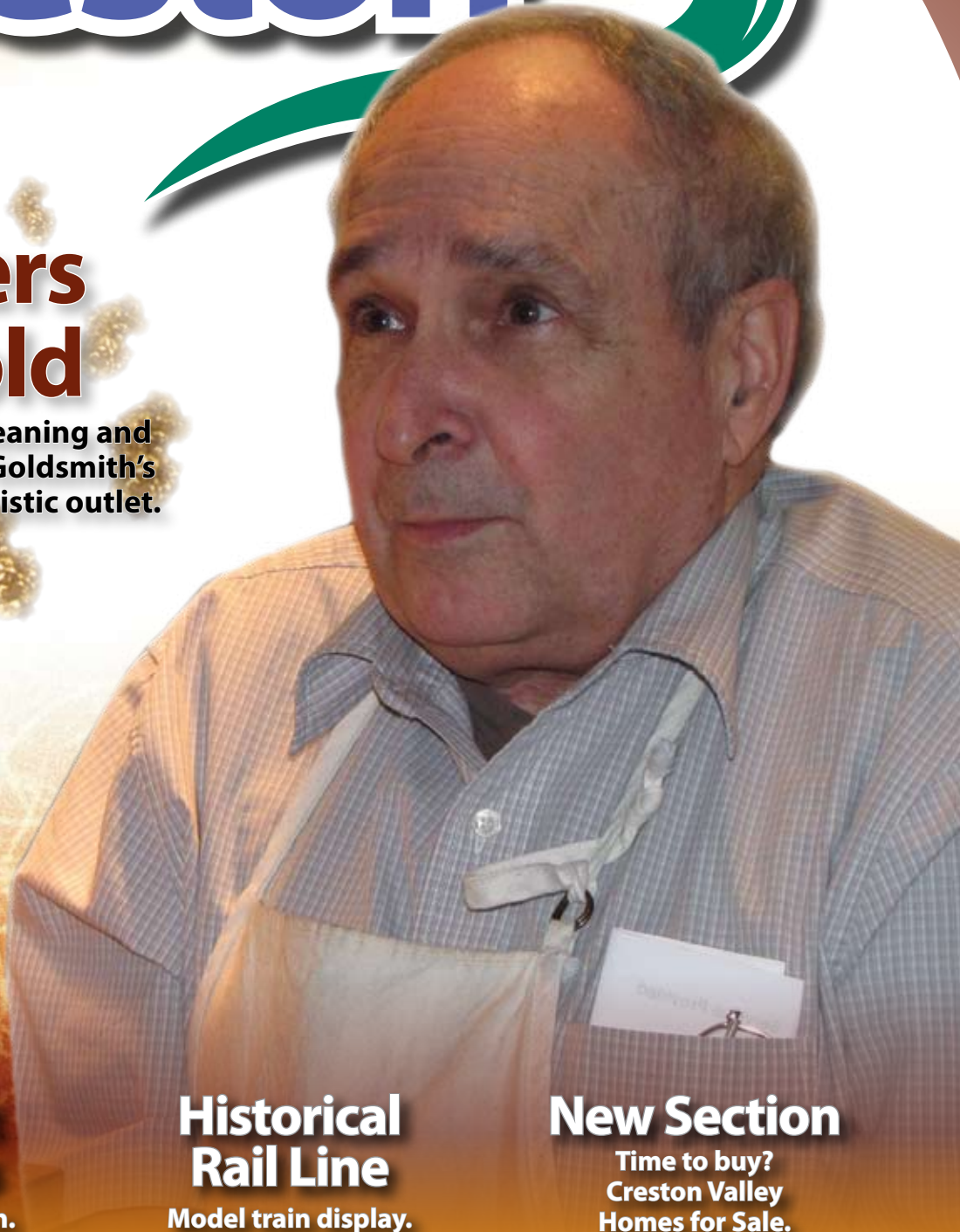
FREE

March
2010

i love
creston

Fingers of Gold

Melting, shaping, cleaning and
restoring. A Master Goldsmith's
bread, butter and artistic outlet.



**The Great
Outdoors**

It's quadding season.

**Historical
Rail Line**

Model train display.

New Section

Time to buy?
Creston Valley
Homes for Sale.



College of the Rockies

Creston Campus 2010 Line-up

MS Office in a Month Advanced

Learn how to get around the Office 2007 programs faster and how to use more of their features. You'll get comfortable working with more advanced features of Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Publisher.

\$70 per week, or the full four weeks at \$229

Pre-requisite: MS Office in a Month Intro or equivalent experience.

March 9 – April 1 / Tue & Thur / 1 – 4 pm

CPR A

March 2 / Tue / 6 – 10 pm / \$60

CPR C

March 2, 4 / Tue & Thur / 6 – 10 pm \$125

CPR C Re-certification

March 9 / Tue / 6 – 10 pm / \$60

Spring Forestry Training

Coming Soon – Check the College for dates and times!

Occupational First Aid

Transportation Endorsement

\$100 – Fire Suppression Training

\$100A – Recertification

St John Emergency

March 6 or April 24 / Sat / 8:30 am – 4:30 pm / \$125

St John Standard

May 11, 13, 15 / Tue & Thur 6 – 10 / Sat 8:30 – 5 pm / \$249

Forklift Certification

March 6 / Sat / 8 am – 5 pm / \$249 / April 24 / Sat / 8 am – 5 pm / \$249

Forklift Re-certification

March 20 / Sat / 9 am – noon / \$129

Intro to Trades

This workshop will provide information on the provincial Industrial Training Authority as well as which trade courses are available at COTR. This free workshop will present over 140 skilled trades as well as 40 Red Seal trades available in BC.

March 23 / Tue / 6:30 – 8:30 pm / Free

Composting

Not only does composting reduce the amount of waste going to the landfills, it allows you to garden in an environmentally friendly manner.

March 11 / Thu / 6:30 – 8:30 pm / \$20 / LIR \$15

Lasagna Gardening

Otherwise known as "sheet mulching", this labor saving method will allow you to create new growing beds and renovate existing beds without digging.

March 18 / Thur / 6:30 – 8:30 pm / \$20 / LIR \$15

Landscape Design

This course includes mini-sessions on the different parts of landscaping and how it will all come together to work for you and your site.

March 6 / Sat / 9 am – 4 pm / Tue & Thu / March 9, 11 / 6:30 – 9:30 pm \$120 (spouse \$60)

Beekeeping

Here is a great opportunity to become a certified beekeeper in the Creston Valley. Two full-day classroom sessions are followed with a Beekeeping Field Day. The instructor, Lance Cuthill works as a Bee Inspector for the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. Students will receive a certificate from BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands – Apriary Branch.

April 17, 18 / Sat & Sun / 9 am – 4 pm Field trip: Sat / May 15 \$269 (includes lunch both days)

Ask about Funding Opportunities – both Columbia Basin Trust and the Innovation Fund may be able to help you!

Go to: www.aved.gov.bc.ca/workplace_training_program for information on the Workplace Training for Innovation.

Contact the College for full details on each of our New Programs.

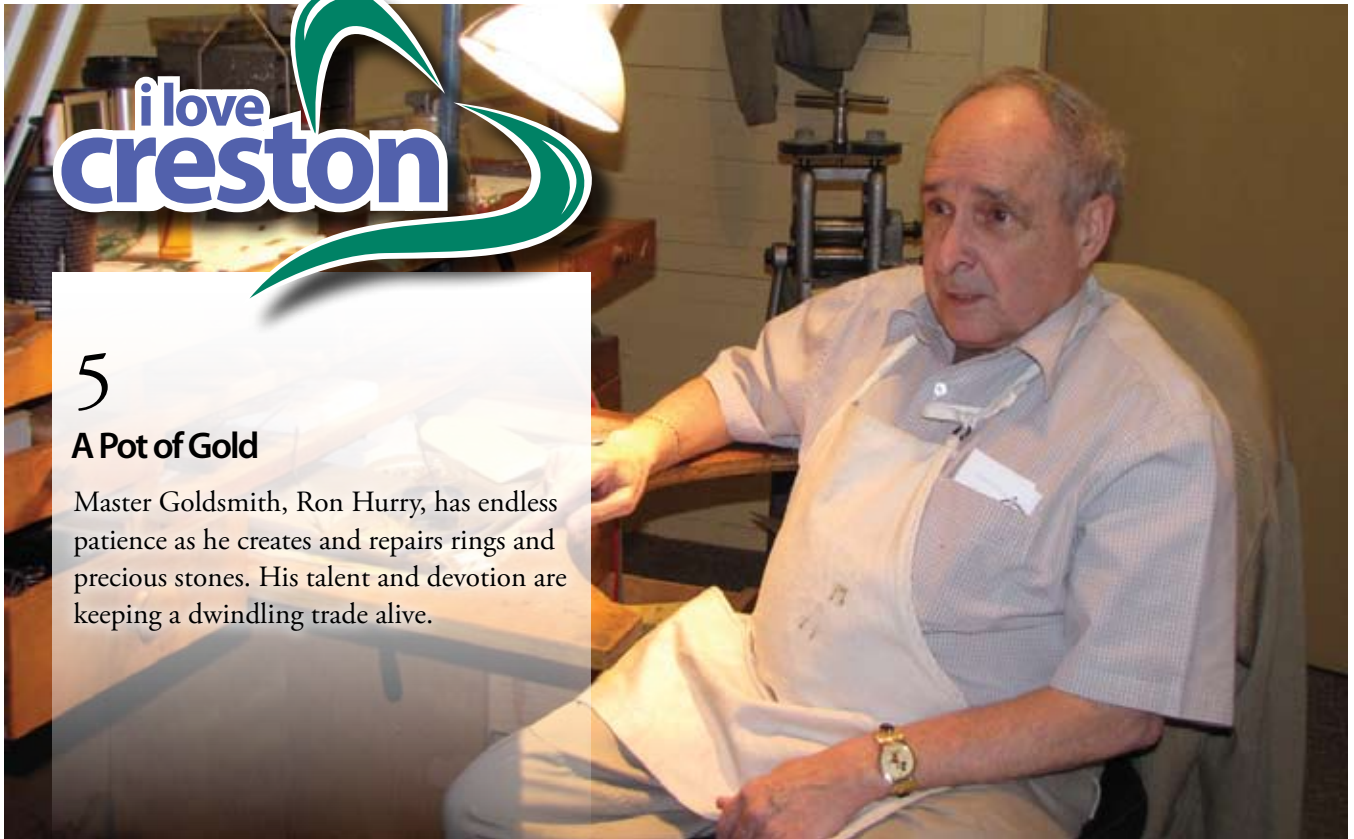
You can register by contacting the Creston Campus at 250-428-5332 Toll Free 1-866-740-2687 or email creston@cotr.bc.ca

Phone: 250-428-5332

Visit us on the web at: WWW.cotr.bc.ca/creston



COLLEGE OF THE
ROCKIES



5

A Pot of Gold

Master Goldsmith, Ron Hurry, has endless patience as he creates and repairs rings and precious stones. His talent and devotion are keeping a dwindling trade alive.

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The Magazine

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Letters to the Editor

Letters to I Love Creston Magazine may be emailed to kris@ilovecreston.com or mailed to Box 143, Creston, BC, V0B 1G0. Letters may be edited for clarity and space.

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From the editor

Purple horseshoes; red balloons; blue half-moons; orange and white shooting stars; yellow and orange pots of gold; pink, yellow, and blue rainbows; two-tone green leprechaun hats; pink hearts and green clovers (copyright General Mills) ... does this ring a bell? Think leprechaun... how about green? Yes people, St. Patrick's Day is on its way. Although we don't get a day off work, we can all pretend we are Irish on March 17. So, dress yourself up in green, grab a green beer (or tea) and may the luck of the Irish enfold you.

Did you watch any of the Olympics last month? What an incredible couple of weeks. I think it's great that our athletes did so well. We showed the world our beautiful country and friendly people. As well, this event brought Canadians together.

From Olympic gold to golden rings. Local Master Goldsmith, Ron Murray, is the focus of our feature story this month. This unique man has many tales of his life, career and experiences. His trade took him to numerous places and a change of career led him to love.

Creston & District Museum & Archives sent us a hilarious story about a couple of pilots who were forced to land their plane in Creston while en route to Victoria.

Did you know that a Canadian Youth Hostel in the Creston area was the only one in the BC interior? This is true and we'll give you the goods.

Another look at history in this issue. The Seventh Siding Trackers give us a peek at Creston Valley By Rail, a model railway project that replicates how this area looked in 1945-55.

As the snow continues to melt, the Creston Valley Quad Squad is revving up and ready to ride. They have visited some beautiful places.

Spring also brings more houses for sale. Century 21 Veitch Realty has some tips if you are looking to buy.

The Creston Valley Facility Enhancement Project is plugging along. We have an update and pictures for you.

The politicians are in the building. RDCK Director, Larry Binks and Town of Creston Mayor, Ron Toyota both check in this month.

NDP MLA, Michelle Mungall touches on an important topic as she shares her thoughts on International Women's Day.

Although Old Man Winter seems to have packed up and left for the year, colds and flu's are still hanging around. Put on the kettle, fluff up your pillow and read up on alternative ways to put you on the mend.

Is your March calendar full? Have a peek at our Out & About listings and fill up your month. Oh, and make sure you keep March 30th free. You did agree to help plan my 40th Birthday surprise bash. I'll see you there and in the meantime, enjoy...

Mailbag

(Letters and emails to the editor are printed as written with the exception of profanity, slander or defamation)

Dear Editor,

A long time Creston friend is very thoughtful in mailing me issues of your magazine. As a former resident of Creston I am always interested in the "happenings" of my former "home town".

I wish to make a small observation about Page 9..... From the Mayor's Desk. [January 2010 Issue] Photo caption. (below photo).....Town of Creston council members and the Mayor Toyota.

Why were the names of the Council Members not recognized in print also [?] Perhaps it was an unintended oversight by someone on staff?

Front row....left to right.

Back row....left to right.....

Wishing you continued success.....and more stories ..news about why residents "love Creston"

*Mary A. Buckna
Cranbrook, BC*

Dear Mary,

First of all it is such a pleasure to hear from someone a former Creston Valley resident who has moved away but stays connected through our magazine.

I appreciate you taking the time to email me regarding the omission of the names of Creston Town Council. In all honesty, I have been assuming that all residents of Creston know who is on Town Council. Thank you for correcting me on this.

*Sincerely, Kris Dickeson
Editor*

Preserving A Rare Trade

Story by: Kris Dickeson



*“Golden ring (golden ring) with one tiny little stone
Shining ring (shining ring) now at last it’s found a home.”
- George Jones & Tammy Wynette*



I'm not sure what is more interesting, Ron Hurry or the path of his career. A Master Goldsmith, Hurry refers to his work as fun and the job part is for the pay only. Goldsmiths are hard to come by these days, as it is a dying trade, so I lucked out and had the pleasure of meeting one.

Perched on a chair behind a wooden workbench, with numerous open drawers full of small tools, Hurry welcomed me into his small and cluttered workshop. It was full of



equipment and trinkets and he fit into this space like a jigsaw piece into a puzzle.

Hurry has deep family roots in Creston, in fact "Hurry Road" is named after his uncle. His grandparents were born here and another of Hurry's uncles, Richard Penson, was one of the first members of the Creston Valley Hospital Board of Directors. Hurry's

parents are Creston natives but there is little known history of them because they moved away.

Hurry was born in Summerland and at a young age was stricken by illness. "I was hospitalized for three years or so because I drank unpasteurized milk," he said. "Despite surgeries, this left me partially crippled because my spine was damaged."

"Open drawers full of small tools."

“I choose what I want to do.”



New Westminster was Hurry's first stop after leaving home. It was there he became a Goldsmith through an apprenticeship program and in his late 20's he moved up north. "I was in Cassiar and Whitehorse working for a gold nugget jewellery company," he said with

reminiscent eyes. "Later on I had a flower shop mixed with a jewellery store. I had 25 employees and we made everything in the showcase. One day I met a young man who wanted to be a watchmaker but he needed a sponsor to do the training. I agreed

to sponsor him and when he had finished training he brought me back blueprints of a workbench. I built one and then we started to sell those in the store."

The next stage in Hurry's life began when a college in the Yukon asked him to teach miners how to make gold nuggets into jewellery. "Not long after I started teaching, the college bought me a used van," he said with a chuckle. "I built several portable work benches in the van and travelled to Dawson city and other

outlying communities and taught people there. Eventually, the students wanted an advanced course. I was teaching

and at the same time learning the things I didn't know." Hurry spent 20 years up north sharing and building his knowledge but was hit hard by the slump in the economy, which left him with nothing.

“Learning the things I didn't know.”





Next stop, Kelowna and a change in... well, we'll call it a job. Hurry partnered up with an insurance company where he went to clients' homes and appraised their jewellery, some of it broken. A light bulb flashed in his head, Hurry's entrepreneurial wheels started rolling and he spent a few years in the jewellery repair industry.

You will never guess the path Master Goldsmith Ron Hurry went down next. Still in Kelowna, he went back to college and took nursing. "The first half of my life I was in and out of hospital," he explained. "It's common for people who spend time in the hospital to work in the medical field because it is something they are familiar with. I went on to become a care aid and then special needs worker for people who are

"Entrepreneurial wheels started rolling."



mentally challenged. Because of my age and height, I was warned that it would be hard for me to find work. So, I lined up a couple of clients before I graduated."

Two years later he opened his own doors and started up a care home for several paraplegics and people with MS. Hurry took his clients to MS functions that offered peer support. In walks Hurry's wife of 15 years. "Wendy was a peer support worker and I was doing caregivers support," he said with a smile and sparkle in his eye. "She has had MS for 38 years and still walks and drives. It started with going for coffee then out for dinner and so on. I also worked at Swan Valley Lodge and in actuality have spent as much time in the nursing field as I have in jewellery."

Four years ago, Hurry and his wife moved to Creston. At 65, he retired but went back to his roots, a Master Goldsmith (by the way, a Goldsmith becomes a Master Goldsmith after 20 years in the industry and has covered all the main trades). Last March, Hurry opened his own shop. "Jewellery is a dying trade," he said. "Most of it is made in factories for department stores. I do modern restoration, precious stones and stamp appraisals but no watches. I choose what I want to do."



"Like a jigsaw piece into a puzzle."

Recently, Hurry moved to Cresteramics where his workshop is tucked away in the back and welcomes a constant stream of people. "I'm 67 but have no plans to stop," Hurry said matter of factly. "I'm looking for customers throughout East Kootenays. Fortunately, this is an unknown trade so there is nothing for people to compare it to."

"Retired but went back to his roots."

Throughout his... we'll call it career this time, Hurry's skills have been put to the test. He was asked to make jade earrings for the Queen Mother and jade cufflinks for Pierre Trudeau. As I put my notes away and gathered my things, Hurry turned to me with a small grin and said, "For one of our wedding anniversaries, I made reservations at a restaurant and had a bouquet of flowers waiting on the table. I tucked a jewellery box with a pair of earrings I had made in the flowers. She was so surprised and pleased." Hurry is also a romantic.



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From the Mayor's Desk

Story Submitted by: Ron Toyota
Mayor of the Town of Creston

Crunching Numbers

In January, our utility invoices for water and sewer were increased by 15%. This increase is the equivalent of \$75.00 per year or \$6.00 per month for a single-family household. At the same time, the early payment discount rate was decreased to 3% from 10% (the early discount was reduced due to lower interest rates set by the Bank of Canada). In addition, the town provided information that similar increases would occur for the next two years for sewer rates and the next four years for water rates.

For some, this is a hard pill to swallow. Unfortunately, tax increases are needed to ensure that our community continues to have clean water, as well as safe wastewater disposal. The current Town Council is looking to the future with its decision-making, ensuring that the town's infrastructure will be property maintained.

Your Town Council is committed to achieving a balance between building and maintaining an efficient infrastructure, (roads, sewer and water), for now and in the future with enhancing our community for positive future economic development and growth.

Columbia Basin Water Smart Initiative is working with 19 communities throughout the Columbia Kootenay region, with Creston being one of these, to address water conservation at a local level. A group workshop will be held this month to determine how a community specific Water Smart Action Plan can be developed and implemented.

Did you know that in BC we use an average of 490 litres of water per person, per day? However, the Canadian average is 330 litres per day; this means a 35% reduction would only get our province down to the national average. Perhaps our local goal should be a 50% reduction from our current average daily usage of 490 litres, over the next five years?

In a related area, last month a special committee was struck to examine and explore options for bringing a composting and yard waste program to fruition. The hope is that the town can work with the local Regional Landfill Facility and create a functional program that will implement new ideas and technologies to reduce our waste and yard burning needs. Stay tuned and hopefully later this year, we will bring forward a plan to implement a program.

Ron Toyota is the Mayor of Creston
Phone: 250-428-2214
Email: Ron.Toyota@creston.ca
Website: www.creston.ca



Back Row - Left to Right:
Councillor Len Folkman, Councillor Tanya Ducharme, Councillor Judy Gadickie,
Councillor Jerry Schmalz
Front Row - Left to Right:
Councillor Joanna Wilson, Mayor Ron Toyota,
Councillor Wes Graham



Area C News

Story by: Larry Binks
Regional District Director for Area C

Solid Progress

The past 14 months have been extremely busy and productive. This rest of this year, we are looking at finalizing a generous offer from the Reclamation Dyking Society. It has made a piece of property available for the West Creston Fire Society with a 100-year lease for \$1.00. This generous offer will allow for the fire society to operate out of a functional Fire Hall and we will continue to move forward.

There is a new Rural Policing Unit in the works and it's slowing coming

to fruition. This means there will be five dedicated police officers for the rural areas.

Road maintenance and repair will continue in 2010 in the West Creston Area. YRB is committed to fulfilling their mandate to supply great service.

We will continue to pursue and ensure that safety and health services are a high priority for all residents in the Creston Valley.

*Larry Binks is the Regional Director for Area C
Phone: 250-428-9577
Email: ljinks@yahoo.ca
Website: www.rdck.bc.ca*

“Operate out of a functional Fire Hall.”

Creston Valley Community Radio

Story by: Maureen Cameron

The Valentine Draw winners were: Beth Kaplan and Sean Thompson. Thanks to sponsors Tony Mulder and Stavros for the draw prizes and I Love Creston as co sponsors. Because we had so many entries, we are putting together a half hour show of the readings. Thanks to all who participated and shared your thoughts and stories with us.

We continue to offer training in recording, editing and familiarity with station operations. If you want to volunteer a little time and get involved in getting programs on air or have an idea for a show, these free workshops will give you the opportunity to develop needed skills.

One of this week's on air additions were the voices of the First Creston Cub troupe who came for a tour and

had just a bit of fun recording and being on air. Listen for their station announcements. New programs and re organizing of programming is an ongoing venture. Due to popular demand, Life in the Valley is being developed as an hour long program which will feature a broad range of interviews from agriculture to health, arts and culture, community issues and recreation to name a few.

Nominations for directors are being accepted for the AGM and elections on April 1st. Proposed bylaw changes can be viewed on the website and copies are available at the station.

You can listen to CIDO 97.7FM on your dial, live streaming on the internet and to Audio Archives on the website. The program schedule, photos and other information also on www.crestonradio.ca

Creston Valley Home & Garden SHOW

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Friday, April 16th
2:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Saturday, April 17th
10:00 am - 5:00 pm

at the Creston & District Community Complex

For info call the Chamber at:
250 - 428 - 4342

AGM
April 1st • 7:00 pm
Snoring Sasquatch - 221 11th Ave. N.
Nomination & Election of Directors
Bylaw Changes

Copies of the proposed bylaw changes are available on request and on the website

Mystery Shopper Alert for Businesses
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MLA Update

Story submitted by: Michelle Mungall
MLA for Nelson-Creston

Honoring Equality

March 8, 2010 is International Women's Day. This day is about honouring the movement for human equality and the successes women have had to improve their status in society. First formally held in 1911, the roots of International Women's Day go back to the industrial revolution.

While many upper-class women stayed at home to care for children and hearth, numerous women in lower income households went to work, most notably in the garment industry. Working conditions in the factories were unsafe and unhealthy and sweatshops were typical. Workdays went well beyond eight hours. Six or seven-day workweeks were common and the pay was poor. So, women began to organize for their rights. The right to vote the right for decent wages, safe work environments and time off.

In 1910, Clara Zetkin, of Germany put forward the motion for an International Women's Day at the second International Conference of Working Women. On this day, women in every country would celebrate their achievements and press for equality. The motion was unanimously passed and the first International Women's Day was set for the following year.

Days after the first International Women's Day, disaster struck at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, a garment factory in New York City employing hundreds of women. The fire that broke out killed 146 employees who either fell off broken fire escapes or were trapped behind locked doors. This disaster became a rallying point for women in the US and around the world, solidifying International Women's Day as a day of action, remembrance and celebration. By 1975, International

Women's Day won recognition at the United Nations, and many countries began to honour the day as a national holiday.

Today, women have had many achievements. We've won the right to vote. We are persons under the law. Domestic violence is illegal. We can hold money and property in our own names. We can be doctors, lawyers, politicians and astronauts.

And while we celebrate these accomplishments, we have much more to do. In Canada, the 2010 International Women's Day theme is Strong Leadership. Strong Women. Strong World: Equality.

With strength, we continue to press for pay equity, universal high-quality childcare, equal representation in politics and basic safety. We support each other and our communities by demanding that governments fund important services like those that help survivors of gender-based violence. This is going to be crucial this month, as local services that support women and children leaving violence are under attack in the BC Liberal Government's Budget.

In honoring the women who came before us, and those who are on their way, we (both men and women) celebrate and act for change. This year, let's help to stop violence in our communities. Write to me about how you want to see well-funded programs that prevent violence and support survivors. Together, we can make a difference because, together, we are the women's movement.

For more information go to www.michellemungall.com

Michelle Mungall is the NDP MLA for Nelson-Creston

Phone: 250-354-5944

Email: michelle.mungall.mla@leg.bc.ca

Website: <http://www.michellemungall.com>

Creston Valley Facility Enhancement Project Update

Story by: Neil Ostafichuk
Recreation Supervisor -
Creston & District Community Complex

An end of an era happened with the demolition of the James Ross Memorial Pool. Studiously serving the Creston Valley for approximately 35 years, the pool has provided enjoyment and water safety training for immeasurable numbers over the decades. This area will have drainage installed for groundwater and then backfilled and compacted for eventual parking lot use.

Another casualty of the project is the old lifeguard room alcove, which will be removed from the front of the building. Many guards have passed through this portal.

**“Many guards
have passed
through this portal!”**

Backfilling around the pool has accelerated with the use of foamcrete, a type of lightweight concrete that is almost a self-leveling product, which is pumped into place.

Pool deck construction continues in sections once the forming or falsework is in place. A complicated and critical process, the deck has to define drainage paths to the appropriate area before the tillers come in to do their work. The entire deck area around the lap pool is now complete.

This project is funded by The Canada-British Columbia Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, the residents of the Creston Valley and donations.



Relaxing our rules about bringing toys into the pool has sped the demolition process up immensely.



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A Train Ride Back in Time

Story by: Ian Currie
Seventh Siding Trackers

“Creston Mercantile, Messinger Motors, Creston Builders Supply”. These names that were an integral part of the Creston business district 60 to 65 years ago are now only a distant memory to many Creston residents.

Visitors to the Creston Museum will see the Seventh Siding Trackers recreation of the west end of Canyon Street, Erickson, Alice Siding and Kootenay Landing in their model railway project, “Creston Valley By Rail”. The 10 club members have been working for over two years to show what Creston and the surrounding area looked like in the 1945-55 era.

The layout, located in the A-Frame building above the main Museum, shows visitors several businesses that are no longer operating. They will discover that the present chamber office, before it was Home Hardware and Creston Builders, was a Shell oil bulk plant that was operated by Charles Messinger and then Ray McKelvey. The CPR station and water tower were located between the tracks and Railway Boulevard, across from Cresteramics. The largest store in Creston, the Mercantile, took up most of the block where the Creston Bakery and the Rotary Park



“Succumbed to the scourge of all wood frame buildings, fire.”

are located. In 1949, it was one of several town landmarks that have over the years, succumbed to the scourge of all wood frame buildings, fire. Others being the Crawford Block, where the Royal Bank now stands on December 31, 1955, and Sunset Seed in December of 2008.

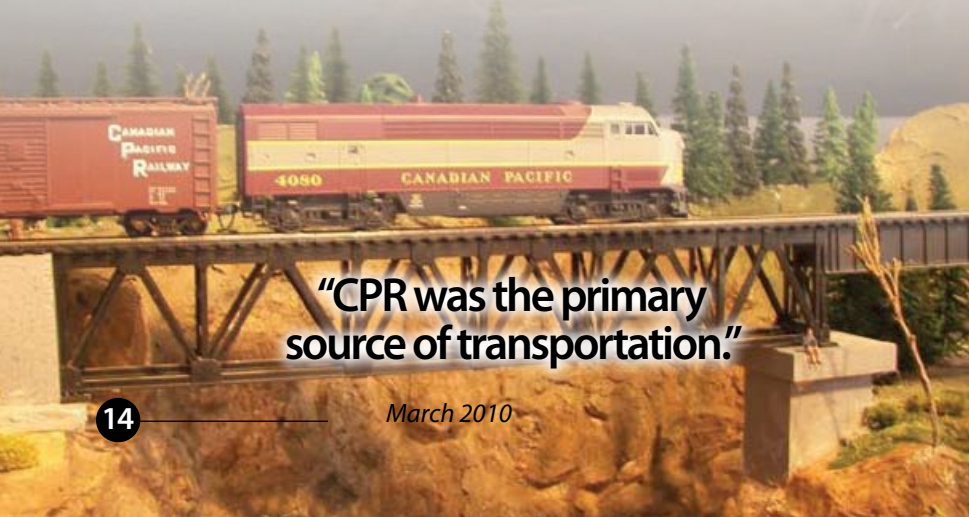
On the same block as the Mercantile was the office of Guy Constable. This was an Insurance, Notary Public, and Creston Diking District office along with various other community endeavors. It was situated approximately where the ABC parking lot is now, and if one looks closely you will see Mr. Constable at the office door,

surveying the comings and goings on Canyon Street.

Much of Creston’s industrial business was located alongside the tracks because CPR was the primary source of transportation coming into and leaving the valley. Creston Sawmills was located trackside and extended out to what is now 16th Avenue. Since it closed in 1991 several businesses have located on the former mill site, Extra Foods, Lordco and College of the Rockies, to name a few. The sawmill is depicted in the layout complete with beehive burner and millpond, which was used prior to the use of large log moving machinery.

Sunset Seed, known to locals as the “Pea Shed”, was built in the 1940’s to process large crops of seed peas grown on the Creston Flats. After the peas were phased out, it became a feed and seed processing plant.

The area that is now the town parking lot behind Fields was, until the early 1970’s, home to the Creston Co-operative Fruit Exchange.



“CPR was the primary source of transportation.”



It was the valley's largest fruit packing plant, processing different varieties of tree fruits for world and domestic markets.

On the outer extremes of the layout are two interesting models, depicting Kootenay Landing and the Canyon Power Dam. Kootenay Landing was located at the mouth of



the Kootenay River at the entrance to the lake. Prior to 1931 there were no tracks on the west side of the lake so the train engine had to be turned around at Kuskanook and the cars backed across a long trestle to a wharf where they were offloaded onto a barge and taken up the lake to Nelson by sternwheeler or CPR tug boat. When the rail line was completed in 1931 this made Kootenay Landing redundant and it was abandoned.



On the other end of our layout stands the Canyon Dam and powerhouse. Constructed in the 1930s, it was the valley's primary source of electric power until the early 1950s. This model is one of several that is built entirely by club members without benefit of a model kit. Our buildings are built



from scratch, "kit bashed", which is using kits, but modifying them to suit our needs, or model kits as they come from the package. After assembly they have to be painted and weathered simulate our time period.

The work that we have done over the past two and half years has been made possible by the assistance and support of Columbia Basin



Trust, the Museum, Tammy Hardwick and businesses and individuals in the community. For their help we express sincere thanks.

The project is open to the public during the Museum season, from May to September and we invite everyone down to see how Creston's history has been brought to life.

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Spring Gardening Tips

www.devangreenhouses.ca

March & April:

Be aware of the weather, and if the forecast calls for cold temperatures or frost, protect your hanging baskets and planters by covering them or bringing them inside. Any plants you buy from a greenhouse need to be hardened off – place them outside during the day and bring them in at night or place them outside in a sheltered spot for a few days before planting.

Pruning in Spring:

Most pruning should be done in February, except with early flowering shrubs which can be trimmed back after they finish blooming. Cut off broken or damaged limbs and branches from your trees and

shrubs. Cut seed heads off your bulbs but leave the foliage alone until it turns brown. Lightly prune groups B & C (large flowering types) Clematis if they start to get too big. Cut down deciduous grasses like Miscanthus & Ribbon grass. However, take care with cutting back evergreen grasses as they can take years to grow back - try combing out the dead leaves instead by hand or with a rake. It is also time for pruning Hydrangeas: lightly prune above a healthy set of buds after the threat of frost is over.

Primulas & Winter Pansies:

Now is the time to replant your winter flowering Primulas and Pansies in a moist, part sun

environment such as a woodland border. Primulas are well partnered with Hostas or Astilbe, for as the Primula goes dormant these perennials come up and cover them and next spring as they die down your Primulas are set to re-bloom. Trim back your Pansies and Violas, pinch off the seed heads, and move them to a moist, part shade area for fall blooming.

What can you plant?

Once the frost has passed it is safe to plant perennials, shrubs, summer flowering bulbs, sweet peas and hardened off annuals. Summer flowering bulbs should be planted in succession (every 1 or 2 weeks) to extend the blooming time. Bulbs should be planted in groups of 5 or more to give a better visual effect. Small summer bulbs are good for planting in difficult areas such as under evergreen trees or around tree roots. Lift and divide your perennials and thick clumps of bulbs. Also place peony rings, tomato cages and stakes in now so the plants grow up around their supports, allowing for a more natural look.

Planting Trees & Shrubs:

Spring or fall is the perfect time to plant new trees and shrubs since the soil is moist; therefore, new plantings require less watering. However, don't expect newly planted trees and shrubs to flower for the first year or two. They need to

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grow a strong root system before they can flower and may even lose their current buds due to the stress incurred during transplanting. Ensure you loosen the root ball before transplanting and do not plant too deep. Any soil (e.g. potting soil) that you add at planting should be mixed in with the existing soil.

Plant Combinations:

Use bright colors for beds you see from a distance, and whites or light colors for shaded areas. Containers and beds look great when planted with either contrasting colors or similar hues and with plants of varying heights and leaf textures. Err on over- vs. under-planting and use larger plants to give instant visual impact. Try planting a Clematis vine on an established tree or shrub.

Fertilizing:

Starting mid - April you can use water-soluble fertilizers at a half rate weekly. Amend soil by adding compost or manure to help increase moisture retention and to help break up heavy soil. Do not pile the compost or manure on top but work it into the soil when it is not too wet. Use an acidifying fertilizer on Rhododendrons, Dogwoods, Camellias and Evergreens. Using an acidifying fertilizer on Hydrangea will intensify blue colors, and using lime will intensify pink colors. Mix bone meal into the soil for new plantings as this will stimulate root growth and help establish the plant sooner. Ensure it is mixed in well, for placing plant roots directly on

top of the bone meal can burn roots. Avoid fertilizing diseased or insect infested plants as this can worsen the problem; fertilization prompts new growth, which is more susceptible to infection.

Spring Lawn Tips:

Aerate your lawn (with pitch fork, aerator, etc.), top dress it with sand, and over-seed where necessary. Rake out any moss after a period of wet weather and apply moss killer if a spell of dry weather is forecasted. Since acidic soil hampers the uptake of nutrients, add lime to your lawn to help it absorb any fertilizers you may apply. Spread weed & feed early in the spring when weeds are actively re-growing. Using it later in the season is less helpful since the herbicide in weed & feed is less effective in combating weeds during hot, dry spells. Be careful not to hit your flower beds while applying weed & feed since the herbicide can kill or stunt your plants.



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Home & Garden

Spring Maintenance Tips for Your Home

www.statefarm.com

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- Clean the kitchen exhaust hood and air filter.
- Check your electrical system.
- Always have a multi-purpose fire extinguisher accessible.
- Make sure the light bulbs in all your fixtures are the correct wattage.
- Review your fire escape plan with your family.
- Consider installing a lightning protection system on your home.
- Protect all your electrical appliances from power surges and lightning.
- Have a professional air conditioning contractor inspect and maintain your system as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Check for damage to your roof.
- Run through a severe-weather drill with your family.
- Repair all cracked, broken or uneven driveways and walks to help provide a level walking surface.
- Protect your home from sewer or drain back-up losses.
- Check all the fascia and trim for deterioration.
- Check your water heater.
- Check the shutoff valve at each plumbing fixture to make sure they function.
- Clean clothes dryer exhaust duct, damper, and space under the dryer.
- Replace all extension cords that have become brittle, worn or damaged.
- Inspect and clean dust from the covers of your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

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An Unexpected and Unusual Delay

Story by: Tammy Hardwick
 Manager - Creston & District Museum & Archives

Last month, I talked about high-flying ski jumpers in Kingsgate. Well, at about the same time those boys were flying off the end of the most unique ski jump in the world, there was an airplane in Creston that wasn't flying at all.

In January 1932, W.H. Cross set out to fly from Montreal to Victoria in a Fairchild FC-2 plane piloted by a young Swede, Jarl Grubbstrom. I don't know why they did this, but I guess it seemed like a good idea at the time. The flight appears to have been uneventful, until the duo reached the Creston Valley.

On Friday, January 29, Cross and Grubbstrom left Lethbridge on what was probably the last leg of their journey – a flight of about 480 miles to Victoria. Given the plane's maximum speed of 122 miles per hour, it should have taken them four or five hours. Instead, it took them nearly four weeks.

First, Pilot Grubbstrom was forced to land in Creston "due to adverse flying conditions". A major snowstorm hit the Creston Valley that weekend. As the Creston Review reported, "The blizzard that prevailed on Saturday and Sunday and the attendant snow conditions made an attempted take off out of the question, as the plane is equipped with wheels." Indeed, snow in places was drifted six feet high, a

caterpillar snowplough couldn't even break through them.

On Tuesday, February 2, the weather allowed an attempt at a take off. The plane was towed out onto the ice west of the Lower Wynndel Road, just north of Highway 3 (some local long-timers might remember it as Hood's slough). "The ice, however," reported the Review, "was unable to sustain the weight of the plane, which broke through damaging the propeller so seriously that it had to be shipped to Trail that afternoon for repairs."

"It took them nearly four weeks."

The prop wasn't expected back until the end of that week, at least. In the meantime, Cross and Gruppstrom stayed


at the King George Hotel. A team of horses hauled the airplane to the hangar at the Archibald flying school, and some Alice Siding residents earned a few unexpected dollars by digging a makeshift runway out of the snowdrifts. (The long-timers will likely remember Archibald's flying school, but for those of you who don't, here's the details: William Archibald, manager of Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co, Cominco, established

"Unable to sustain the weight of the plane."

a training program for pilots to support the company's mining exploration activities in northern Canada.

In 1929, two flying schools were established, one in Creston, and the other at Kaslo. Here, the pilots learned to land and takeoff on grass or snow and ice, while the Kaslo school taught them water landings. They thus gained

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experience in all the conditions they would encounter in the North).

Friday, February 5. The repaired propeller arrived right on schedule, was mounted to the plane and Pilot Grubbstrom made a few short flights to make sure everything was adjusted properly. Then he “had the worst luck of all in making a landing on the banked up snow on the runway. This time it so badly wrecked the prop that it has to be shipped back to the plane factory in eastern Canada for repairs.” Mr. Cross helped pass the time by visiting Rossland for the weekend.

On Wednesday, February 17, the new propeller arrived by express. By the following Friday, the Review was

able to report that it was being fitted onto the airplane, and “if no further bad luck overtakes them the flyers will get away today, probably.”

Or maybe not. The newspaper was a little shy on details, but something happened to delay the plane’s departure yet again. It was not until the following Wednesday, February 24, that Cross and Grubbstrom actually managed to leave the Creston Valley.

There was no word on when, or if, they actually reached their destination. Or if they took the train back.

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The airplane waiting for its propeller.



The airplane just after it went through the ice.

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Fun on Four Wheels

Story submitted by: Albert Stoyanowski
President - Creston Valley Quad Squad

The Creston Valley Quad Squad, (CVQS), is an organization that provides a social atmosphere for people who enjoy riding in our local mountains. We advocate responsible riding in regards to social, environmental and regulatory aspects. Motorized access to various areas is an important issue to us. The executive of the Creston Valley Quad Squad has worked very hard to keep our club running smoothly and efficiently, which is a big job for volunteers.

Last summer we held a number of functions. Our ride director saw to it that we had a monthly ride planned. In addition to that,

we had another function every month, which included extra rides, workdays, potlucks and a four-day overnight campout.

“His legacy will live on for a long time.”

The CVQS was fortunate enough to gain stewardship of a cabin in the mountains that provides a beautiful destination for some rides. Of course, some effort is required for upkeep and the cross-country skiers use it in the winter. About 80 km's of new trails were cleared last fall to enhance riding experience.

Gorgeous view near Redding Creek.

Terry Watt worked extremely hard applying for grants and overseeing the trail clearing for access by motorized recreationalists both summer and winter. He was also instrumental in helping us acquire the cabin. We dearly miss Terry, as he passed away recently. His legacy will live on for a long time. “Thanks Terry”. We enjoyed very scenic rides on high and low elevation routes. The Iron Range, Boundary Area, Hawkins Creek Area, Secret Areas and others.

The four-day quad campout was well attended in the Redding Creek Area. Beautiful lakes and mountains provided a flurry of activity along

with trails to be explored. We hope to have two extended campouts this summer. Our year-end potluck at Boundary Lake this fall was absolutely fantastic. The food was out of this world. Our monthly meetings were held at the ABC restaurant. All enjoyed a great year and we are looking forward to another one.

Some of the CVQS directors were responsible for contacting members for upcoming events. We sure appreciate their dedication to their free job. Others took care of regular club responsibilities and dealing with the provincial organization and a host of other duties.

“A big job for volunteers.”

Please be aware that liability insurance has been required for some years. This can be obtained from our local insurance brokers. The provincial government is exploring legislation that will require licensing and registration of quads and dirt bikes. We will see what happens in this respect.

“Licensing and registration of quads and dirt bikes.”

Due to some actions by irresponsible riders, some areas have been closed off. Please use your helmets and ride safe. We look forward to seeing some new faces in our club this spring.

For more information on CVQS contact:
 Albert Stoyanowski
 stoyanowski@gmail.com

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The Evolution of the CYH

Story by: Tom Lymbery
 Owner & Proprietor - Gray Creek Store

Canadian Youth Hostel (CYH) with the green and white triangular sign, we became the only one in the BC interior. Not for the money, \$2.00 a night at first but for the interesting people, like the English couple who cycled all the way from Halifax with a two year old in a trailer. This was fine as long as we had Greyhound service, but inaccessible when that was gone in October 1963.

Sharon Lymbery managed the operation, which included all the washing. However, this became too much and cabin rentals had been discontinued some years ago. Then we concentrated on annual RV rentals. Some of these became fairly large with roofs and decks, however the overnighters created a most interesting mix of guests and friends that we miss already.

We welcomed as managers, Ellard and Margaret Egeland who came

to live in the Lodge building with Margaret running her gift shop in the former dining room. Ellard could fix anything, even the coin-op washers. Longest term (and most missed) went to Gladys and Paul Szczerba. After Paul passed on, Gladys married Jack Todd. Their wedding in the campground was a feature for all the regular campers. Brad Chatwin carried on, an experienced finishing carpenter. He

“A most interesting mix of guests and friends.”

re-roofed, repainted the decorative front of the office and renovated inside. He even handled the transition to the new ownership, as some

of the long-term renters could stay until September 2008.

We have retained the Lodge building and other storage areas by the propane tanks and pumps. That fireplace of Pilot Bay bricks, unfortunately the bricks are no longer durable, so will have to be replaced by an RSF Opel, efficient unit. What's the next use for the building? Margaret Johnson suggests our bookstore.



Hosteller Allan Tookey from Montreal at the camp office with camp hosts Kathleen and Arthur Lymbery, and their son Tom, the author of this article, at far right, 1952. Photo: Tom and Sharon Lymbery, courtesy of Gray Creek Historical Society.

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Spring and House Hunting Have Sprung

Story by: Shannon Veitch
Real Estate Agent -
Century 21 Veitch Realty Creston

It's a great time to buy your new home. With spring just around the corner, this is the perfect time to go house hunting in the Creston Valley. New housing stock is coming on every day. Those property owners that have been on the market all winter are reviewing their list price, in order to remain competitive for the coming season.

The snow has melted throughout much of the valley and as such, you can get a good look at the yard or acreage as well as the landscaping. With the melt and the frost coming out of the ground we are at one of our wettest times of the year so if there are water problems in a basement or crawl space now is the time to look for evidence of that. You can also get a good look at the yard or property to see if there are pockets of standing water from the melt or if the land drains well.

From a financial perspective, interest rates remain relatively low, though the financial institutions are indicating that rates will rise soon. At this time, you can still purchase most types of properties for a mere 5% down, though again, there are rumors that the 5% down may change to 10% down on some types of properties. Mortgage Brokers are fiercely competitive with the large financial institutions and work hard for your business as well. So when looking into mortgage financing, check out all your options, ask about your down payment options and do your research on interest rates, terms and amortization periods. This could save you thousands of dollars in the long run. Shop around.

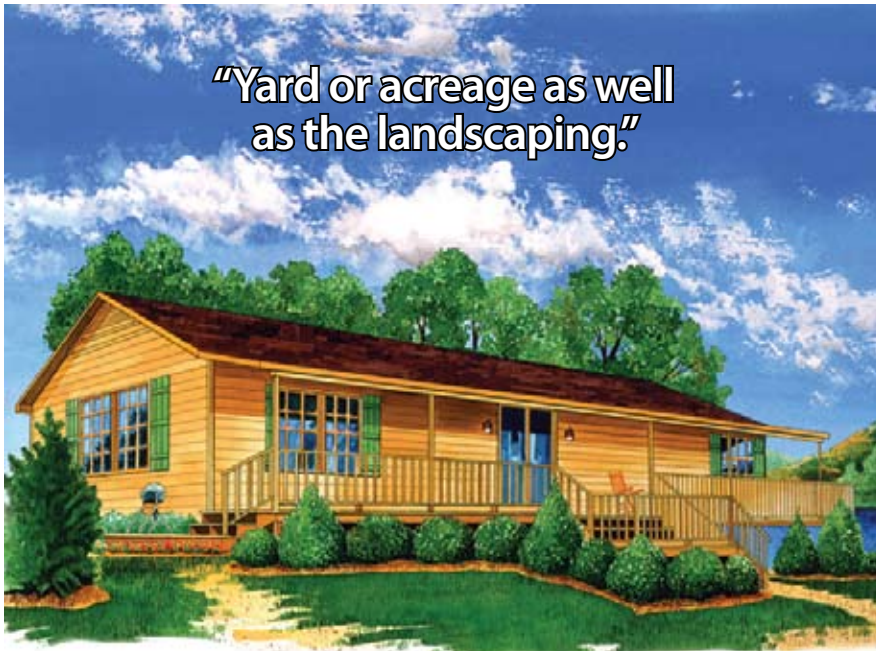
The majority of properties are listed on the MLS system, you can find information on them at www.realtor.ca. In addition to that, most real estate offices have their own websites showcasing their own listings. The Kootenay Real Estate

Board has a three-business day rule so any new listings must be sent to them for processing on www.realtor.ca within that time, so you know the information there is current and up to date. Do a preliminary search on the Internet first in your price range or to see what meets your criteria then give your Realtor a call or send them an email. We are here to answer your questions, get you more information and show you the property first hand. Buying a home can be a huge decision and we want to make it a rewarding experience. We are trained to help you find the home of your dreams, at a price you can afford.

Are you thinking about buying a house but feeling overwhelmed by the financial commitment and responsibility? Call your Realtor for an appointment to sit down and discuss your fears, we can help you with the decision that is right for you.

With the impending Harmonized Sales Tax, the talk of raising interest rates and changing the 5% down rate to 10% down, for some, there has never been a better time to talk to your Realtor and make a financial investment in a home for you and your family.

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Winter Colds and Mother Nature

Story by: Annette Agabob
Owner – Annette's Health Action

During the winter months our bodies can go through a variety of symptoms. Colds, flu's and fevers are a common experience. TV commercials suggest an array of products, which can suppress any symptom we may be feeling and claims to "keep us going" regardless of how we feel.

The very best thing we can do for a cold or flu is the exact opposite. Listening to your own body's messages is the only way to improve your health. If you feel drained and tired, then stop and rest. It sounds simple, but in our society we have been trained to keep going, suppress the symptoms and then we wonder why we end up with flu symptoms or colds that just won't go away.

Colds are a natural cleansing process allowing the toxins in our bodies to be removed and during this process we need extra rest. Just look outside your window and see how Mother Nature is at rest during the winter. There is less activity because this is the time to be dormant, slow down, sleep more and allow our bodies to rest. This is the hardest thing for us to do and when we do it, it also brings the greatest rewards.

Colds come with the following symptoms:

- Headache.
- Runny nose.
- Sore Throat.
- Loss of appetite.
- Low energy.

Remember, there are ways to build up your immune system and give it the extra nutrients it requires to repair itself "while" you are also taking the time to rest.

How To Listen and Support Our Bodies:

- Allow the toxins to flow out of the body and be removed. Herbs like boneset, mullein, horseradish and fennel will support the respiratory system and the cleansing process. Often these herbs can be found in combination or they can be purchased separately and made into a tea.
- Provide other extra nutrients such as elderberry, garlic or oregano oil, which are excellent to give your immune system some help.
- If you're not hungry, don't eat. Your body is using all the energy to

get well and digesting solid foods require extra energy it does not have.

- Sip on warm herb teas, homemade soup broths and diluted non-acidic fruit juices or add green liquid chlorophyll to your water. This will keep you hydrated and give you much need minerals for your body to repair.
- Keeping the colon clean with flaxseed meal or a gentle cleansing tea (not senna) will also help eliminate toxins.

Colds are our friends, not our enemies. It is allowing the "garbage to be taken out" of our bodies, so we have room for new healthy cells to be born. The sooner you pay attention to your body, listen and "nourish" it, the sooner it will bounce back with vibrant health and vitality.

Take care of yourself, because you are worth it.

For information on Annette's Health Action:
Phone: 250-866-5737
Email: info@annetteshealthaction.com
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**This article is intended for informational purposes, and does not replace your regular visits and recommendations from your personal Medical Doctor.*

"Listening to your own body's messages."



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Shelley Voight
After spending many years on the Alaska Highway owning a tourist business, I truly appreciate the scenery and climate of the Creston Valley. Before joining the team here at Creston Valley Realty, I worked in the health care field and enjoyed meeting many wonderful people. Moving to Creston in 1994 turned out to be the perfect place to raise my family and have room to roam with my Icelandic horses. I have never grown tired of exploring this wonderful area and would love to help you find your own piece of the Creston Valley. I feel that honesty and integrity are the cornerstones to life. If you're looking for a Realtor that you can trust and will work hard to make the road to purchasing your home as smooth as possible, I would be happy to help you with any of your Real Estate needs.



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Out & About

www.crestonevents.ca

March 04, 2010

Community Literacy Planning Meeting

Location: Creston Education Centre
from 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Contact: Linda Steward
Phone: 250-428-2664

March 04 - 07, 2010

Butterfly Bonspiel

Location: CDCC
Contact: CDCC
Phone: 250-428-7127

March 06 & 20, 2010

Don't Leave Your Mind Behind Documentaries

Location: Creston Public Library 2pm

Contact: Creston Public Library
Phone: 250-428-4141

March 06, 2010

Ice Show - Spinning Through the Century

Location: Johnny Bucyk Arena
at 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Contact: Tammy Hardwick
Phone: 250-428-9262

March 06, 2010

Creston Concert Society presents Vancouver Chamber Choir

Location: PCSS Auditorium
at 7:30pm

Contact: Margaret Lavender
Phone: 250-428-9557

March 13, 2010

Spring Fundraiser Dance

for the Army Cadets

Location: Rotacrest Hall at 7:00pm
Contact: Lynne Johnson
Phone: 250-402-6232

March 19 - 21, 2010

The Singing Soul Intro and Workshop

Location: Presbyterian Church Hall
10:00am to 5:00pm

Contact: Shirley Cameron
or Maureen Cameron
Phone: 250-428-3995

March 27, 2010

CDSCL Therapeutic Riding Program Open House

Location: 849 Erickson Road
from 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Contact: Michelle
Phone: 250-402-6793

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Hey Kids.. Enter our Easter/Spring **Art Contest**



Go to www.crestonradio.ca
to download a coloring page or
pick one up at the CIDO Radio Station

Colour a favourite picture or Draw or Paint your own!

For ages 5-7, 8-12 & 13 plus (Maximum size 8 1/2"x11")

Prize for each category and all entries draw.

Prizes from Dairy Queen, Park Studio and Video Express.

Where to enter...

Drop off at Park Studio (1011 Canyon St) or Dairy Queen (1804 Canyon St)
or CIDO office (10th Ave, near fire station)

All entries must be submitted by Thursday, April 1st

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Eligible entries will be entered into the final draw for the grand prize and awarded as mentioned. Acceptance of the prize constitutes permission for CIDO Radio and I Love Creston Marketing to use winners' names and/or entries for advertising and promotional purposes with no additional compensation.

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GC2410TLB, 25hp diesel powered unit- Features

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