

West Creston Community NEWSLETTER

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COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST GRANTS – VOTE NIGHT

This year's C.B.T. Grant vote will take place on **Tuesday, May 6th at 7:30 p.m.** at the Hall. There is approximately \$14,000 available for disbursement in Area C. Although non-profit organization from any area may apply, only residents of Area C are eligible to vote on where the monies are to be allocated. Both the W.C. Hall and Fire Protection Societies have submitted a number of projects for consideration. The process is straightforward – each attendee is given a list of all the projects that have been accepted by the C.B.T. A brief summary is read out, and each person votes for the project(s) of their choice. This is one of those very rare opportunities that we, the voter, can have a direct voice and impact.

4th Annual Community Garage Sale

Saturday, June 14th is the new date for this year's fundraiser event sponsored by the West Creston Fire Protection Society. If you have items to donate, you will be able to drop them off on Friday, June 13th from 5 to 8 p.m. For earlier drop off or pick up arrangements, please call Brian or Cathy at 402-6576.

All items will be accepted with the **exception** of large appliances (fridges, stoves, etc.) T.V.'s and computer equipment. Funds raised from this event go towards the operating & maintenance costs associated with having a volunteer fire response service, including the **Fire Call Out Number- 402-9779**. The Garage Sale will run from 9:00 - 1:00 – no early birds please!!

2008 Grad Bursary

The deadline is fast approaching! If you are a graduating student residing in Area C, and are planning on attending post-secondary education within one year of graduation – then you are eligible to apply for the West Creston Hall Society bursary of \$250.00. Simply submit an essay of 100 words or less on why community involvement is important and outline any activities with which you have been involved. The only other requirement is that you or your family are members of the West Creston Hall Society. Please drop your application of at Mugwumps Country Store, c/o Allen McLaren by **May 12th**. If you have any questions, please call Allen at 402-6624.

GRAD POT LUCK SUPPER

Let's celebrate our 2008 Grads! Join them at the Hall at 6:00 p.m. **Wednesday, June 4th** for a Community Pot Luck Supper. This is a community event and everyone is encouraged to attend. Just bring your favourite pot luck dish to share and your best wishes. Please contact Maura at 428-3555 if you have any questions and to make sure your grad is on the list.

2008 Hall Society A.G.M.

The AGM held April 15th highlighted some of the Hall projects and events that took place this past year. Events included the 2007 Grad Pot Luck Supper, the ever popular Corn Crickers Picnic and Pie Auction, the fun-filled Halloween Dance, the annual Christmas Tea and Bake Sale and a very successful Valentine Family Brunch. The fundraising events added over \$4,000 to the coffers!

Through last year's Columbia Basin Trust Grant initiatives, the Hall was able to upgrade the outdoor washrooms, refurbish the Hall floor and erect a Community Information sign (located on Nick's Island Road South). With Hall funds, a new commercial stove was purchased along with much needed kitchen items. These additions are proving to be a "big plus" in the hall rental market and rentals have increased over the previous year.

The newly created West Creston website has received numerous "hits" from places as far away as Italy. Webmaster Don Turner has done an excellent job and everyone should visit www.westcreston.info to find out what is happening within our community.

A motion was passed at the AGM to reduce the cost of membership. Previously, the Hall annual membership was \$5.00 a person or \$10.00 per family. After a unanimous vote, membership fees are now \$1.00 per person or \$2.00 per family. Membership is required in order to vote on Hall motions and of course, to apply for the Grad Bursary!

2008/2009 Board of Directors

Elections for the 2008 Board of Directors were held.

Returning directors for 2008/2009 are:

President - Allen McLaren

Treasurer - Karen Evans

Secretary – Linda Teague

Hall Rentals – Maura Schadeli & Jackie Ryckman

Maintenance – Bill Ryckman

Corn Crickers Picnic – Ted Yarema

Webmaster – Don Turner

Newly elected Board Members are:

Vice-President – Peter Schloss

Public Relations – Jackie Fisher

Grants – Kathy Tompkins

Many thanks to outgoing Board members Jerry Pirie (Vice-President) and Cathy Robinson (Public Relations).

This community is extremely fortunate to have such dedicated and hard working volunteers that spend countless hours maintaining and administering one of the best community halls found anywhere.

If anyone has an idea for a special event or activity, please bring your ideas forward. The Board meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Hall.

Spirit of BC 150

Speaking of special activities ... This event will run June 20 – 21st featuring displays from different valley communities. The venue will be the Recreation Centre and one of the main highlights will be a Citizenship Ceremony on the Saturday. Jackie Fisher and Linda Teague have agreed to coordinate the West Creston entry, but need your help! The display will consist of historical photos and events and any other creative ideas. If you have any photos, ideas, time, please contact either Jackie at 428-2781 or Linda at 402-2057.

2009 Community Calendar

The 2009 Community Calendar is currently at the printers! 15 individual photographers submitted a total of 156 pictures. A community panel of judges chose 25 pictures for the 2009 Calendar. The calendar will feature a large and small photo for each month.

As per the contest rules, the photographer whose picture appears on the cover receives a free Calendar.

For each photo submitted, the photographer's name is entered in a random draw and also receives a free calendar. Congratulations to **Kasha Ferguson** for snapping the winning cover picture and to **Allen McLaren**, winner of the random draw (drawn at the AGM). Other photographers whose pictures will be highlighted in this year's calendar are **Dave Dyck, Judy Edge, Karen Evans, Marge Kennedy, Lesley McLeod, Kathy Priebe, Cathy Robinson, Karen Tripp** and **Pat Yarema**. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped with this project. Calendars should be available for sale in May/June.

News from the West Creston Fire Protection Society

Our society has been busy the past winter upgrading our ability to respond to interface fire that may threaten the safety of our homes and community in the upcoming summer fire season.

The most important changes that have occurred are the acquisition on a 1981 International Water Tender truck. We also acquired a trailer equipped with a 300 gallon water tank, portable fire pump, fire hose and hand tools. These two units can be used to attack fires directly or be used to shuttle water from any source available in the area. They will also give us the ability to attack fires in multiple locations or attend spot fires that may pop up in more than one location.

These additions were made possible with the help of the RDCK with their support through Grant in Aids and the BC Gaming Commission with their Direct Access Grants.

The Fire Society is a non-profit, charitable organization. Funds to cover vehicle insurance, volunteer insurance, maintenance and the Fire Call Out Number must come from membership fees, donations and fundraisers. The annual membership fee is a nominal \$10/person and is tax receiptable. Another way to support the Society is to return your bottles to the Columbia Recycling Depot on Payne Avenue. Tell the cashier that you wish to apply your refund to the West Creston Fire Account; keep your receipts and at the end of the year, you will receive a tax receipt for your year's worth of returns!

Fire Practices are held on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.- muster at the Hall. The next practice is **May 1st**. If you would like more info visit our website at www.westcrestonfires.info or call Jim McLeod at 428-8841.

**COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS PROTECTING
OUR COMMUNITY**