
CRESTON VALLEY

2019 Travel Guide



www.CrestonValleyBC.com



CRESTON VALLEY

Growing Together

SMALL TOWN CHARM, MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MILD CLIMATE AND FANTASTIC LOCAL FOOD.

Stay awhile and unwind Valley-style.

Thank you for picking up the 2019 issue of the Creston Valley Travel Guide.

Surrounded by mountains, the Creston Valley and Kootenay Lake are vibrant with creative souls and unique offerings. Far from the stresses of city life, this is a place where you can skip the crowds, relax and soak up your surroundings. From the clear waters of Kootenay Lake, across orchards and vineyards, through wetland and wilderness teeming with life – this is our backyard.

Explore the trails and boardwalks of the wetlands. Poke around the local shops and sample some tasty treats offered in the local bakeries and cafes. Pick up a copy of the Creston Downtown Walking Tour, and immerse yourself into the arts and culture scene. Be inspired by the Artisans of Crawford Bay, just a one-hour drive north along the scenic Kootenay Lake.

Naturally abundant, this area is rich in agriculture-related businesses and services. With a growing wine industry, fruit and vegetable markets, handcrafted organic cheese and milk, and animal and grain farms. Take a stroll through the thriving Farmers' Market downtown and load up on produce, baked goods, meat products, soaps, crafts and jewelry, located outdoors on Saturdays from May through to October.

Get outside and enjoy some outdoor recreation. Experience some of the best landscapes we have to offer - boating and fishing in both Kootenay Lake and Duck Lake, golfing, hunting, hiking, and the exceptional backcountry skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling on Kootenay Pass in the winter months.

Step back in time and learn about the history of the area. The Lower Kootenay Band of the Ktunaxa nation carries forth its ancient cultural heritage and a language so distinct that it is unconnected to any other in the world. If you are seeking thrilling stories of bank robberies, floods and crypts in the floor, then I suggest a trip to the Museum.

The Creston Valley and Kootenay Lake are a great destination for foodies, family fun and rural adventurers.

Be sure to stop by the Creston Valley Visitor Centre for more information. Our friendly knowledgeable staff can help you plan your vacation or make your relocation a smooth transition. We look forward to seeing you!

Amy Maddess, *Visitor Centre Coordinator*
Creston Valley Visitor Centre

Make the Creston Visitor Centre your first stop when you arrive.

Public Washrooms

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Local Knowledge

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For information on local attractions and services contact

Creston Valley Visitor Centre

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121 Northwest Blvd. (Hwy 3) Creston, BC • www.crestonvalleybc.com

CRESTON  VALLEY

Growing Together

Table of Contents

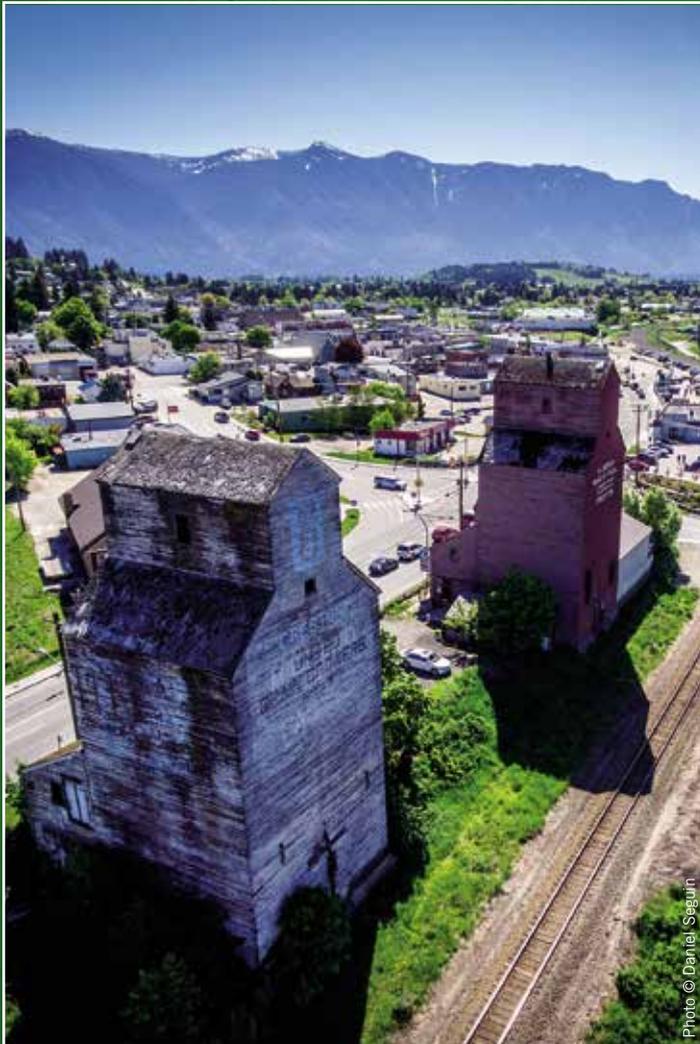


Photo © Daniel Seguin

- 02 Welcome to the Creston Valley
- 05 Message From the Mayor
- 06 Life in the Creston Valley
- 08 Location, Location
- 09 Once Upon a Time
- 12 Four Seasons of Fun
- 17 Places to Stay
- 20 Places to Eat
- 22 Sit, Splash or Swing
- 24 On the Green
- 26 Creston Museum
- 28 Wildlife Area
- 30 Food & Wine
- 31 Town Map
- 32 Creston Valley Map
- 34 Map Index
- 36 Farm Fresh Guide
- 40 Fresh, Fabulous Food
- 42 Day Hikes in the Valley
- 43 Hiking, Biking & Hunting
- 45 From Farm to Table
- 48 Canvas, Page & Stage
- 52 Creston Library
- 53 International Selkirk Loop
- 54 Public Art
- 56 To Yahk & Back
- 57 Explore the East Shore
- 60 Kootenay Lake Ferry Schedule
- 62 Ripening Dates
- 63 Artists on Display

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Creston Valley

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Creston Valley





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Message from the Mayor

In my role as Mayor, and on behalf of our Town Council, I am pleased to bring greetings to visitors and residents alike!

“There are reasons for living down in the valley that only the mountains know,” wrote Noel Paul Stookey in the song, John Henry Bosworth. But it just so happens that here in Creston we have more than a few incredible reasons of our own. Here, we like our food slow and our friendships fast. Our family-friendly, charming community bustles without hurrying and we are home to down-to-earth, hardworking, innovative folks of all ages.

Our region’s cultural scene boasts everything from live music and theatre to hidden studios ready to welcome folks for a tour. There are 17,000 acres of internationally

recognized wetland, an 18-hole championship golf course with spectacular valley views, multiple wineries, a winning hometown hockey team and a newly upgraded and expanded recreation centre — complete with arena, indoor swimming pool, fitness centre and more.

Here, simple pleasures and experiences abound! Pride of place is evident in Creston. Our valley’s unique climate and incomparable geography make it a place where one can feast like royalty on a 10-mile diet, thanks to its rich and diverse agricultural industry, and then whet your whistle with locally produced wine, beer and cider. The Saturday farmers’ market is one of the best in the region and should not be missed! In the valley, farmers,

foresters, and a savvy business community continue to flourish in a wide variety of trades and industries. We’re proud of who we are and we aim to retain our small town charm and personality, while continuing to grow stronger and better together.

Creston Town Council has a close relationship with the local First Nations, incorporating the Ktunaxa culture of the Lower Kootenay Band into the entire community and supporting one of the few remaining powwow events in Canada, which takes place every May long weekend in the Creston Valley. Don’t miss out - make 2019 your year to visit Creston!

Ron Toyota, Mayor
Town of Creston

SMALL TOWN CHARM

We’re Growing Together.

Tucked into a sunny bench between the Purcell and Selkirk mountain ranges, the Creston Valley is a perfect retreat for outdoor adventures, foodies, creative souls, lovers of the land, and anyone in need of a wholesome home-away-from-home experience. “With a little planning, you can make your visit to the Creston Valley truly unforgettable. We welcome your stay and invite you to visit again soon.”

Ron Toyota, Mayor

CRESTON VALLEY
TOWN of CRESTON

Photo © Dan Seguin

www.creston.ca
or the Visitor Centre at
www.crestonvalleybc.com

Life in the Creston Valley

What could be better?

Creston is still a small town, but it keeps growing, and getting younger!. The 2016 census indicated a population of over 5,226 — about 10 per cent higher than in 2006. The median age of the population continues to drop. Newcomers appreciate the relaxed, community-oriented lifestyle that permeates the entire valley, which entices them to purchase homes in the area.

“Creston has become a retirement destination for young baby boomers looking to spend the next twenty years enjoying an active but relatively

inexpensive lifestyle,” says Creston Valley Realty owner Shelley Voight. “What brings them here are the beautiful views and warm climate — what makes them stay are the great people and the peaceful pace.”

Those reasons, as well as affordable real estate, helped the valley be named one of Canada’s top retirement destinations by the Globe and Mail in 2015.

The many activities available in the valley also draw younger people and families to the Creston Valley, where they enjoy everything from

hiking, fishing, music and sports.

A major addition to the Creston & District Community Complex this year, with construction already beginning on a \$3.25 million outdoor complex that will include a skate park, bocce court, horseshoe pits, beach volleyball area, multi-purpose sports court and spectacular landscaping. It promises to become a destination park and will enhance the very popular indoor amenities at the Complex, which include an aquatic centre, ice arena, curling club, Wee Greek food service,

Real - Good - Local - Food



The Peppered Pig
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Serving up delicious meals sourced from local producers. Showcasing the bounty our valley has to offer.



Find us at the Creston Farmers' Market, events, festivals and around town throughout the summer.

Find us on:  **facebook** 

Annual Creston Valley Bird Fest 2019

Where the Birds Are ...

May 10 to 12



“Coordinated Take-off” © by Lyle Grisedale

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van and on foot

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Dr. David Bird

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and more...

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Next year's Birdfest May 8, 9 & 10, 2020

What could be better?

meeting rooms, fitness centre and a physiotherapy facility.

The Creston Valley's rich agricultural possibilities are another important factor behind the decision to move to the valley — although the relatively inexpensive real estate, both in town and in rural areas, is also a big draw.

"It's typically the quality of life that we enjoy here, and the climate — Creston has got one of the nicest in all of Canada," says Re/Max Discovery Real Estate owner-broker Michael Carpenter. "To boot, we have very reasonable prices compared to other areas that are in a 5 or 6 agricultural zone. They want to grow their own

food, and get away from the city and get away from a harsher climate. They also appreciate the beauty of the valley, which is somewhat unsurpassed."

Of course, a brief wander through downtown Creston is enough to make many people want to stay. Coffee shops and unique businesses — where all the regulars know each other on a first-name basis — make a first visit to Creston feel like coming home.

"The most common thing said is, 'What a beautiful valley,'" says Century 21 Veitch Realty managing broker Scott Veitch. "They love the scenery, the climate, the small-town atmosphere and how friendly everyone is."



Photo © Andrew Bibby

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Location, Location

Finding the Creston Valley

The town of Creston is easy to find, located along the southernmost route joining the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. It is just an hour-and-a-quarter west of Cranbrook on Highway 3, or an hour-and-a-half east of Nelson or Castlegar, travelling over the Kootenay Pass, Canada's highest all-weather highway.

Travellers from Nelson also have the option of a scenic trip along Kootenay Lake's West Arm on Highway 3A, followed by a trip on the M.V. Balfour or M.V. Osprey 2000 between Balfour and Kootenay Bay. The six-mile trip is the longest free ferry ride in the world, which makes it even more unique. From

Kootenay Bay, Highway 3A — referred to by some locals as the "lake road" — winds south, straight into Creston.

Creston is within two hours of two major airports, the Canadian Rockies International Airport (YXC) in Cranbrook and the Castlegar Airport (YCG). The Creston Valley Airport, six kilometres south of Creston, is suitable for light aircraft and small charter planes. South of Creston, in Washington, the Spokane International Airport (GEG) is a three-hour drive.

The community offers BC Transit and Handi-Bus services, as well as Creston Valley Cab Co., the town's only taxi service.



Photo © by Tara Merrill

101 Years of Celebrating the Valley

2019



- Antique Tractor Display
- Cruisers Classic Car Show
- Saturday Farmers' Market
- Quilts • Home Baking
- Fruit • Vegetables
- 4-H Show • Baby Animals
- Needlework
- Home Preserves
- Flowers • Lego
- Woodwork
- Arts & Crafts
- Senior contest
- Poultry & Livestock
- Student Section
- Sunflowers • Photography
- Grain & Forage
- Local Entertainers
- Farming Demonstrations
- Local Food Feast
- ...and much more!

Friday, September 6
Saturday, September 7
at the Creston & District Community Complex

www.crestonvalleyfair.com

Once Upon a Time

Creston Valley History

For centuries, the Creston Valley and surrounding mountains and waterways were familiar only to the aboriginals known today as the Lower Kootenay Band, one of the seven bands that make up the Ktunaxa Nation. It wasn't until the gold rush in the Fort Steele area that the Dewdney Trail opened east-west access in the southern portion of British Columbia.

The Dewdney Trail, which enters the Creston Valley along Summit Creek and then follows the Goat River eastward toward the Columbia Valley, provided land access to areas where only water transport had previously been relied upon.

The first white settlers, who came to the area only 125 years ago, arrived to find a broad, lush valley that was flooded annually by the

spring freshet. Among those first settlers was J.C. Rykert, who was dispatched from Victoria in 1883 to set up a customs house on the 49th parallel. Transport for Rykert upon his arrival was a rowboat, with which he made an 80-mile return river trip to Bonners Ferry, Idaho, to pick up the mail. The Rykerts border crossing featured a log cabin customs house.

Populating the area was a slow process and it wasn't until 1891 that the Creston Valley's first white baby, Christine Hood, was born. She would eventually marry Charles Sutcliffe, one of the area's remaining pioneer families.

In 1892, Fred Little, John Arrowsmith and John Dow, staked a claim to portions of the valley along the benchland west of what is now

10th Avenue North. Little's property would provide the location for the original townsite development.

John Arrowsmith married a daughter of William and Jane Huscroft, a pioneering couple who had arrived by chuckwagon and raft from Utah, staking their land claim on July 5, 1893. Jane was only a few months late to lay claim as being the first non-native woman in the Creston Valley.

Sarah Ellen Dow, wife of John, arrived on the steamboat S.S. Nelson, which plied the Kootenay River between Bonners Ferry and Kaslo, B.C. Her diary would provide the first recorded glimpse into life in Creston's early days.

Canoes were used to transport the first white settlers as they disembarked from the several



CRESTON MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

A 1910 photo, looking northwest over (from left) the Creston Valley flats, the intersection of what are now Railway and Northwest Boulevards, and St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church. This vantage now includes the rear of the Creston Valley Chamber of Commerce and two grain elevators, as well as the historic church.

Creston Valley History

steamboats that had begun to provide regular service in the area. Sarah Ellen's husband, John, arrived at the steamboat with a canoe, and soon the couple was paddling, then walking a mile-and-a-half, then crossing a slough in a dugout canoe before arriving at the cedar log cabin they would call home.

Sarah Ellen gave birth to a son, Campbell, in Spokane, Wash., on Aug. 16, 1893, and mother and child came home six weeks later, greeted by a large group of Lower Kootenay Band members eager to see the new white baby.

In 1883, a solution to the water-sodden flatlands that made up much of the valley came in the person of entrepreneur William Adolf Baillie-Grohman, who envisioned a rich agricultural opportunity if the floodwaters could be tamed. Good intentions were ignored by nature, though, and large floods often swept through the dikes, until the project was successfully carried out in the 1920s and 1930s.

Until the late 1890s, steam-powered sternwheelers plied local waterways from Creston south to Bonners Ferry, Idaho, and north to smaller Kootenay Lake settlements, and the ships played a large part in transportation until the 1930s. In the late 1890s, two railroads, Great Northern and Canadian Pacific, arrived, making transportation in the valley that much easier.

Roads developed in short sections, which connected small communities throughout the valley and up the East Shore of Kootenay Lake. Later, these sections were joined, becoming part of a provincial highway system in the early 1920s. The government completed the road to Gray Creek



CRESTON MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

(Above) John W. Dow (at the left facing right) at his cabin, about 1893. (Below) The *S.S. Nasookin*, one of many sternwheeled steamships that plied Kootenay Lake in the early 1900s, near Kootenay Landing, at the south end of Kootenay Lake.



CRESTON MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

in 1931, and the *S.S. Nasookin* made three daily stops at Gray Creek until 1947, when the road to Kootenay Bay was completed and the *M.V. Anscorb* (now sunk near Kaslo) was launched to ferry traffic between that point and Balfour.

Traffic kept flowing along the lake, until two big changes came about in the early 1960s — the opening of Rogers Pass as part of the Trans-Canada Highway in July 1962, and the Salmo-Creston

portion of Highway 3 opening in October 1963.

Creston's modern-day history is closely tied to the development of the diking system, and the rich agricultural tradition has continued. Forage and grain crops, fruits and vegetables, dairies and other agricultural industries have long contributed to the economic stability of an area that also boasts a strong forest sector and mining history.



YAQAN NUKIY

LOWER KOOTENAY BAND

kiʔsuk kyukyit (Greetings)

Lower Kootenay Band is one of six communities in British Columbia and in the United States of America that make up the Ktunaxa Nation. Traditionally known as Yaqan Nuʔkiy, the community has approximately 200 Ktunaxa members. The Ktunaxa language is isolate, meaning that it is one of a kind and unrelated to any other language in the world.

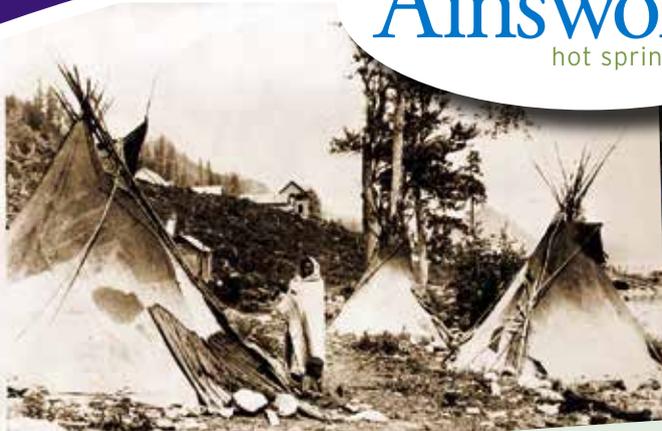
Located just off of Highway 21, visitors are encouraged to participate in the annual traditional powwow during the May long weekend. Singing, dancing, feasting, renewing old friendships and making new ones are highlights of this event. People have been known to travel from afar to attend this unique blend of cultural and present-day activities.

Visitors are also encouraged to travel to the other side of beautiful Kootenay Lake to Ainsworth Hot Springs to enjoy luxury accommodation, casual fine dining and relax in the hot springs cave and pools.

Chief Jason Louie and the Lower Kootenay Band are committed to building stronger relationships with the residents and local governments of the Creston Valley.

Taxa (that is all)

Background archive photos courtesy of Creston Museum and Historical Society
top - Teepees in West Creston
bottom - Chief Luke, Louie Ernest, Sophie Luke on horseback in the Blossom Fest parade
Colour photo - Brian Lawrence



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Four Seasons of Fun

So Much to See and Do



Photo © Jeff Banman

The Creston Valley Blossom Festival celebrates the arrival of spring, and its parade brings hundreds of spectators downtown.

Spring comes to the Creston Valley in mid-April, with green leaves, scented blossoms and green grass seeming to appear overnight, prompting residents of all ages to get outdoors and enjoy everything the valley has to offer.

It's easy to feel the season's excitement by attending the Creston

Valley Chamber of Commerce's Trade and Arts Fair, which showcases the best home, garden and leisure vendors from around the Kootenays, on April 26 and 27. The Chamber has also been planning Creston's first Grand Fondo cycling event in September.

May 10-12 brings the Creston

Valley Bird Fest, which is running for its sixth year, building on the success of the first five, which drew visitors from the Kootenays, Idaho and B.C.'s Lower Mainland. It celebrates nature by offering birding activities and presentations, while also highlighting the valley's art and agriculture.

So Much to See and Do

"The Creston Valley is a vital birdwatching area with over three hundred species of birds recorded," says festival chair Tanna Patterson. "It is an ideal location for a festival and a natural source of pride for those of us who live here."

On the May long weekend, the Creston Museum opens for its season, which runs until mid-September (page 26) and features a range of activities that draw tourists and locals of all ages.

It can often feel very much like summer by the middle of May, when the apple and cherry trees bloom and Creston hosts the annual Creston Valley Blossom Festival on the Victoria Day weekend. It opens on Friday night with a concert featuring the Juno and CCMA-nominated Doc Walker country band, and the

announcement of Creston's citizen of the year and junior citizen of the year. The weekend includes pancake breakfasts, parades, a street festival, children's activities and a classic car show. A Homecoming Dinner and Dance will be held on Saturday night, with Renegade Station providing the entertainment.

This year marks the 78th annual festival, which began as a way to raise the community's morale during the Second World War.

"It's a wonderful way for people of all ages to celebrate the spring," says festival president Joanna Wilson. "It is a tradition for everyone in the valley."

Outside the town, the always colourful and thrilling Lower Kootenay Band's 28th annual Yaqan Nukiy Powwow will draw large

crowds to see First Nations dancers from around the province.

"The Yaqan Nukiy Powwow asserts our sovereignty in our ancestral homelands," says Lower Kootenay Band Chief Jason Louie. "During Canada's prohibition of cultural practices our forefathers stood their ground and did not allow our beautiful customs to disappear. We dance because our grandfathers and grandmothers would expect us to. No one can take away pride. Pride is forever!"

A visit to the Creston Valley in the summer isn't complete without paying a visit to the many orchards and fruit stands in the area. For many visitors, visiting the area to purchase fresh-off-the-tree (or -vine or -bush) produce is a generations-old tradition. It's easy to find fruit of



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So Much to See and Do

all kinds, particularly along Highway 3 in Erickson or along Erickson Road.

Fruit stands are a unique form of retailing—and some do wholesale marketing, too—in that they have their own character reflecting the fierce individualism of farm folk. All are worth a visit, but the century-old Truscott Farms is a wonder. The passion for growing in Barb and Frank Wloka at Wloka Farms oozes from their every pore. The wire fence out front displays messages woven into the mesh, often offering

birthday and anniversary wishes. Proceeds from the ads are donated to charity. Every fruit stand has a unique history and character.

For a variety of local products all in one place, a visit to the Creston Valley Farmers' Market is a must. It runs Saturday mornings weekly from May through October outdoors on Canyon Street at Cook Street, and once monthly indoors January through April at Creston & District Community Complex. In addition to fresh produce, it features live music and vendors offering crafts,

art, flowers, plants, books, wood products, baked goods, freshly roasted coffee and wine — all made, baked, painted, written or grown in the Creston Valley (page 45).

Naturally, swimming is a summer pastime, and the Creston Valley offers several great spots to enjoy the clean, cool water of the Kootenays, as well as the indoor pool, which opened in 2010 at the Creston and District Community Complex. In addition to public use, the pool offers many swimming courses and lessons for everyone, from boys and girls to new moms to lifeguards in training.

It's also pleasant to stroll through Creston's downtown, browsing in stores — including a shop for rockhounds, a brand new virtual reality experience shop, bookstores and a flower/antique shop — and being refreshed at one of several restaurants and coffee shops. Summit Cycles and Sports is under new ownership, and it's a must-stop for outdoor enthusiasts.

On Erickson Road, a tour of the Columbia Brewery is a popular stop, where visitors learn how “the beer out here” is made. While you're at the brewery that makes Kokanee, Bud Light and Alexander Keith's, be sure to have your picture taken on the brewery grounds with the



Photo © Andrew Bibby

Creston's Millennium Park

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So Much to See and Do

Sasquatch sculpture, created by Canyon sculptor Karl Lansing.

Canyon Park and the Creston & District Community Complex are the places to be for Canada Day festivities. A slo-pitch tournament and barrel racing are a big part of the event in Canyon, just east of Creston, while kids' activities, live entertainment and fireworks are the highlights of the festivities in town.

If your kind of fun involves venturing into the great outdoors, the Creston Valley has numerous trails for all ages and fitness levels. About 30 kilometres of trails meander all over the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area, the Creston Rotary Club has established trails on the base of and on Mount Thompson, and the Trails for the Creston Valley Society is working to establish further trails and recreation sites. Last year, the Creston Community Forest got in on the fun when construction was completed on the Billy Goat Bluffs trail that connects Helen Street with the Goat Mountain Forest Service Road, which lead the more ambitious hiker eastward to the Ladieslipper Trail. (For more on hiking, see page 43.) And for a little competition, the Creston Rotary Club hosts the Blue Heron Half Marathon, 10K and 5K each September.

The entire community enjoys



Public piano - in the downtown Creston Walkthrough Park

socializing at the 101st—that's right, it hit the century mark last year!--annual Creston Valley Fall Fair, which showcases local produce, baking, livestock and artwork and much, much more.

"A true traditional country fair," is how longtime volunteer Randy Meyer describes the September event. "There will be displays of the valley's finest fruits and vegetables, flowers, grain and hay, as well as crafts, photography and woodworking that will fill the arena."

The Creston Valley's youth are

well represented at the fair with presentations by 4-H dairy, beef and horse clubs. Visitors to the fair will find commercial booths inside and outside the arena, and activities will be scattered throughout the various section displays.

This is also the time of year when the Creston Valley Thunder Cats kick off the hockey season, which usually lasts through the playoffs in March. The Junior B Kootenay International Junior Hockey League team has been around for more than 20 years (starting in the 1990s as the Creston

Creston's Annual Blossom Festival

May 17-20, 2019

FESTIVAL EVENTS INCLUDE:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lion's Pancake Breakfast • Mammoth Parade • Kidapalooza • Children's Events • Lion's Street Fair • FREE Concert in the Park • K of C Breakfast | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show and Shine Car Show • Lion's Kiddie Parade • Lion's Kids' Party in the Park • Rotary Club Citizens of the Year • Root Beer Garden (Youth Activities) • Teen Dance • Chuckwagon Demos | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cowboy Challenge • 5 and 10 km Run, Creston & District Community Complex • Creston Valley Chamber of Commerce Ball Tournament |
|--|--|---|

Friday Night Opening Show featuring JUNO Award Winners **DOC WALKER**

Saturday Night Cabaret featuring **Renegade Station**

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Next year we celebrate Blossom Festival May 15 to 18, 2020 • www.blossomfestival.ca

So Much to See and Do

Valley Thunder) and fans continue to cheer on the team at the John Bucyk Arena, named for the former Creston resident who played in the NHL from 1955-1978 and maintains a summer home on Kootenay Lake.

For those who like their entertainment to offer finesse without brute strength, the Creston Valley Figure Skating Club, with over 70 members, presents an ice show each season.

The Creston Curling Centre is also located at the community complex. The club hosts the Valentine Bonspiel (for women) in February and the Butterfly Bonspiel (men) in March, which brings to Creston players from across B.C., Alberta and Idaho.

Cross-country skiers won't have a hard time finding the perfect spot to practice their hobby. The Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area's

trails weave through the marshy area surrounding the Discovery Centre at 1760 West Creston Road.

The former Summit Creek Park campground, located a few minutes west of Creston on Highway 3, is also a popular choice, with trails that extend into the flat land on the valley floor. More trails can be found about 40 kilometres west on Highway 3 at the top of the Kootenay Pass, complete with a heated cabin to recharge after a day of vigorous skiing.

Downhill skiers will be pleased to discover five ski hills within a three hour drive. West of Creston are the Salmo Ski Hill, renowned for its nighttime skiing, and Rosland's Red Mountain, where Olympic gold medallists Nancy Greene and Kerrin Lee Gartner got their starts. North of Salmo off Highway 6 is Whitewater

Ski Resort, which, well-known for its powder, bills itself as being "pure, simple and real ... deep." East of Creston is the Kimberley Alpine Resort, which features 80 runs.

Self-propelled sports aren't the only ones to enjoy! Snowmobiling is also popular, and about 70 members of the Kokanee Country Snowmobile Club enjoy miles of logging roads winding through incredible scenery. For a map that shows off-limits areas, as well as more information, visit kcsc-bcsf.silkstart.com.

There is also the Creston Valley Quad Squad, formed to provide an opportunity for ATV enthusiasts to enjoy their sport together. The club members clean and maintain trails in the area, and the club offers day trail rides, overnight campouts, poker rides and safety seminars. For more, visit www.crestonquads.com.



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Places to Stay

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Accommodations	Hotel / Motel	Bed & Breakfast/ Guest House/Lodge	See Ad on Page	Family Oriented	Restaurant / Lounge	Off Season Rates	Weekly / Monthly	Golf Packages	Cable	Satellite	Internet	Pets Welcome	View	Lake / Beach	# of Units	Ensuite	Smoking Rooms	A/C	TV	Kitchen	Senior / Corp Rates	RV Parking	
Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort 3609 Hwy 31, Ainsworth Hot Springs BC 1.800.668.1171 250.229.4212	❖		11	❖	❖	❖				❖	❖		❖		53			❖	❖			❖	
Bayshore Resort 13165 Hwy 3A Boswell, BC 250.354.4370 250.223.8270	❖		61	❖	❖	❖	❖			❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	6		❖		❖	❖		❖	❖
Creston Hotel and Suites 1418 Canyon St. Creston, BC 250.428.2225	❖		19	❖	❖	❖		❖	❖		❖	❖	❖		25			❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	
Downtowner Motor Inn 1218 Canyon St. Creston, BC 1.800.665.9904 250.428.2238	❖		19	❖		❖	❖	❖	❖		❖	❖	❖		22	❖	❖	❖	❖			❖	
Kokanee Springs Resort (Lodge) 16082 Woolgar Rd. Crawford Bay, BC 1.800.979.7999 • 250.227.9226	❖		25		❖			❖		❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	66			❖	❖	❖		❖	❖
Magnuson Hotel 800 Northwest Blvd, Creston, BC 1.855.944.2224 • 250.428.2224	❖		18	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖		❖	❖	❖	❖		51		❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	
Ramada 2705 Highway 3, Creston, BC 250.254.1111	❖		18	❖	❖	❖	❖			❖	❖		❖		71			❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	
Sunset Motel 1809 Highway 3A, Creston, BC 250.428.2229 • 1.800.663.7082	❖		19	❖		❖		❖	❖		❖		❖		24			❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	
Valley View Motel 216 Valleyview Dr. Creston, BC 1.800.758.9334 250.428.2336	❖		19	❖		❖					❖		❖		15			❖	❖	❖	❖		

RV Parks & Campgrounds	See Ad on Page	# of Sites	Hookup	# of Pull Through	Tent Sites	Sani Dump	Playground	Pool	Fire Pits	Laundry	Pay Phone	Showers	Pets	Cable / Satellite	Internet	Fruit Stand	Lake / Beach	Marina	Groceries	Weekly / Monthly	
Bayshore Resort 13165 Hwy 3A Boswell, BC 250.354.4370 250.223.8270	61	50	❖		❖	❖	❖		❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖		❖	❖		❖	
Kozy RV Park 3003 Hwy 3 Creston, BC 250.428.4143	57	25	❖		❖	❖	❖	❖		❖		❖	❖	❖	❖					❖	
Mountain Park Resort 4021 Hwy 3E Erickson, BC 1.877.428.2954 250.428.2954	18	50	❖	7	40	❖	❖		❖	❖		❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖			❖	❖
Pair-A-Dice RV Park & Campground 1322 Northwest Blvd. Creston, BC 1.866.223.3423 250.428.2347	57	44	❖	10	❖	❖			❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖					❖	
Scotties RV Park 1409 Erickson St. Creston, BC 1.800.982.4256 250.428.4256	57	44	❖	6	13				❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖					❖	



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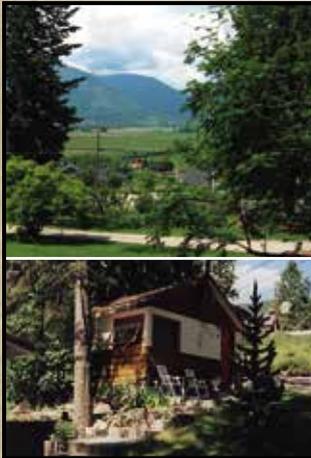
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Restaurants	Advert on Page	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Licensed	Dining Room	Coffee Shop	Lounge	Patio	Take Out
A Break in Time Caffé 1417 Canyon St. Creston, BC 250.428.5619	21	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖		❖	❖
Bayshore Resort 13165 Hwy 3A Boswell, BC 250.354.4370	61	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖		❖	❖
The Bistro at Skimmerhorn Winery 1218 27 Ave S, Creston, BC 250.428.4911	38		❖	❖	❖	❖		❖	❖	
Buffalo Trails Coffee House 1215 Canyon St. Creston, BC 250.428.5730	29	❖	❖				❖			❖
Creston Golf Club Restaurant 1800 Mallory Rd. Creston, BC 250.428.3383	24	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖		❖	
Creston Hotel - Jimmy's Pub & Grill 1418 Canyon St. Creston, BC 250.428.2225	19		❖	❖	❖	❖		❖	❖	❖
Dairy Queen 1804 Canyon St. Creston, BC 250.428.9800	29		❖	❖		❖	❖		❖	❖
The Golden Flour Bakery 1025A Canyon St. Creston, BC 250.428.9345	21	❖	❖				❖			❖
Kokanee Pub 123 - 9 Ave. South Creston, BC 250.428.4241	21		❖	❖	❖			❖		❖
Ktunaxa Grill (at Ainsworth Hot Springs) 3609 Hwy 31, Ainsworth Hot Springs, BC 1.800.668.1171 250.229.4212	11	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖		❖		❖
Memories of Indian Cuisine 1403 Canyon St., Creston, BC 250.428.7713	20		❖	❖	❖	❖			❖	❖
Real Food Café 223 - 10 Ave. North, Creston www.realfoodcafe.ca 250.428.8882	21		❖	❖	❖	❖			❖	❖
Ricky's All Day Grill Junction Hwy 3 and 3A, Creston rickysrestaurants.ca 250.428.8826	18	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖		❖
Woods Pumphouse & Grill - Kokanee Springs 16082 Woolgar Rd. Crawford Bay, BC 1.800.979.7999 • 250.227.2006	25	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖		❖	❖



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A Walk in the Park

Residents and visitors alike often take advantage of Creston's many parks, suitable for a quick game of catch with the kids, a peaceful place to read or even enjoy a romantic picnic.

• **Millennium Park** (300 block of 16th Avenue South). The park, created by volunteers, opened in the summer of 2004. It features walkways, one-of-a-kind wooden benches and an amphitheatre, which is often used for musical productions in the summer.

One of the park's most striking features is the Japanese garden, which was developed thanks to a donation from Creston's Japanese sister city, Kaminoho.

Millennium Park can be rented for weddings or special functions on the grounds or in the amphitheatre; contact the Town of Creston for details.

Nearby, accessed from the 1400 block of Cook Street, is an off-leash dog park, as well as a network of trails leading to outdoor gym

equipment.

• **Centennial Park** (Birch Street, entrance at Ninth Avenue South). This well-shaded park is popular with families, for obvious reasons: it has a playground, picnic sites, a gazebo, a baseball diamond, a water fountain and washrooms. An exciting feature is the Creston Rotary Splash Playground — a joint project between the two local Rotary clubs — which provides an excellent way for the kids to cool off while Mom and Dad kick back and relax. In 2016 Rotary volunteers

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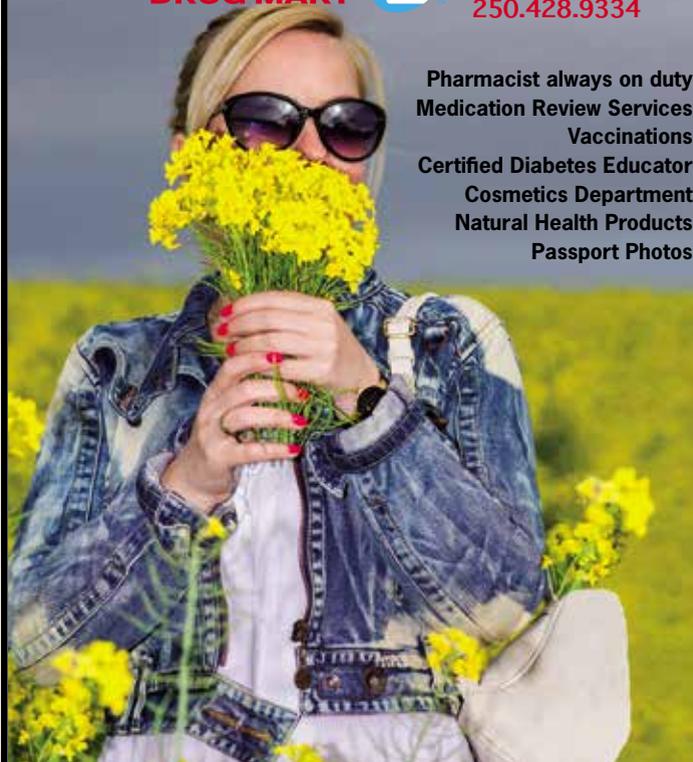


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A Walk in the Park

constructed a new change room and washrooms, as well as a beautiful gazebo to provide shade and seating in the heat of a summer's day.

- **Burns/Farstad Park** (312 19th Avenue North). This is the site of the Creston and District Community Complex. The park has a new indoor swimming pool, a playground, two baseball diamonds, the Alex Nilsson Field for soccer, horseshoe pits, a skateboarding park, basketball hoops, volleyball nets, curling and ice rinks (in season).

- **Burns Park** (Elm Street and 25th Avenue South). This park has a playground, picnic tables and washrooms.

- **Schikurski Park** (Regina Street and 14th Avenue North).

Walking trails are a major feature of this park.

- **Lister Park** (16th Street and Huscroft Road). This rural park has a covered outdoor dining area, rental kitchen facilities, a basketball hoop, a playground and a baseball diamond.

- **Canyon Park** (48th Street and Samuelson Road). The park features 30 picnic sites, camping, a baseball diamond, a horse arena, a horse racing track, horseshoe pits, a playground, a pavilion, a rental kitchen and pay showers.

- **Canada's Smallest Park** (Canyon Street Walkthrough). This one is home to miniature shrubs and small plants — definitely something to write home about!



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On the Green

Golf Courses 'Fore' All

Visitors to the Creston Valley who are interested in spending a day on the links are in luck — 17 golf courses are located within two hours of Creston. Two, the Creston Golf Club in Lister and the Canyon Heights Golf Course in Canyon, are minutes away.

The golf course lies directly in the middle of the Creston Valley, midway between the Purcell Range on the east and the Selkirk mountains to the west. As the course climbs on both sides to one of the highest points of land in the centre of the

valley, it often offers 360-degree views. The view from the seventh tee is among the best in B.C. golf. Despite the dramatic elevation changes, Creston is a great course to walk as it offers moderate exercise but short distances from the greens to the next tee.

“There is something special about the layout of the Creston Golf Club that makes it a memorable experience,” said club professional Brian O’Keefe. “It could be the wonderful scenic views that surround the area or a view from a few elevated

tee boxes. It may be the challenge of the smooth rolling greens that our visitors speak so highly of or it could be the fun atmosphere that we try to encourage to all patrons.”

Golfers around the region are well aware that they can get in on the scenery and fun a little earlier than other Kootenay golf courses, with the Creston course’s season usually running from mid-March to the end of October.

“It seems that we get two to three weeks of early spring golf before any other golf course gets their doors



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Photo © Daniel Seguin

A spectacularly beautiful and nicely challenging experience awaits duffers at Kokanee Springs Resort.

Golf Courses "Fore" All

open," says O'Keefe. "In the spring, golfers can't wait to get started on their golfing fun that they have been without for a number of months."

Creston golf also offers a full service pro shop, practice area, cart fleet and quality restaurant, with a new meeting room being added this year.

If you plan to be in the area for an extended visit, check out Creston's "unlimited golf for seven consecutive days summer special and discount cards," says club president Don Vaillancourt.

If you want to get in a game, but don't have a lot of time, the shorter Canyon Heights Golf in Canyon is your best bet. The course also features an 18-hole putting range, located at the foot of the magnificent Skimmerhorns, part of the Purcell mountain range.

Because the courses are located in pristine natural surroundings, golfers can often enjoy a glimpse of wildlife sharing the course.

Something unique that has been slowly being introduced into North America is footgolf. Footgolf incorporates soccer into the game of golf. Instead of a golf ball and a 6-inch cup, the game of footgolf is played with a #5 soccer ball and a 21-inch hole. Canyon Heights Golf is excited to provide the opportunity for Creston residents and visitors to Creston to try this exciting new game.

An hour north on Highway 3A, golfers will be delighted to find the 18-hole Kokanee Springs Golf Resort in Crawford Bay, which is situated beside the lodge, cabins and villas. The par-71 course, designed in 1968 by Norman

Woods, is "characterized by its long driving fairways, immense rolling greens, immaculate course upkeep, and ability to interest and challenge golfers at all levels," says www.kokaneesprings.com.

Twenty minutes farther is the nine-hole Riondel Golf Course, a few minutes off Highway 3A on Riondel Road. Volunteers who worked or had family working in the nearby and now-defunct Bluebell Mine started it as a three-hole course in 1961, and it gradually expanded, now offering challenging greens, wide-open fairways and a small clubhouse.

Outside the valley, courses in Balfour, Kaslo, Nelson, Salmo, Champion Lakes, Trail-Rossland and Cranbrook, as well as Bonners Ferry and Priest Lake in Idaho, ensure variety for all skill levels.

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Creston Museum

Bringing Life to History

With thousands of artifacts on display, the Creston Museum and Archives is the place to go to learn all there is to know about the Creston Valley's history – from pioneer forestry and agriculture to the present day.

“Many of our visitors are surprised at how big the museum is and how much there is to see,” says manager Tammy Bradford. “There are a lot of corners and something new to see around every one of them.”

She's referring to the museum's two main buildings, both built in the 1960s by master stonemason Rudolph Schultz. One building is L-shaped, and the other follows a long curve, making the museum an intriguing series of rooms and spaces. The stuff that's in those spaces is fascinating (be sure to check out the one-of-a-kind pool table and the “patient-cooker”). Almost as fascinating are the “Schultzisms” –

odd and unusual little details that the eccentric stonemason built into the stonework.

Other buildings on the property include a century-old schoolhouse from Kingsgate (near Yahk), a trapper's cabin, and four sheds that shelter farm equipment including a 1921 Model T truck, tractors and a combine, and a logging arch.

The Creston Museum is also home to a model railway club that has created a miniature version of the Creston Valley.

The museum, whose summer season runs from the May long weekend through mid-September, plays an active role in the community and hosts several events during its season. On last year's May long weekend, the Museum had a special “Farm Trucks and Transport” feature that is now on display at the Museum.

Kids' Day in June, is always a

highlight, with a full day of old-fashioned fun and games especially for the young and young-at-heart.

Join Museum staff and volunteers for “History About Town” week at the end of June – a full week of downtown walking tours, cemetery tours, and a heritage bus tour. The second and last weeks of July are “Pioneer Weeks,” five days of kid-friendly programming to explore the day-to-day lives of pioneers. In early August, there's the ever-popular Afternoon Tea followed later by the Evening in the Courtyard. The main season wraps up in mid-September with a special, interactive theatrical performance. Check their website for updates. See ad on page 22.

“Those are just the major events,” says Bradford. “There's always something happening here at the Museum, and we welcome visitors to take part in whatever it is.”

On any given day, visitors might

Photo © Creston Museum • Dominion Day 1923



Bringing Life to History

find someone making butter in the Pioneer Homestead, or a mechanic tinkering with an antique engine. Museum staff and volunteers will be at the Canada Day celebrations with special activities; and there'll be a very large Museum presence at the 101st-anniversary Fall Fair in September.

"This summer, too, we'll be re-

developing a number of our long-term exhibits," says Bradford. "That work will be taking place right in the exhibit galleries, and there will be plenty of opportunities for visitors to get involved with it if they wish."

In addition to the exhibits and programs, the Museum also houses an extensive archives of

local photographs, documents, and newspapers, which are available for research. There's also a gift shop, patio, and picnic area for anyone just looking for a place to take a break.

The Museum is open daily in summer, and Wednesday through Saturday afternoons in fall and winter.



LORNE ECKERSLEY

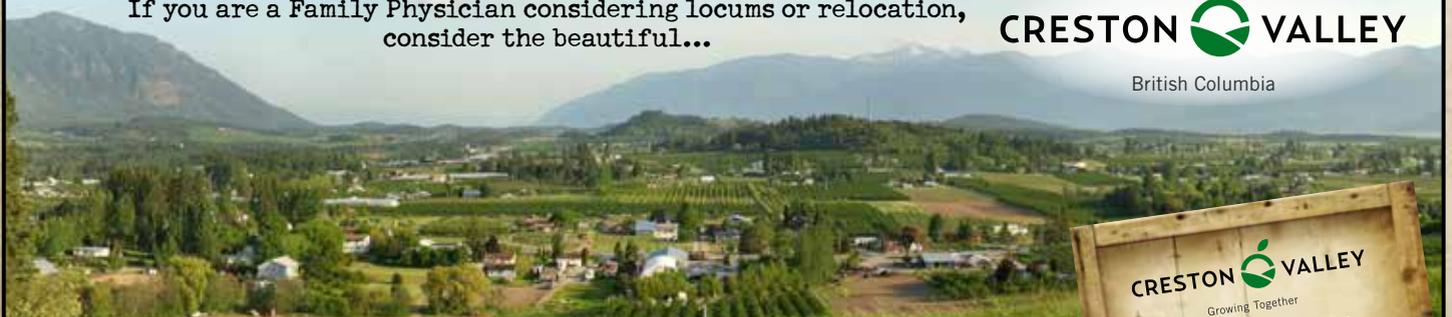
Tours, programs, performances, new displays, movie nights...there is always something happening at the museum!

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Wildlife Area

Preserving our Unique Nature

There may be no better internationally-known feature in the Kootenays than the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area (CVWMA).

Located 11 kilometres west of Creston, CVWMA is a Ramsar site, an internationally significant wetland. It is also recognized as a nationally important bird area because it provides important habitat for migrating and nesting birds — which makes it the perfect location for much of the third annual Creston Valley Bird Fest, which runs May 10-12, 2019.

The Discovery Centre at 1760 West Creston Road is open from May to October. During this time, Naturalists are onsite to host visitors and offer guided canoe and walking tours, youth and family programs and special events focused on wetland ecosystems and wildlife. The Centre has educational displays and hands-on activities for all ages to enjoy as well as a small nature inspired gift shop.

“The wetland and mountain scenery alone is spectacular and if you enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife then you are in for a

real treat,” says Discovery Centre Manager Carla Ahern. “Guided canoe and walking tours and other special events and programming allow visitors to learn more about this internationally recognized wetland habitat in a fun and interactive way.”

Boardwalks and an extensive trail system are open year round. An impressive feature of the 32 kilometres of trails on the 7,000-hectare site is the three-story viewing tower along the Marsh Trail Loop, a popular destination for schoolchildren, birdwatchers,



Kootenay-Columbia Discovery Centre

offering wetland education programs at the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area

**Guided Canoe and Walking Tours
Special Events and Programs**

**Educational Displays
Trail Maps and Information**

1760 West Creston Rd (11 kms west of Creston, BC off Hwy 3)
Open Seasonally from May-Oct • Phone: (250) 402-8661
Email: education@discovery-centre.ca

www.discovery-centre.ca



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The Creston Community Forest is a non-profit forest management organization. Our goal: 'Healthy forests abundant with social, ecological and economic benefits'.

Current projects working towards that goal include: the creation of a new hiking trail, annual forestry field trips and a commercial thinning project to reduce the wildfire threat to our community.

**Working for the community,
working for you.**

www.crestoncommunityforest.com

Preserving our Unique Nature

photographers and nature enthusiasts to view wildlife and enjoy the breathtaking views of the wetland. A second tower is located north of the centre, by following trails that cross under Highway 3.

It is home to over 300 bird species, 50 mammal species, 30 fish, reptile and amphibian species, and thousands of invertebrate and plant species. The valley is a migration corridor for tundra swans, greater white-fronted geese and other waterfowl, and is the largest regional locale for wintering birds of prey in the B.C. Interior. In all of B.C., the CVWMA is second only to the B.C. coast as a flyway route for numbers of migrating waterfowl that follow it twice yearly.

Warm shallow waters encourage luxuriant growth of the most important aquatic plants, such as sage, clasping leaf and other pondweeds, duck potato, duckweed, muskgrass and many more.

The richness and diversity of life forms would not be present on the CVWMA without habitat management. Because of careful control of water levels, vegetation and other habitat features since 1968, there are now more species and larger breeding populations of birds and other wildlife at CVWMA than in previous years.

Wetlands are important because



Photo © Andrew Bibby

A local photographer captures a heron hunting in the marshes of the wetlands.

they sustain as much life as many tropical rain forests, play a critical role in maintaining the global environment and provide a natural flood barrier that slows down the runoff of spring melt and rainstorms. Additionally, extensive wetlands in agricultural regions play a large role in water purification by filtering the water of lakes, rivers and streams, reducing pollution. Marsh plants

remove excessive levels of nitrogen and phosphorous.

“It is not only an important home to wildlife, but the wetland provides many benefits such as flood and erosion control, water purification and groundwater replenishment,” says Ahern. “The surrounding environment is positively affected by the healthy, functioning wetland ecosystem at the CVWMA.”



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Food & Wine

Creating Perfect Pairings

Wine lovers and foodies delight in pairing food with appropriate libations, and what better way to celebrate the bounty that grows in the Creston Valley? With three wineries now open to visitors, and dozens of venues to pick up locally produced food, the area has become a gourmet - and gourmand - heaven.

For a perfect weekend meal, first visit the Creston Valley Farmers' Market or drop in to a fruit stand or farm gate vendor to pick up fruit and veggies in season. A stop at Famous Fritz Meats and Deli and

Kootenay Meadows for cheese might be in order, too. Think grilled sausages and a hearty red wine! Or a cheese plate to go with just about any local wine you happen to enjoy.

Looking for a place to enjoy a picnic with your freshly purchased bounty? Check out the pergola at Baillie-Grohman Estate Winery, where guests are welcome to bring their own food to eat along with a glass or bottle of wine purchased in the tasting rooms. Glasses are supplied! Snacks are also available for purchase. The tasting room,

built in 2016, offers visitors the same warm welcome in a much larger space.

Next door is Creston's first winery, Skimmerhorn, another great spot to pick up a bottle or two for your picnic. Visitors who take the time to enjoy the bistro on the south- and west-facing deck rave about what might be one of the very best vantage points in the entire valley. Ask for wine pairing suggestions from the excellent selection of wines served by the glass or the bottle.

Continued on 38



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October 12 - December 21, 2019

Saturdays • 10am - 1pm

Creston and District Community Complex



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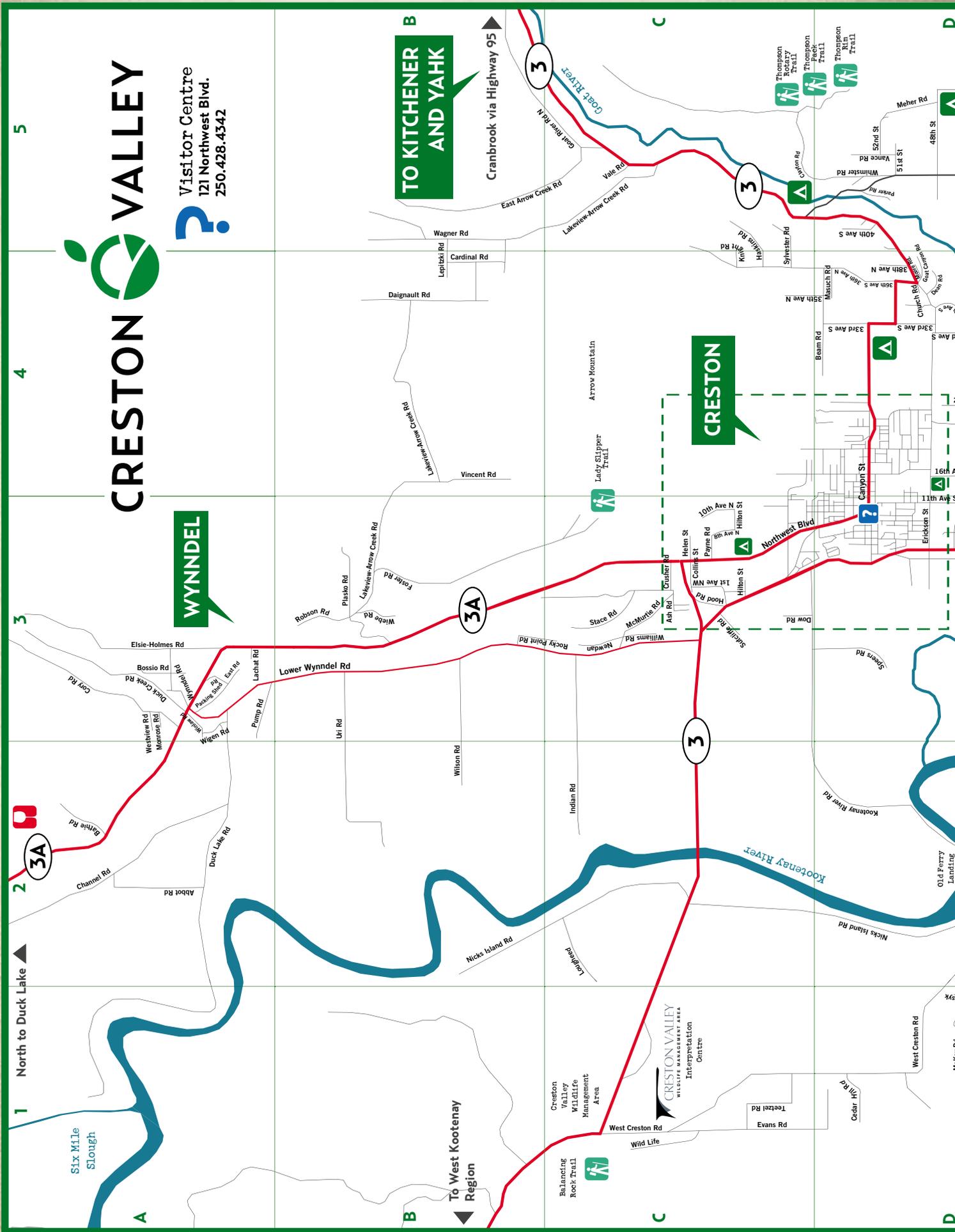
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To West Kootenay
Region

Cranbrook via Highway 95

Six Mile
Slough

Kootenay River

CRESTON VALLEY
wildlife management area
Interpretation
Centre

Creston
Valley
Wildlife
Management
Area

Wild Life

Balancing
Rock Trail

Lacey Slipper
Trail

Thompson
Rotary
Trail

Thompson
Peak
Trail

Thompson
Rim
Trail

Lacey Slipper
Trail

Arrow Mountain

Old Ferry
Landing

Nicks Island Rd

West Creston Rd

Cedar Hill Rd

Evans Rd

Teezell Rd

West Creston Rd

Spaers Rd

Church Rd

11th Ave S

11th Ave S

Erickson St

19th Ave S

33rd Ave S

35th Ave S

37th Ave S

33rd Ave S

35th Ave S

37th Ave S

40th Ave S

42nd Ave S

44th Ave S

40th Ave S

42nd Ave S

44th Ave S

48th St

51st St

52nd St

Whimster Rd

Vance Rd

Meher Rd

Parker Rd

Whimster Rd

Vance Rd

Whimster Rd

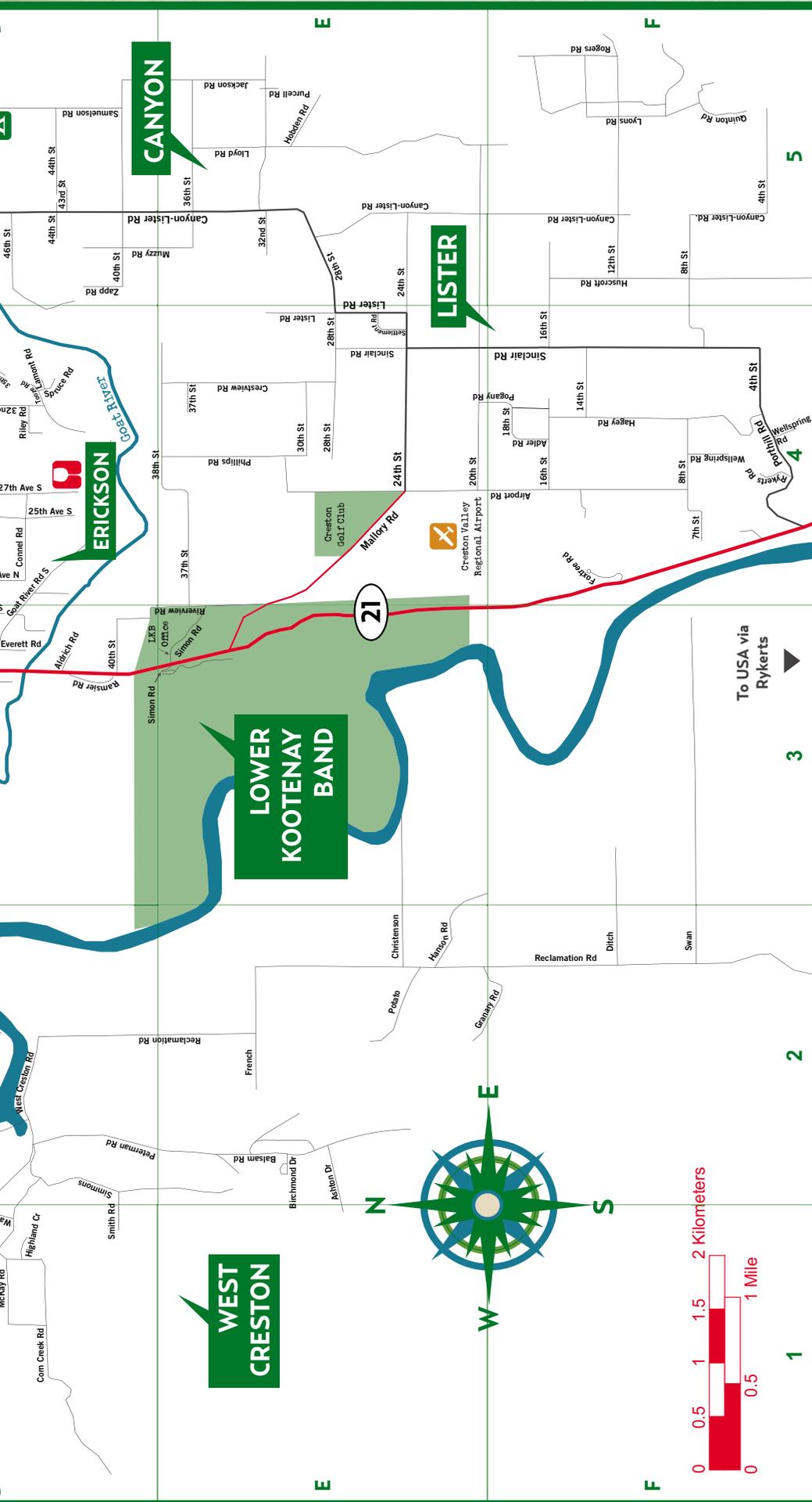
Vance Rd

Meher Rd

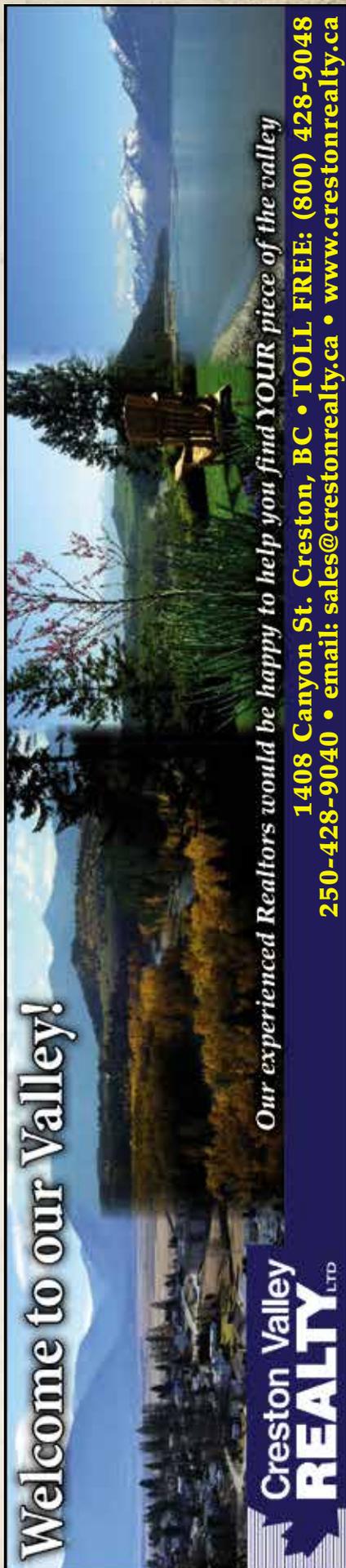
Whimster Rd

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Meher Rd



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INDEX TO THE CRESTON AND DISTRICT MAP

Within the Town of Creston, numbered avenues run north and south and named streets run east and west. Numbered avenues start at the Highway 21 municipal boundary, and Canyon Street is the north-south divider. In the Valley area north from the U.S. border, numbered streets run east and west, with named roads running north and south.

NAME	GRID						
1st Ave NW	C3	37th St	E4	Evans Rd	C1	Phillips Rd	E4
2nd Ave S	D3	38th Ave N	D4	Everett Rd	D3	Pine St	D4
3A Hwy	A2	38th St	E4	Foster Rd	B3	Pit Rd	F5
3rd Ave S	D3	40th Ave S	D5	Foxtree Rd	F4	Plasko Rd	B3
4th Ave N	D4	40th St	D3,5	French	E2	Pogany Rd	F4
4th Ave NW	D3	41st Ave	D5	Goat Canyon Rd	D4	Porthill Rd	F4
4th St	F4;F5	43rd St	D5	Goat River Rd N	C5	Potato	E2
5th Ave N	D3	44th St	D5	Goat River Rd S	D3;D4	Pump Rd	A3
5th Ave S	D3	46th St	D5	Granary Rd	F2	Purcell Crescent	D3
6th Ave N	D3	48th St	D5	Hagey Rd	F4	Quinton Rd	F5
6th Ave S	D3	51st St	D5	Hanson Rd	E2	Railway Blvd	D3
7th Ave N	C3;D3	52nd St	D5	Haskins Rd	C4	Ramsier Rd	D3
7th Ave S	D3	Abbot Rd	A2	Hawkview Dr	D3	Reclamation Rd	E2
7th St	F4	Adler Rd	F4	Helen St	C3	Regina St	D4
8th Ave N	C3;D3	Airport Rd	E4;E5	Hester Rd	C3	Riley Rd	D4
8th Ave S	D3	Alder St	D4	Hillside St	D3;D4	Riverview Rd	E3
8th St	F4;F5	Aldrich Rd	D3	Hilton St	C3	Robson Rd	B3
9th Ave N	D3	Antique Trailer Pk	D4	Hobden Rd	E5	Rocky Point Rd	D3
9th Ave S	D3	Arrowsmith Rd	D3	Hood Rd	C3	Rogers Rd	F5
10th Ave N	C3;D3	Ash Rd	C3	Hurl St	D4	Rykerts Rd	F4
10th Ave S	D3	Ash St	D4	Hurry Rd	D3	Samuelson Rd	E5
11th Ave N	C3;D3	Aspen Pl	D4	Huscroft Rd	F5	Scott St	D4
11th Ave S	D3	Balsam Rd	E2	Ibbitson St	D3	Selkirk Dr	D3
12th Ave N	C3;D3	Bathie Rd	A2	Indian Rd	C2,C3	Settlement Rd	E4
12th St	F5	Beam Rd	D4	J.R. Rd	F5	Simmons	D2
14th Ave N	C4;D4	Birch St	D4	Jackson Rd	E5	Simon Rd	E3
14th Ave S	D4	Bossio Rd	A3	Juniper St	D4	Sinclair Rd	E4;F4
14th St	F4	Canyon-Lister Rd	D-F5	Knight Rd	C4	Smith Rd	D2
15th Ave N	D4	Canyon St	D3;D4	Kootenay Pl	D3	Snider Rd	F4
16th Ave N	C4;D4	Cavell St	C3	Kootenay River Rd	D2	Speers Rd	D3
16th Ave S	D4	Cedar Hill Rd	D1	Lachat Rd	A3	Spruce Rd	D4
16th St	F4;F5	Cedar St	D4	Lakeview-Arrow Creek Rd	B3	Stace Rd	C3
18th Ave S	D4	Channel Rd	A2	Lamont Rd	D4	Sunset Blvd	D4
18th St	F4	Christenson	E2;E3	Leaning Tree Rd	F4	Sutcliffe Rd	C3
20th Ave N	D4	Church Rd	D4	Lilac St	D4	Swan	F2
20th Ave S	D4	Clayton Rd	C5	Lister Rd	E4,5	Sylvester Rd	C4
20th St	E4;E5	Collis St	C3	Lloyd Rd	E5	Teetzel Rd	C1
21st Ave N	D4	Connel Rd	D4	Lougheed	C2	Tooze Rd	D4
22nd Ave N	D4	Cook St	D3;D4	Lower Wynndel Rd	A-C3	Uri Rd	B2;B3
22nd Ave S	D4	Corn Creek Rd	D1	Lyons Rd	F5	Vale Rd	C5
23rd Ave N	D4	Cory Rd	A3	Mallory Rd	E4	Valleyview Dr	C3
24th Ave N	D4	Crawford St	D4	Maple Pl	D4	Vance Rd	D5
24th Ave S	D4	Crestview Rd	E4	Masuch Rd	D4	Vancouver St	D3;D4
24th St	E4,5	Crusher Rd	C3	McKay Rd	D1	Wasyk	D1
25th Ave S	D4	Dale St	C4	McLaren St	D4	Wellspring Rd	F4
26th Ave N	D4	Davis St	D3	McMurtrie Rd	C3	Wenger Rd	B5
27th Ave N	D4	Dean Rd	D4	Mehrer Rd	D5	West Creston Rd	C1;D1-2
27th Ave S	D4	Devon St	C3	Monroe Rd	A2	Westridge St	C4
28th St	E4;E5	Ditch	F2	Moore Rd	D4	Whimster Rd	D5
30th St	E4	Dogwood St	D4	Murdoch St	D4	Wiebe Rd	B3
32nd Ave S	D4	Dow Rd	C3	Muzzy Rd	E5	Wigen Rd	A3
32nd St	E5	Duck Creek Rd	A3	Newdan	C3	Wild Life	C1
33rd Ave S	D4	Duck Lake Rd	A1;A2	Nicks Island Rd	B2;C2	Williams Rd	C3
35th Ave N	C4;D4	Dugan St	D3	Northwest Blvd	C3;D3	Wilson Rd	B2;B3
35th Ave S	D4	East Arrow Ck. Rd	B5;C5	Osborne Rd	D5	Winlaw Rd	A3
36th Ave N	D4	East Rd	A3	Packing Shed Rd	A3	Wynndel Rd	A3
36th Ave S	D4	Elm St	D4	Parker Rd	D5	Zapp Rd	D5
36th St	E5	Elsie-Holmes Rd	A3	Payne Rd	C3		
		Erickson St	D3;D4	Peterman Rd	D2;E2		



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Every Saturday**

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Saturdays 9am - 1pm

Behind
Creston Valley Visitor Centre
Cook Street

Oct 12 - Dec 21, 2019
Saturdays 10am - 1pm
Creston and District
Community Complex

See Ad on Page 30



www.crestonvalleyfarmersmarket.ca

Creating Perfect Pairings

Wynnwood Estate Cellars, located on Highway 3A north of Wynndel is a favourite stop for vacationers from the east, and visitors will always get a warm and knowledgeable greeting from managing co-owner Dave Basaraba or his wife, Margaret. Dave is a great story teller and, we are pleased to report, he doesn't charge for his tales of the Creston Valley.

Red Bird Estate Winery, owned and operated by Remi and Shannon Cardinal, is located at 1046 Lamont Road in Erickson, and Red Bird wines have developed an enthusiastic following since it opened.

A welcome recent addition has customers talking about hard cider. William Tell Family Estate makes apple and pear versions, and a range of other non-alcoholic options, not

to mention a line of vinegar. New this year is a sparkling wine. See the displays and sample the goods at the Creston Valley Farmers' Market.

Asparagus is a notoriously challenging vegetable to pair with wine. But a little creativity in the way it's served can be gratifying, and worth the effort, too, with Sutcliffe Farms being the largest asparagus producer in B.C. We recommend grilling the tasty spears after tossing them with olive oil, salt and pepper, laying them atop a couple of slices of hearty Creston Valley Bakery's artisan bread, then slathering the works in an easy cheese sauce.

To a basic white sauce, add your favourite cheese — we are equally happy with Alpindon or Nostrala — stir until it's almost melted and quick as Bob's your uncle, you are ready to enjoy with any wine you

prefer. The addition of curry in the sauce makes it a wonderful match with Gewürztraminer. Want to make it especially suitable with a red wine? Kick it up a notch with a slice or two of crispy fried double smoked Famous Fritz bacon or one of their fabulous sausages.

Restaurant owners are thrilled to offer local products, and the Real Food Cafe, Memories of Indian Cuisine and A Break in Time Caffé have menus with tasty Creston Valley produce and meat.

A restrateur and friend provided us with the following guide to wine pairing:

Light whites: Ehrenfelser, Bacchus, Siegerrebe, Riesling, Muscat, Chenin Blanc, Chasselas, Auxerrois, unwooded Sauvignon Blanc and Viognier. Try with Asian style prawns or fish grilled on



Baillie-Grohman
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Creating Perfect Pairings

skewers, pork kebabs, or marinated grilled vegetables.

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Rich whites: Oaked Sauvignon Blanc, Meritage blends, oaked Chardonnay and reserve (oaked) Pinot Gris. Try with grilled turkey breast, coho salmon or tandoori chicken.

Rosé: Try with Italian sausages — or almost anything.

Light reds: Unoaked or lightly oaked Gamay, Pinot Noir, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Try with pork chops, game hens, lamb popsicles, mushrooms or burgers.

Rich reds: Oaked Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Meritage blends, Syrah/Shiraz, Zinfandel. Try with steak, ribs, pork tenderloin with Cajun rub or butterflied leg of lamb.



Photo © Daniel Seguin



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Wynnwood Cellars' vision is to create distinctive wines that reflect the terroir of this unique site above Duck Lake in the Creston Valley of the Upper Columbia Basin. These wines will be wines of the "first shores" as this site, according to geologists, was the original west coast of North America. Above our southwest sloping vineyard one can see remnants left by ancient oceans and glaciers. This mineral rich soil gives our wines complexity and an ethos of antiquity.

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Enjoy a Local Lunch

Planning a picnic? How about putting it together with all locally made products? Don't plan the menu just yet. Take a drive out and meet the folks who work hard to provide quality food products, and enjoy the scenery as you move around the Creston Valley.

If you are lucky enough to be in Creston on a Saturday, the obvious choice is the Creston Valley Farmers' Market (page 45). The selection is dazzling.

No visit to the area is complete without a visit to Famous Fritz Meats and Deli, where Thomas Fritz, a European-trained meat cutter and sausage maker, produces delicious European sausages, smokies, deli meat and much more, all on-site. There are fresh baked goodies, too!

Many of the shop's products are cholesterol reduced and enriched with omega-3 fatty acids. Fritz uses only the finest ingredients according to old family recipes.

Enjoy the wide variety of all-natural beef, bison and pork, much of it raised in the Creston Valley.

"Our customers love our quality and the fact that nothing gets added to our products that isn't in the original family recipes — raw spices and meat," says Fritz. "There are no fillers, no binders, no sugar or MSG added to our products, and they are gluten free, which is hard to find these days."

Your next stop might be for organic cheese from Kootenay Meadows in Lister, right in the heart of farm country. There you will find three types of alpine-style cheeses made on the organic dairy farm of Denise and Wayne Harris and family. They are also served at the Real Food Cafe, which uses as many local products as possible, including beef, pork and cherries in its cooking. Learn why the Kootenays have fallen in love with the Kootenay Meadows organic

milk products, too — everything from skim milk to heavy cream.

How about some wine to go with your purchases? Located in Erickson, the Skimmerhorn Winery and Vineyard now has more than a half-dozen vintages behind it and the accolades continue to roll in. Wines made from Pinot Gris, Ortega, Gewurztraminer, Pinot Noir and Marechal Foch grapes have proven to be popular with critics and in the marketplace.

Manager Will Coleman and his team will be pleased to offer samples of the Skimmerhorn wine lineup and talk about what makes the vineyards special. Take time to check out the Bistro menu and the views from the deck!

Right next door, Baillie-Grohman Winery produced its first vintage in 2009. Wes Johnson, the winemaker, has worked in several New Zealand wineries to broaden his experience. Sip from a selection that includes Chardonnay, Gewurztraminer, Pinot Gris, and award-winning Pinot Noir, from the winery owned by Petra Flaa and Bob Johnson. The winery offers large patios for visitors to enjoy.

Just west of Wynndel on Highway 3A, Wynnwood Cellars opened its doors to customers in 2012. The wine is made from grapes grown on a spectacular vineyard located on a rare Creston Valley slope that includes limestone, the same mineral that is found in the Bordeaux region of France. The vines benefit from the late afternoon



Creating Perfect Pairings



and early evening sun reflecting off the lake, adding to the heat units available to allow grapes to ripen to their full potential. Drop in to the winery and tasting room for a sample and the chance to chat with winemaker and vineyard managing co-owner Dave Basaraba.

William Tell Family Estate arrived in Creston in 2014. Or at least juices and ciders using his name did. William Tell old-fashioned sparkling apple and pear ciders have proven to be popular as non-alcoholic beverage choices. Fresh-tasting and reasonably priced, these bubbly turn any occasion into a celebration. The company also makes Mad Trapper old-fashioned apple cider. Now, for the first time, the Erickson juice company is producing hard cider from apple and pear juice, and they make a great alternative to wine and beer. Relatively low in alcohol, hard cider is sure to kick up any local lunch!

In Erickson, Red Bird Estate Winery offers white wines made from the vines on site, and a luscious Heritage red blend from

grapes purchased in the Okanagan Valley.

Fruits and vegetables can be found all around the Creston Valley; just take a drive through Erickson and stop in at one or more of the many lovely fruit stands.

Then make a final stop at one of two local bakeries.

The Golden Flour Bakery on Canyon Street is another place where local flour is turned into local bread. Owners Bill and Liza Thorne have established their bakery as a “must go” destination since opening in 2015. The journeyman bakers turn out a wonderful selection of fresh baked goodies for all to enjoy, and gluten-sensitive shoppers will be delighted at what they find.

Creston Valley Bakery where owner Yuri Jmaeff and his team turn out a dizzying array of baked goods, including a selection of unique artisan breads.

For beer fans, most licensed restaurants offer a selection of Labatt products, including made-in-Creston brews like Kokanee.

Drop into Tigz Designs on Canyon Street for a great selection of gift baskets, many of them featuring the local products mentioned here. It is also the home of Tigz Tea Hut, where more than 250 varieties of loose-leaf teas are sold, as is tea-to-go.

The Creston Valley Farm Fresh Guide features many fine food producers and related organizations with farmgate or market garden sales. Produced by the Creston Valley Food Action Coalition, which promotes the access to and consumption of locally grown foods, it can be found on pages 36 and 37.



DAY HIKES

in the Creston Valley



MAP KEY

- Main Roadway
- Secondary Roadway
- Rivers
- Cycling Routes
- Hiking Trails
- Point of Interest
- Kayak/Canoe Launch
- Vineyards
- Brewery

HIKING & CYCLING ROUTES

Visitor Centre

Visit the Visitor Centre at 121 Northwest Blvd for in-depth maps, descriptions, and advice from our knowledgeable staff.

Balancing Rock Trail:
 Distance: 3.4km
 Time: 2 hours
 Elevation Gain: 220m

Fern Forest Trail:
 Distance: 3.2km
 Time: 1.5 hour
 Elevation Gain: 262m

Ladyslipper Trail:
 Distance: 4.8km
 Time: 3 hours
 Elevation Gain: 400m

Town Walking Trails:
 Distance: 1.6km
 Time: 20 minutes
 Maintained/Paved

Thompson Pack Trail:
 Distance: 3.5km (round trip)
 Time: 4.5 hours
 Elevation Gain: 520m

Thompson Rim Trail:
 Distance: 7.4km
 Time: 5 hours
 Elevation Gain: 150m

Thompson Rotary Trail:
 Distance: 3.3km
 Time: 1.5 hours
 Elevation Gain: 310m

CVWMA Dike Trails:
 Distances from 1km - 8.5km
 Time: 20 minutes - 4 hours

For more Trails and Lake Access information, visit:
www.crestonvalleytrails.ca
www.crestonvalleybc.com
www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca
www.crestoncommunityforest.com

Hiking, Biking & Hunting

The Great Outdoors

Many locals will admit that hiking in the Creston Valley is one of their favourite pastimes — one that everyone should experience. Not only does it promote good health, but it's also a great social activity. Difficulty levels vary, but it's easy to find an outdoor experience suitable for almost everyone.

"I like taking to the trails here because they offer a wide variety of landscapes, wildlife and serenity, as well as various levels of ease or difficulty," says naturalist Ed McMackin, who writes an outdoors column in the Creston Valley Advance. "People will find a trail here to suit any level of ability and

time available.

"There are trails from level to steep, and from short to long. Some are best for viewing wildlife while others are interesting for their historical value. There are many trails away from the noise of traffic, which can be enjoyed without driving long distances to reach them. There are organized hikes so people don't have to hike alone, making hiking a social and safe experience."

Here are a few local favourites:

- **Balancing Rock Trail.** Ten minutes west of Creston, this is one of many trails on Mount Creston. It takes about 30 minutes to climb the winding trail, parts of which are quite

steep. Balancing Rock (hikers will understand the name when they see it) sits atop a ledge overlooking the Creston Valley and Purcell mountain range. A small pullout on West Creston Road, near its

intersection with Highway 3, serves as a parking area.

From Balancing Rock, the trail leads west into the woods where hikers experience marshes filled with giant-leafed skunk cabbage and cool, fern-covered forest floors. Where the trail forks on a wooden bridge, heading left takes hikers on a very steep hike a few kilometres farther on the Creston Mountain Trail to enjoy spectacular panoramic views from the mountainside. The trail to the right winds its way along the Fern Forest Trail down the other side of the ridge and into the former Summit Creek Park campground.

- **Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area.** The trails weaving through the CVWMA (page 28) are open year-round, even when the Wildlife Interpretation Centre is closed. From Highway 3 west of Creston, turn onto West Creston Road and drive to the parking lot on the left. The trails are well-marked and easy to find on maps posted in the area.

- **Lady's Slipper Trail.** This trail is a delight from spring through fall,





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The Great Outdoors

with brilliant shows of wildflowers, including orchids, dotting the path on Arrow Mountain (a.k.a. Goat Mountain to the locals), which provides a backdrop to Creston's townsite. Best of all, the easily accessible trail starts out only a few minutes' drive northwest from town. From Creston, follow Highway 3A north, then turn right onto Lakeview-Arrow Creek Road. Follow this road to Foster Road, then continue straight onto the BC Forest Service road and follow it for about six kilometres until a parking lot.

- **Mount Thompson.** To access the top of the mountains overlooking Creston to the east, head east on Highway 3, then turn right onto Canyon-Lister Road. After crossing the bridge, turn left on Whimster Road and follow it to a forestry road (suitable only for high-clearance or 4x4 vehicles). The trailhead for the Thompson Pack Trail and Thompson Rotary Trail is located at 2km on the forestry road. At 3.5km, there is a second trailhead for the Rotary Trail. Continuing along the winding forestry road for another 8.5km will take you to the top of Mount Thompson; here you will find the Thompson Rim Trail or enjoy a picnic with a panoramic view of the Selkirk Mountains to the west and south, and the Purcell Mountains to the east.

- **Billy Goat Bluffs.** Turn off Highway 3 on the west side of Creston onto Helen Street and watch for the trail head sign on the left. The trail, constructed by the Creston Community Forest organization, takes a winding and often steep

route to a forest service road. The up-and-back hike offers a good 5.3 km workout.

- **Lockhart Creek.** This trail is located about 45 minutes north of Creston on Highway 3A at Lockhart Beach Provincial Park. The first seven kilometres of the trail — maintained by the BC Forest Service and the Lockhart Creek Heritage Committee — are suitable for beginning hikers, while advanced outdoors enthusiasts can continue to the 2,134-metre summit. The park offers treed campsites, and picnic tables and a beach are located across the highway near the trailhead.

- **Pilot Bay Lighthouse Trail.** Near the Kootenay Bay Ferry Landing, just over an hour north of Creston on Highway 3A, turn onto Pilot Bay Road. After 4.5 kilometres, a sign reading "Lighthouse Trail" will alert drivers to pull well off the road, or park a short distance away at a circular turnaround. At the end of the 15-minute walk along the trail is the Pilot Bay Lighthouse, which operated from 1904-1993, and is now maintained by the Friends of West Kootenay Parks.

- **Ripple Ridge.** Get a taste of the alpine on this popular two-hour hike that starts with a half-hour drive west on Highway 3 to the summit at Kootenay Pass. Drive to Stagleap Provincial Park and Bridal Lake, then hike south for 2.5 kilometres if you want a true mountain experience.

- Mountain biking is also popular, and many local bikers enjoy frequenting the numerous logging roads in the area. For bikers who prefer the open road, the Wynndel loop (Highway 3A and Lower Wynndel Road), the Canyon-Lister loop (Highway 21, Canyon Lister Road and Highway 3) and the West Creston loop (Evans Road, West Creston Road, Nick's Island Road and Highway 3) are popular. An interactive cycling map is online at

www.selkirkloop.org

- Fishing and hunting are also popular pastimes, and the Creston Valley is the place to make these outdoor dreams become reality.

Duck Lake is famous for bass fishing — and ice fishing in the winter — and Kootenay Lake is the place for rainbow trout, Dolly Varden and kokanee. And the seemingly endless streams and alpine lakes in the Kootenays certainly make fly fishing a viable option.

The Creston Valley has some of the Kootenays' best big game hunting, and the marshland on the flats is a prime location for setting up blinds and decoys to hunt waterfowl.

To hunt or fish, a valid licence is required, and it's best to inquire at Sirdar General Store, Wynndel Foods or the Service BC office on Canyon Street for more details. Wynndel Foods offers much of the necessary equipment, as does downtown Creston's Mawson's Sports, founded in 1918.

- Be careful and plan ahead. As with any outdoor recreational sport, using common sense is very important. Comfortable and sturdy footwear is a necessity — hiking boots give you more protection than do running shoes. This is especially true if your trek takes you in the mountains and wilderness.

While in the great outdoors, be wary of bears, both grizzly and black. Visiting www.bearaware.ca is the best way to find information on dealing with the creatures.

For information about many other hiking trails and recreation areas, drop into the Visitor Centre at 121 Northwest Blvd., where knowledgeable staff will be pleased to provide suggestions, directions and material to send you on your way to an outdoor experience, Creston Valley style.

From Farm to Table

Creston Valley Farmers' Market

From a modest beginning 14 years ago, the Creston Valley Farmers' Market has grown stronger and bigger, with booths offering fruit, vegetables, honey, baking, wine, jam — everything you might expect

to find at a farmers' market — and more, from locally-written novels to woodcarving to artwork to live music.

The market goes are plentiful, with attendance at the weekly Saturday market averaging 1,300 during the

summer months. And the average of about 40 vendors per week — 125 individual vendors over the season — keeps customers coming back for more.

The farmers' market continues to grow year after year, cultivating new vendors and customers, growing existing vendors product lines, and strengthening community bonds. We are seeing more young families shopping at the market, often with multiple generations wandering the market together. It's the Creston Valley's best entertainment on Saturday mornings: Get there early to the market, grab a local breakfast sandwich and coffee, chat with friends, grab this week's groceries and listen to the music.

The market is co-ordinated by the Creston Valley Food Action Coalition, which took over from the Creston Rotary Club — it having taken over from volunteers — in 2010. It runs Saturdays from May through September behind the Creston Valley Chamber of Commerce, and indoors weekly October through December, with monthly markets January through April, making it a year-round market.

Half of the vendors sell farm and food products, often for a better price than grocery stores, proven by comparisons of both a basket of produce and a side of beef.

With rising food costs becoming a bigger concern in people's lives, shopping in season at farmers' markets is a surefire way to stretch the grocery budget.



Photo © Brittany Tilling





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Canvas, Page & Stage

Artistic Expression Abounds

Creston Valley residents hardly bat an eye when they learn a newcomer is an artist. The area is a cultural magnet to artists skilled in a wide variety of disciplines.

“The strong presence of arts in the valley can be attributed to a committed group of artists who devote energy and resources to their craft, and to a community that values this expression and economic activity,” says a former Community Arts Council of Creston president. “From the petroglyphs on Kootenay Lake to modern abstract work, artists have always strived to record, inform and inspire. The arts are important because whether we are dancing or singing, painting or sewing, artists are creating a portrait of the ideas and beliefs of our culture.”

If there is a common thread to the many attributes of the Creston Valley, it is the diverse creativity of its residents. It is especially evident among the area’s hundreds of artists and craftspeople.

Both art lovers and those simply curious can drop by to see the creations of dozens of artists in businesses and galleries from Yahk to Kootenay Bay. More than two dozen galleries welcome visitors to see paintings of every description, pottery and ceramics, beadwork, fabric art, candle making, ironwork, blown and stained glass, and even straw brooms. Kunze Gallery, in the annex beside the grain elevator on Northwest Boulevard features, works by owner Sandy Kunze and the incredible granite sculptures

of Stewart Steinbauer, along with many other local artists. It is not to be missed.

A huge bronze casting of the legendary sasquatch, created by Canyon artist Karl Lansing, can be seen at Columbia Brewery on Erickson Street. Appropriately, the eight-foot high creature is making off with a case of Kokanee beer.

Movie fans will enjoy the chance to see first run films at the Tivoli Theatre, a cinema with an old-time feel — but with an upgraded sound system and the ability to show 3D films.

Top-notch live entertainment is brought in from out of town by the Creston Concert Society, which organizes an annual subscription series of visiting professional



Artistic Expression Abounds

entertainment in the Prince Charles Theatre, a 330-seat venue attached to Prince Charles Secondary School.

Audiences have enjoyed over 75 Footlighters Theatre Society productions — comedies to thrillers, musicals to plays, concerts to Shakespeare — since its creation in 1995. The 25th season opens at the Prince Charles Theatre in late November with the stage adaptation of the Irving Berlin musical *White Christmas*. The season will continue in the spring of 2020 with a special event — still in the planning stages — to celebrate the troupe’s silver anniversary.

“For a small community, the Creston theatre scene is incredibly vibrant,” says Footlighters president Brian Lawrence. “Over the course of a season, we can have as many as 70 people onstage, with countless others helping behind the scenes.”

For over 25 years, audiences have enjoyed hearing the Blossom Valley Singers, now under the direction of Anita Stushnoff. The group presents two concerts each year, one in the spring (accompanied by a tea) and one in December.

“The annual spring tea is a light-hearted entertainment featuring delectable desserts, comedy moments, interesting choral pieces and guest entertainers,” says

Stushnoff. “The annual Christmas choral concert is a sparkling production with dazzling stage sets, big choral numbers, favourite Christmas carols, sweet lyrical moments with the children’s choir, the bright sounds of trumpets, and an array of featured instrumentalists.”

Art of the written sort is everywhere, too. Many visitors will be familiar with the poignant and humorous series of books by a bestselling author/veterinarian, the late and lamented Dr. Dave Perrin. Writer/teacher Luanne Armstrong writes fiction and non-fiction, much with a focus on her life in the Kootenays.

Valerie Comer’s *Raspberries and Vinegar* — the first in a Christian romance series — earned her a Word Guild Award. In 2017 Tom Lymbery, the well-known proprietor of Gray Creek Store on Highway 3A, released his second memoir about growing up on Kootenay Lake. Tom’s *Gray Creek* is a treasure for history buffs. Last year, Creston born-and-raised Tanya Lloyd Kyi released the young readers’ novel, *Prince of Pot*.

Works by many other local writers — in genres from biography to fantasy to romance — are available at Creston bookstores and at the Gray Creek Store.



Photo © Daniel Seguin



Photo © Daniel Seguin

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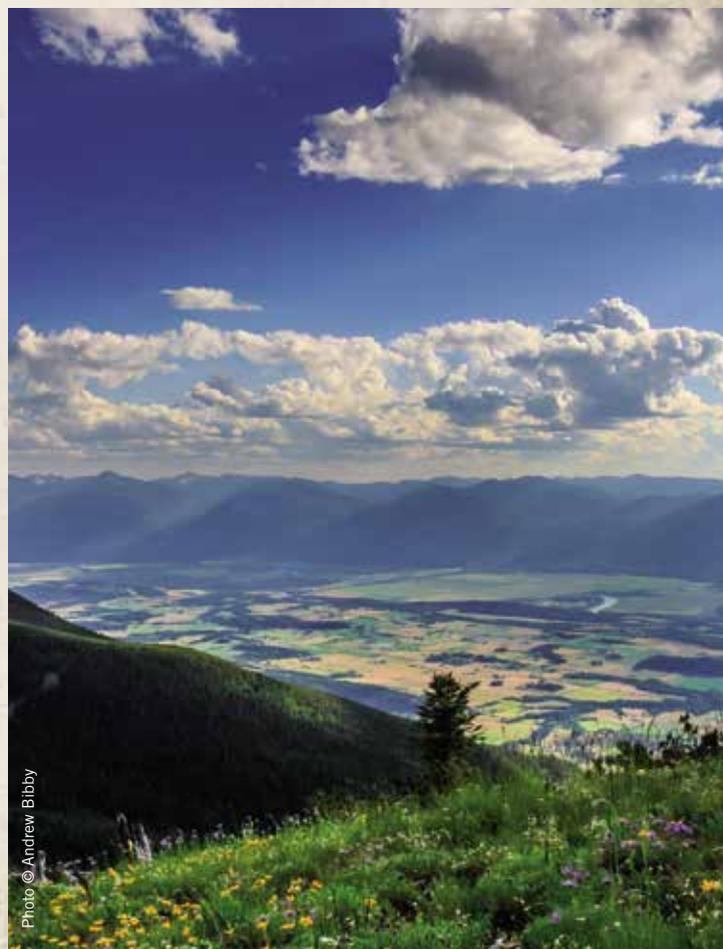


Simone Wiebe in *Oklahoma!* (2018)

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Much More Than Books

Creston Valley Public Library

Going into its 99th year of operations, Creston Valley Public Library is one of the Creston Valley's most beloved institutions, and is the community's hub of information sharing in all of its forms.

With over 40,000 books and magazines, free community meeting spaces, public access computers, Wi-Fi access, and regular workshops and programming for all ages, the library is the cultural and intellectual hub of the community.

The library's focus extends well beyond books, with an extensive collection of digital magazines, ebooks and streaming movies available, as well as public internet stations and iPads. Free Wi-Fi is available 24/7, and a Creativity Zone provides access to a 3D printer and music recording and video editing facilities. Low-cost scanning, printing and faxing is also available.

Every Saturday, the library has extra staff on hand to assist with computer issues, whether you need help with downloading ebooks or Skyping with family, the staff are ready to help.

Visitors are always welcome at the library, whether to attend library events, make use of library resources, or



just cool down on a hot day. The beautifully-maintained "Lawrence Lavender Reading Garden" provides a wonderful respite from the excitement of summer adventures. Out-of-town visitors can even borrow books to enjoy on their travels.

Members of libraries across BC have full access to collections free of charge, just as if you lived here. You can even return books you borrowed here to your home library, or anywhere else in BC that your travels take you.

For those who want to dig into local history and culture, Creston Valley Public Library has probably the largest collection of books on Creston and area history available anywhere. The library will purchase virtually every book published by local authors, and also provides a perfect gathering place for authors to hold readings and book signings.

In collaboration with the Community Arts Council of Creston, the library displays works by local artists throughout the year, and are very proud to provide a venue for local artists to display their works.

More traditional library programming hasn't been forgotten, with Baby Goose (ages 0-18 months) running every Friday year round at 10:30 a.m. and Family Storytime on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Summer Reading Club is offered during July and August for school-aged children, and out-of-town guests are always welcome to take part in the fun.



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1 Province, 2 States, 1 Loop

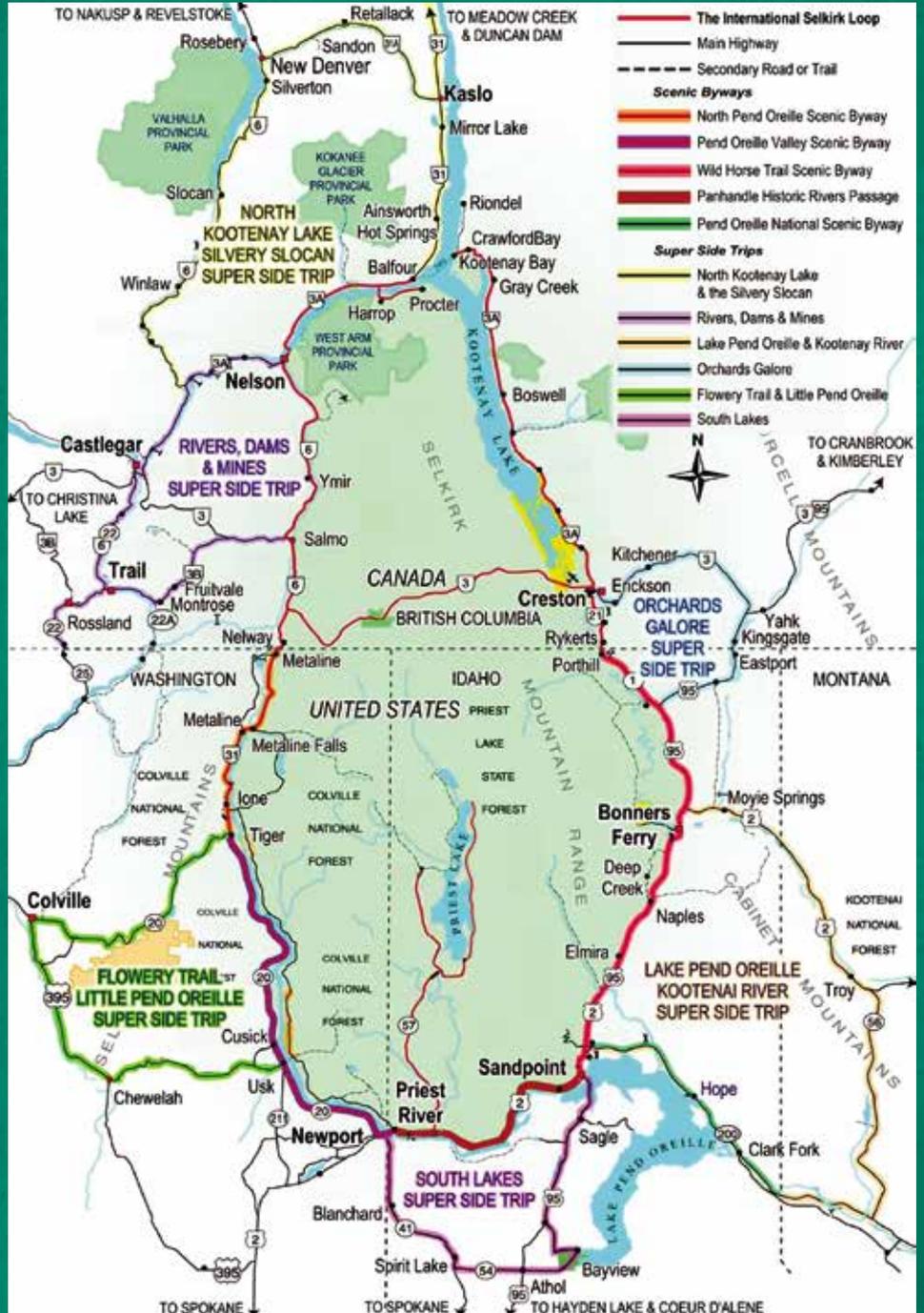
International Selkirk Loop

Since it was formed in 1999, the International Selkirk Loop has promoted in touring opportunities that connect Canada and the United States. The loop entices thousands of visitors and local residents to enjoy the scenery and towns in two states and a province, and to celebrate the close ties between neighbours on both sides of the border.

Marvel at the awesome beauty around every corner of the International Selkirk Loop, a 450-kilometre (280-mile) scenic drive encircling the spectacular Selkirk Mountains in northeast Washington, northern Idaho and southeast British Columbia. Play on the loop's crystal clear rivers and lakes, or traverse its mountain trails to view snow-capped peaks and the extraordinary variety of wildlife. Explore charming communities with fascinating history, fun festivals and picturesque settings.

Nearly the entire loop route follows rivers and lakeshores — creating great winding rides for motorcyclists — on roads that were historically used for transportation by First Nations tribes, explorer David Thompson, gold seekers on the Wild Horse Trail and early settlers. Today, the loop's lakes, rivers and trails are a vast uncrowded playground with a myriad of opportunities for year-round recreation, scenic beauty and unique cultures.

The loop is one of only 32 All-American Road National Scenic Byways in the U.S., and is one of the top 10 scenic drives in the Northern Rockies. Rand McNally Road Atlas



cited the ISL as one of its top five best roads.

Explore the International Selkirk Loop and discover the wonderful

surprises that await you around every corner! For more information and driving, cycling and birding maps, visit www.selkirkloop.org.

Public Art

Taking art to the outdoors



Photo © Andrew Bibby

In the years since the Creston Valley Public Art Connection Society was formed, the small group's impact on Creston's downtown core is clearly evident. From the Pine Street intersection along Canyon Street to 16th Avenue, sculptures have been installed to create visual interest for pedestrians.

It all started with a pitch to Town Council by the co-ordinator of Castlegar SculptureWalk, and the first sculptures were the result of the resulting partnership. Two of the original sculptures, Bad Hair Day (in the Rotary Park beside Creston Valley Bakery and Zodiac Totem (in front of Creston Valley Realty) remain.

Others have since been added, and CVPAC is now focusing on encouraging local artists by putting out a call for proposals.

Requirements for public art are different from what most artists are used to. Scale is important, because the pieces are intended to be seen from a distance and need to stand out in their environment. Most encourage viewers to touch them, too.

"And they have to be durable—they need to stand up to weather for many years," Bruce McFarlane, one of society's founders, says.

The call for expressions of interest adds more detail. It asks for "artists that have the experience to develop, create, fabricate and deliver appropriate scale expressions of their creative medium for display in an outdoor environment, and who have the necessary financial resources to complete the project within the required timeline."



Photo © Lorne Eckersley

New in the Creston Valley

What's been going on while you were away?



Photo © Andrew Bibby

With an influx of younger families choosing the Creston Valley as home, change seems to be happening at a quicker pace. It doesn't take much of an effort to see the changes, either. From new construction to new businesses to rebranded grocery stores, the evidence is in plain view.

In March of 2018, the Regional District of Central Kootenay announced it has been successful in getting a Federal Tax Grant for \$3.25 million to construct a multi-use park adjacent to Creston & District Community Complex. While a new skate park will be the focus, the hillside development will also include beach volleyball, bocce and basketball courts, new horseshoe pitches and a family-friendly design that will attract locals and visitors alike.

On Canyon Street, the gorgeous red brick and granite exterior renovations are complete at the former Kootenay Hotel, and Casey's Community House opened last spring, just in time for the 2018 Blossom Festival.

At 1821 Canyon Street, Mulder's fine family dining has been a welcome addition to the local restaurant scene. A couple of blocks to the west, kitty corner from Jimmy's Pub, is a large new building that is home to Creston's largest liquor store. A new treat has opened in the Magnuson Hotel at 800 Northwest Boulevard, with Red Fin Sushi & Grill giving sushi lovers a local option. And another restaurant is slated to open in the Creston Valley Mall this year.

On 10th Avenue North, construction is now complete at

Trinity United Church, part of which was destroyed by a fire 2015.

A wide, graveled walking trail constructed by the Creston Rotary Club now connects the north part of 16th Avenue North with Devon Street, and another addition was completed last year, connecting Devon Street with Payne Street. Further to the west, Creston Community Forest has built a trail that connects Helen Street to the Goat Mountain Forest Service Road, which leads to the popular Lady-slipper Trail.

Less noticeable—and definitely not open to the public—is a medical marijuana production facility in West Creston, which began harvesting early in 2018. Applications for cannabis retail shops are in the works. Creston Valley Cannabis Company will open April 20, 2019.

To Yahk & Back

Small but Unforgettable

A visit to Yahk is the perfect way to relax. The Moyie River burbles softly and the forest smells fresh — and you can enjoy the ambience without a lot of other distraction.

The fact that it's not a bustling metropolis is what draws thousands of tourists each year. Its quaintness and small-town friendliness are welcomed by many big-city visitors — and even some rural ones.

Just down the street — actually, Johnson Road — is Two Scoop Steve. New this year is the Yahk Mountain Café, featuring soups, sandwiches, and assorted treats. There is also the Coffee Cabin,

which offers the best ice cream and coffee in Yahk. While sipping a cup of joe or licking a scoop, a stroll to the Moyie River is a must. Visitors simply wander behind the shop and follow the signs through the forest.

Or visit the Yahk Soap Company, which offers bath products made with a goat-milk base. But they aren't the only unique things about the business — the goats on the roof are also a popular attraction.

A nine-hectare provincial park is located at the heart of Yahk, with 26 campsites available from the Victoria Day long weekend through Sept. 30. And RV sites are perfect

for non-tenters.

For those who don't like to camp, Yahk has two motels — one of which, built in 1912, still operates under its original licence — and the small settlement even has a laundromat for visitors' convenience.

To top it all off, the residents of Yahk really know how to have a good time. The community hosts an annual Winterfest and Summerfest, both of which feature seasonal games and fantastic food, with music jams and concerts in between, at the Yahk-Kingsgate Community Hall, which offers a pavilion in the woods for music acts.



Photo © Andrew Bibby

Explore the East Shore

Taking the Lake Road

Located about 25 kilometres below the southern tip of Kootenay Lake, Creston is the perfect starting point for a variety of daytrips — which should definitely include a tour north along Highway 3A, a drive that offers far more than breathtaking scenery. Resorts, beaches, art galleries and artisan shops can be found throughout the journey, which takes just over an hour — if you can possibly keep from stopping.

Ten minutes north of Creston on the way to Kootenay Lake is Wynndel, a small community

strongly rooted in agriculture. Once one of Canada's largest fruit producers, the community now has smaller farms growing strawberries, raspberries and saskatoons.

Wynndel is home to Sutcliffe Farms, operated by Doug Sutcliffe, grandson of Roy Staples, the mastermind behind the dike between Creston and Wynndel, which keeps the spring freshet from flooding the prime agricultural land on the Wynndel flats. The farm is the largest asparagus producer in the province, turning out about 150,000 pounds each season from April to June.

Wynndel Craft Distilleries on Channel Road is known for locally sourced, locally made brandy, schnapps, gin and liqueurs. Wynndel Foods & Outdoors is a not-to-be-missed stop, where

outdoors enthusiasts stop for gas, supplies, bait, advice and a chance to shoot the breeze with the locals.

While passing through Wynndel, one can't help but notice the Wynnwood sawmill — now owned by Canfor Corporation — which was started as Wynndel Box and Lumber sawmill by Monrad Wigen in 1913 to build crates for Wynndel's then-thriving strawberry business.

Farther north is the hamlet of Sirdar. Locals and visitors alike were pleased last year to see the reopening of Sirdar Station Pub, which offers a good selection of pub food and libations, and puts a big emphasis on live music.

A bit past Sirdar, a visit to the Glass House is a must. Although the area is filled with unique architecture, the Glass House is the most unusual — its walls were made from over 500,000 empty embalming fluid bottles by David H. Brown upon his retirement from his funeral business. Guided tours are available seven days a week from May through October.



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Taking the Lake Road

The small community of Kuskonook (or Kuskanook, depending on your preference), offers southern Kootenay Lake's main boat access. The harbour is supported by membership, but public launch passes can be purchased at Wynndel Foods.

Continuing north on Highway 3A brings travellers to the Destiny Bay Store, a convenience store that marks the halfway point of the trip from Wynndel to Kootenay Bay.

Destiny Bay Resort offers lakefront rental cottages and guest rooms. Licensed dining is available by reservation.

Travelling still farther north brings visitors to Gray Creek. For over 100 years, the Gray Creek Store has been the small community's one-stop shop, with everything from books to boots and candy to wood stoves. Arthur Lymbery started the store in 1912; the current owner is his

son, Tom Lymbery, an octogenarian who is always happy to talk about the community's history. Lymbery's two-volume Tom's Gray Creek, his memoirs about growing up on the shores of Kootenay Lake, are a treasure for history buffs.

Gray Creek is also the starting point of a forestry road that connects to Kimberley — although you'll need a high-clearance vehicle to get through and take in the rarely seen alpine scenery. Watch for a sign indicating the start of section of The Great Trail that connects Highway 3A to Crawford Bay.

From Gray Creek, it's only a hop, skip and a jump to Crawford Bay, home to more than a dozen artisan shops, including a blacksmith, a broom maker and a wood carver. None of them are in competition — in fact, they enjoy having each other nearby.

"One thing I really enjoy about

being here is the camaraderie," says Janet Wallace, who runs Barefoot Handweaving in a straw-bale building. "I can hear the forge, I can hear others working. If I really feel like being inspired, I just go over and watch them getting a buzz on about what they're doing."

Visitors — and locals, too — also get a kick out of the rare opportunity to see so many artisans hard at work.

"People are just astonished," Wallace says.

Add to the mix pubs, restaurants, Kootenay Lake, hiking and Sunny Woods Hydroponics & Garden Supply, and you have a recipe for a great rural getaway.

"We have so many amazing things to do that I find people are staying, which is nice," says Wallace. "There's enough to do now that people will come for the day."

Across Highway 3A and slightly west of Wallace's shop is the home of



Photo © Andrew Bibby

Taking the Lake Road

North Woven Broom Co. The popular shop's products have been used as props or set dressing in such films as *Bewitched*, *The Assassination of Jesse James* and *Shanghai Noon*, on TV series including *Star Trek: Enterprise*, *Lonesome Dove* and *Road to Avonlea*, and on Broadway in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

The best-known brooms created by the shop — which Luke Lewis took over from his aunt and uncle, Rob and Janet Schweiger — were promotional items for the Canadian publisher of *Harry Potter* and the *Order of the Phoenix* and *Harry Potter* and the *Deathly Hallows*.

North of Crawford Bay and a few minutes off Highway 3A is the Yasodhara Ashram, a world-renowned yoga retreat and meditation centre, with its world-renowned temple rising on the site of a 2015 fire. It is even more spectacular than the original. A bit farther is the community of Riondel, where you'll find the Circle of Friends Artisan Shoppe, a non-profit venture that provides gallery space for East Shore artists' paintings, fabric, soap, musicians' CDs and books.

Ten minutes north of Crawford Bay is the Kootenay Lake ferry landing, which is serviced by the M.V. Osprey 2000 and M.V. Balfour, which were launched in 2000 and 1954, respectively. Although the Osprey 2000 can carry more than twice the capacity of the Balfour, both vessels are capable of taking aboard semis, logging trucks and RVs.

Be sure to arrive in plenty of time in the busy summer months, as waits of several sailings are common. But once you get on, enjoy the trip — the longest free ferry ride in the world — as you prepare for the next adventure!



Kootenay Lake Ferry

(The longest free ferry ride in the world!)



KOOTENAY BAY TERMINAL

Vessel	Summer	Winter
Osprey 2000	7:10 AM	7:10 AM
Osprey 2000	9:00 AM	9:00 AM
Osprey 2000	10:40 AM	10:40 AM
M.V. Balfour	11:30 AM	
Osprey 2000	12:20 PM	12:20 PM
M.V. Balfour	1:10 PM	
Osprey 2000	2:00 PM	2:00 PM
M.V. Balfour	2:50 PM	
Osprey 2000	3:40 PM	3:40 PM
M.V. Balfour	4:30 PM	
Osprey 2000	5:20 PM	5:20 PM
M.V. Balfour	6:10 PM	
Osprey 2000	7:00 PM	7:00 PM
Osprey 2000	8:40 PM	8:40 PM
Osprey 2000	10:20 PM	10:20 PM

WINTER SCHEDULE:
January 1 - June 17,
September 10 - December 31
(Pacific Time)

SUMMER SCHEDULE:
June 18 - September 9
(Pacific Time)

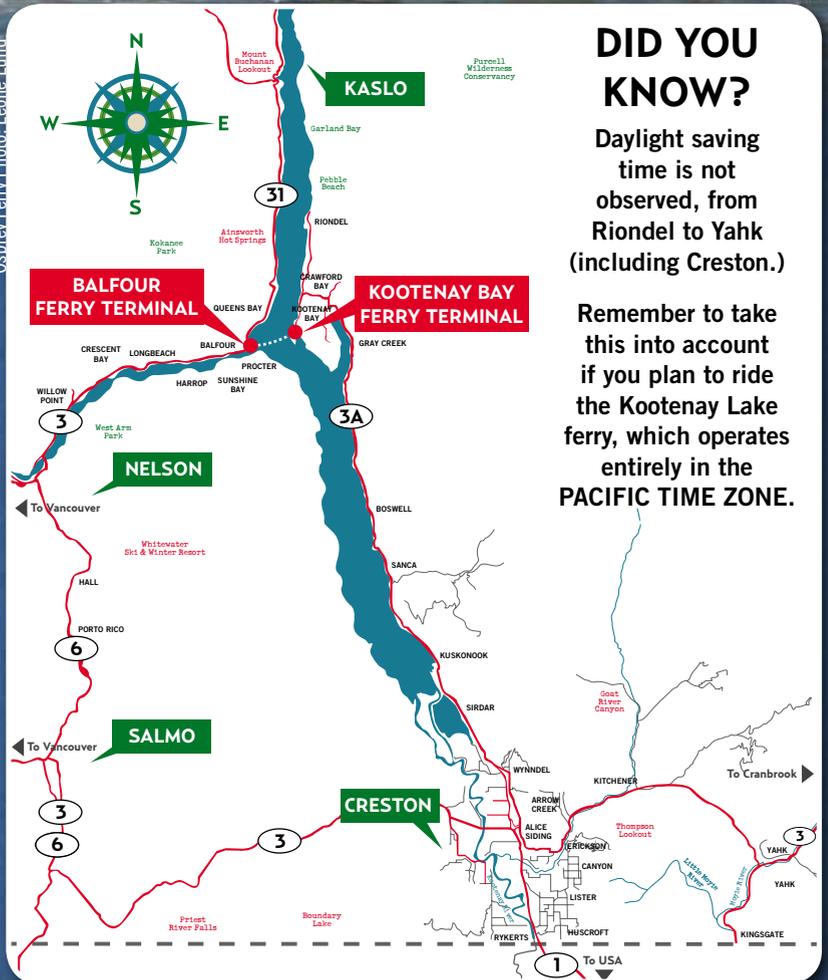
*Anticipate Delays during peak times
between 9am - 7pm daily.*

FOOD SERVICES: Beverages & snacks are
available on the MV Osprey 2000 only.

BALFOUR TERMINAL

Vessel	Summer	Winter
Osprey 2000	6:30 AM	6:30 AM
Osprey 2000	8:10 AM	8:10 AM
Osprey 2000	9:50 AM	9:50 AM
M.V. Balfour	10:40 AM	
Osprey 2000	11:30 AM	11:30 AM
M.V. Balfour	12:20 PM	
Osprey 2000	1:10 PM	1:10 PM
M.V. Balfour	2:00 PM	
Osprey 2000	2:50 PM	2:50 PM
M.V. Balfour	3:40 PM	
Osprey 2000	4:30 PM	4:30 PM
M.V. Balfour	5:20 PM	
Osprey 2000	6:10 PM	6:10 PM
Osprey 2000	7:50 PM	7:50 PM
Osprey 2000	9:40 PM	9:40 PM

Osprey Ferry Photo: Leone Lund



DID YOU KNOW?

Daylight saving time is not observed, from Riondel to Yahk (including Creston.)

Remember to take this into account if you plan to ride the Kootenay Lake ferry, which operates entirely in the PACIFIC TIME ZONE.

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FARM FRESH RIPENING DATES

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All dates are approximate depending on weather.

Vegetables

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Carrots	July 15 - Sept
Potatoes	July 25
Tomatoes	August 10
Peppers	August 1
Pickling Cukes	August 10
Table Cukes	August 10
Corn	August 15
Squash	Late Sept
Pumpkins	Late Sept

Pears

Bartlett	Sept 1
D'Anjou	Sept 30

Early Fruits

Strawberries	June 20 - July 10
Raspberries	July 10 - July 31
Blackberries	July 10 - July 31
Cherries	July 20 - August 25
Blueberries	July - August
Saskatoon Berries	First week of July

Soft Fruits

Apricots	July 20 - August 12
Peaches	August - Sept. 15
Plums	August 15 - Sept. 15
Italian Prunes	September 10
Grapes	September 20

Apples

Transparents	July 25 - August 7
Wealthy (pies)	August 15 - Sept. 15
Sunrise	August 20
Tydeman Red	September 1 - 15
McIntosh	September 15
Spartan	October 1
Delicious	October 7

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

10-DIGIT DIALING- The Creston Valley and surrounding areas are serviced by the 250 area code. When placing a call, all 10 digits of the number must be dialed.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance/Fire/Police	911
Creston Valley Hospital	250.428.2286
Poison Control Centre	1.800.567.8911
BC Nurse Line (24-hour health information)	1.866.215.4700
Crisis Line	1.800.353.2273
Report a Forest Fire	1.800.663.5555/ Cell *5555

INFORMATION FOR DRIVERS

DriveBC road information	1.800.550.4997/Cell *4997
Creston Radio	Juice FM 94.1
BCAA Emergency Road Service	1.800.CAA.HELP, (1.800.222.4357)/ Cell *222
ICBC Dial-A-Claim (24-hour)	1.800.910.4222

TOURIST INFORMATION

Kootenay Lake Ferry	250.229.4215
Creston Visitor Centre	250.428.4342
Tourism BC	1.800.HELLO.BC (1.800.435.5622)
Conservation Officer (fish & wildlife permits)	250.428.3220

CLOSEST CANADA/US BORDER CROSSINGS

RYKERTS BC/ PORTHILL IDAHO	13km (8 miles) south of Creston Hours: 7am to 11pm (winter time differences* mean winter hours on the BC side are 8am-12am)
KINGSGATE BC/ EASTPORT IDAHO	48km (30 miles) east of Creston Hours: 24 hours/7 days a week

*Creston Valley is on Mountain Time in winter and Pacific Standard Time in summer. Idaho is on Pacific Standard Time all year.

Artists on Display

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The project, which resumes construction in spring of 2019, consists of a world class skatepark with 10,000 square feet of innovative functional spaces that skateboarders, BMX riders and scooter riders will enjoy. Other proposed features (see conceptual drawings below) would include an accessible walkway and seating area for spectators and a picnic/civic space with seating for social and community gathering and celebrations. Other features could include a revitalized natural playground area, upgraded beach volleyball courts, pickleball courts, a multisport area, upgrades to lighting, landscaping, parking areas and pathways. Improvements to the hillside park area will further add to the amenities that the Award Winning Creston & District Community Complex currently provides to the residents and visitors of the Creston Valley.

CRESTON COMMUNITY PARK



EAST VIEW



SOUTH VIEW



NORTH VIEW



EAST VIEW OF SKATE PARK

CRESTON VALLEY

van der Zalm + associates



Growing Together



**Creston & District
Community Complex**

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For more info: email: crestonrec@rdck.bc.ca • www.rdck.ca

The project is being funded through the Federal Gas Tax Fund, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities in partnership with the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.