

Invest Creston Valley

The Creston Valley, with a population of approximately 15,000, is the best kept secret of the Kootenays! Nestled between the Purcell and Selkirk Mountains, the Creston Valley has a moderate climate with spectacular mountain views surrounded by expanses of wilderness.



opportunity

- home of the world famous Columbia Brewery, manufacturer of Kokanee beer
- Garden Capital of the Kootenays with Lapin cherry harvest shipped worldwide, cherry and apple juice processing and an organic cheese factory
- the area boasts a number of emerging wineries
- growth sectors include agriculture, value added wood products, manufacturing and secondary processing, tourism, arts & culture, and health services

lifestyle

- world-renowned bird sanctuary featuring 17,000 acres of protected wetlands and more than 265 bird species
- year-round activities including cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, boating, hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, and swimming
- championship golf course, community recreation complex, and numerous events embracing agricultural a Aboriginal heritage, and other arts & cultural events

InvestKootenay.com

where opportunity meets lifestyle.

Investment Success



Just south of Creston, Al and Marleen Hoag recently opened Skimmerhorn Winery, the eastern-most winery in British Columbia. The Hoags were orchardists from 1984 until 2005 and decided they needed a change. They reasoned that if soft fruits and apples did well in the Creston Valley, wine grapes would also. After finding a good site (a former orchard), the Hoags planted 14 acres to establish a vineyard and winery. They harvested a small crop of grapes in 2005 and sold the Gewurztraminer and Pinot Gris to Columbia Gardens.

Skimmerhorn - Creston Valley's first winery

In 2006, with the assistance of a Geisenheim-trained winemaker named Mark Rattray from New Zealand, they harvested their first crop and produced seven wines. They entered five of these wines in the "All Canadian Wine Championships", three came home with medals: the commendable 2006 Pinot Gris won silver, the 2006 Pinot Rose' won Bronze and the 2006 Pinot Noir also won Silver, after their first year of production. These awards demonstrated to the Hoags that they were on the right track. Along with winemaker, Mark Rattray and chef, A.K. Campbell, the Hoags are now successfully producing cool-climate wines and welcoming visitors to their 1940's inspired Bistro and shaded patio for tastings and lunch.

Kootenay Lake Log Structures

The opportunity to operate our handcrafted log home company from Creston has worked extremely well for us. Being a well established company we have seen markets changing and at times rapidly, requiring constant adjustment and rethinking of company goals. Diversity says it all for our location situated immediately north of the U.S. border for easy exporting, a location that is in the heart of a recreation area that is being discovered at an alarming rate by our baby boomers, and of course being only hours from the strong Alberta market.

The primary component of the log home industry is quality timber which is also abundant in the area and readily available. We work closely with the community forest program in Creston and rely heavily on them as well as our prime contractor Polzin. We have a deep resource pool which we rely on for all aspects of labour and equipment needs. The majority of the regular employees are trained by Ken Bredt as they enter the log home industry and most of these employees are deeply rooted in the valley and for obvious reasons love where they live. KLLS is a long term member of the international log building association, is recognized and well known throughout North America, and has developed working relations with customers from around the world over the past twenty years.

