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Issue 32

June 2011

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CBT's Water Smart Program Connecting With Residents

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Twelve communities employing Water Smart Ambassadors this summer

Water Smart Ambassadors are now in 12 communities across the Basin, educating residents about water conservation and offering free residential landscape and irrigation system audits.

The Columbia Basin Water Smart Initiative (Water Smart), developed by CBT, helps local governments assess their water conservation needs and develops plans to reduce community water consumption. Through Water Smart, 22 participating local governments recently completed community specific Water Smart Action Plans, most of which identified outdoor irrigation in the summer months as one of the highest water uses in the community.

To effectively address this high outdoor water use, CBT developed the Water Smart Ambassador program in collaboration with participating Water Smart communities.

“The Water Smart Ambassadors will actively support residents by providing site specific recommendations to help them reduce their outdoor water use,” said Kindy Gosal, CBT Director, Water and Environment.

From May to August, Water Smart Ambassadors will be carrying out residential irrigation audits and promoting water conservation awareness and education. To schedule a free residential audit, contact your local participating community at their municipal office.

City of Castlegar
City of Fernie
City of Kimberley
City of Rossland
District of Sparwood
Town of Creston
Town of Golden
Village of Fruitvale
Village of Montrose
Village of Valemount
Village of Radium Hot Springs
Regional District of Central Kootenay -Erickson

“The Village of Valemount Water Smart Action Plan states that the revitalization of the water conservation program is the number one objective and the Water Smart Ambassador program is the most important step in meeting this goal,” said Tom Dall, CAO, Village of Valemount. “Valemount’s summer ambassador is already beginning to work with residents and businesses in the community to assist in meeting our target of a 20 per cent reduction by 2015.”

“The Villages of Fruitvale and Montrose are carrying out a joint Water Ambassador program and we are sure that our residents will appreciate the value of this conservation program and make excellent use of the information and services available to them,” said Lila Creswell, CAO, Village of Fruitvale. “Columbia Basin Trust is a valued resource and partner in water conservation initiatives in the Beaver Valley.”

“We are so pleased to be involved with the Water Smart Initiative and encourage all residents to participate and find out more about how they can save water and make a difference,” said Dee Conklin, Mayor, Radium Hot Springs.

The goal of Water Smart is to reduce community water use across the Basin by 20 per cent by 2015. Each community determines its own local water conservation target that will contribute to the overall Basin-wide target. Learn more at www.cbt.org/watersmart.



CBT Contributes \$20,000 to Centre 64 in Kimberley

Monday, June 13, 2011

CBT contributed \$20,000 to the Kimberley Arts Council (KAC) Centre 64 expansion project in Kimberley. Kimberley has a strong arts-orientated community, and the expansion of the centre will greatly benefit not only the city, but surrounding communities as well.

Centre 64 is a great asset to the residents of Kimberley and a great venue for showcasing the many talented individuals we have in this area," said Carrie Schafer, CBT Community Liaison. "We are honoured to help enrich the arts community in Kimberley and in all areas of the Basin."

CBT's support will be used toward the costs of purchasing the land adjacent to Centre 64. Learn more about the expansion project and Centre 64 at <http://www.kimberleyarts.com/index.htm>.



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Carrie Schafer, CBT Community Liaison, with members of the Centre 64 Building Expansion Committee: Steve Waterhouse, Carol Doyle, Jane Hayes, Carol Fergus and Don Seaton.



Paddlers Recreate Historic Columbia River Trip

Friday, May 27, 2011

Celebration of David Thompson's efforts supported by \$29,500 contribution from CBT

A brigade of voyageur canoes were welcomed into Invermere on June 3, 2011, as the start of a celebration of explorer David Thompson's historic route to the Pacific Ocean. Over 150 paddlers are taking part in the 1,600-kilometre journey from Invermere to Astoria, Oregon, during the **2011 David Thompson Columbia Brigade**, funded in part by a \$29,500 contribution from CBT.

In 1811, fur trader, explorer, surveyor and mapmaker Thompson reached the Pacific Ocean, adding the Columbia River as the final leg of the fur trade highway between Montreal and the Pacific. Recreating his efforts will take 43 days, and will wrap up on July 15, 2011—exactly 200 years to the day from the date Thompson arrived after travelling and surveying the remaining sections of the lower Columbia River.

“The brigade will reconnect Basin residents with the Columbia River while celebrating 200 years of history and trade,” said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. “Residents along the route, from Invermere to the U.S. border, will have the opportunity to enjoy this colourful display of Basin history brought to life, while an educational experience will be provided for communities en route.”

The launch event occurred at Kinsmen Beach in Invermere on the afternoon of June 3, with Māori and Aboriginal performers. Events also took place on June 5 at Wasa, Bummer's Flats and Fort Steele as well as a plaque unveiling with the International Boundary Commission at the Canada/U.S. border on June 7. The brigade is passing through a total of 30 communities.

To complement the journey downriver, brigade organizers are developing resources such as a geocache project, educational materials and activities, a documentary video and hand-painted community banners.

“Canada is a nation built on rivers and lakes. These were the first highways, the heritage corridors of trade and exploration,” said Ross MacDonald, Committee Lead of the brigade. “The brigade validates our collective ties to the water and landscapes of the Columbia Valley, reminding us that we are as much residents of the watershed as that of our respective communities.”

Learn more about the 2011 David Thompson Columbia Brigade, and track its daily progress, at www.2011brigade.com.



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Eleven voyageur canoes recreate explorer David Thompson's route from Invermere to Astoria, Oregon, between June 3 and July 15, 2011, celebrating its 200th anniversary.



Learn More About the Columbia River Treaty

Friday, June 17, 2011

CBT co-hosts information sessions in Valemount

CBT, in partnership with the Village of Valemount, is hosting information sessions on the Columbia River Treaty (CRT) on Monday, June 27, and Tuesday, June 28.

“These upcoming community events will help people who live in the Columbia Basin better understand what the CRT is, how it works and what is being considered for the future,” said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO.

The CRT is an international agreement between Canada and the United States to coordinate flood control and optimize hydroelectric power generation on both sides of the border. Under the 1964 treaty, three dams were constructed in Canada, including Mica Dam, which created Kinbasket Reservoir. A fourth dam, Libby Dam, was constructed in Montana.

The year 2024 is the earliest date either Canada or the U.S. may unilaterally terminate the current treaty, provided a minimum of 10 years’ notice is given in 2014. While no decision has been made by either Canada or the U.S. on the future of the current treaty, given the importance of the issues, and the approaching date of 2014, both countries are now conducting studies and exploring future options for the CRT.

“CBT does not make decisions with respect to the CRT. Our role is to act as an information resource for Basin residents and local governments in the Canadian portion of the Columbia Basin,” said Muth. “CBT is also working with provincial and federal government agencies to provide advice on meaningful consultation with Basin residents related to the CRT.”

To fulfill this role, CBT is preparing resource materials and organizing Basin-wide information sessions on the CRT. Working with the Village of Valemount, CBT staff will be in town next week to kick-start local education and awareness building around the CRT. The information session will feature experts from across Canada on the CRT and international water management.

“Having people with this much knowledge about the current treaty come to Valemount is an excellent opportunity for all of us to learn more, talk with experts, and our neighbours, about something that has influenced this region for decades,” said Bob Smith, Mayor, Village of Valemount

Area residents are invited to the following information sessions at the Best Western Hotel in Valemount:

Monday, June 27

Open House: 2 to 7 p.m.

Free BBQ and Open House: 5 to 7 p.m.

Presentation: 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 28

Open House: 2 to 8 p.m.



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Mica Dam was the last of three dams constructed in Canada under the 1964 Columbia River Treaty. It created the Kinbasket Reservoir. Photo Credit: William D. Layman photo, courtesy of Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center.

RELATED ITEMS

[PDF](#) [Columbia River Treaty Brochure \(1.18 MB\)](#)

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CBT Welcomes Three New Summer Students

Monday, June 20, 2011

CBT would like to welcome three summer students joining them this summer.

Aita Bezzola is a returning summer student working in the Water and Environment department out of CBT's office in Golden.

Aita will be graduating from McGill University in December 2011, where she will receive her Bachelor's Degree in Geography and Biology. She was born and raised outside of Golden, BC, where she returns every summer to get her river and mountain fix, as well as to continue spreading roots for the future.

"Having the chance to return to CBT this summer is a beneficial opportunity for me. It is great to have a job related to my academic interests, while still coming back to a small town, and learning about the environmental issues, research, and opportunities in the Basin."

Allison Zoobkoff has joined CBT in the Castlegar office as a summer student Communications Coordinator.

Allison is currently enrolled in the Business Administration program at Selkirk College where she is working on receiving her diploma in Business Administration. After completing her diploma, she plans to attend university where she will obtain her Bachelors of Commerce degree.

"I am honoured to have the opportunity to work with CBT this summer. This experience provides me with a richer knowledge of the Basin Area, and the importance of working with communities to accomplish great things, all while gaining experience in the world of business."

Amelia Andrews has joined CBT in the Castlegar office as a summer student working in the Community Engagement department.

Amelia will be entering her third year at the University of Victoria, where she is majoring in Human Geography. She was born and raised in Castlegar, and has spent most of her life travelling through, and taking advantage of all the things that the Columbia Basin has to offer.

"I am looking forward to having an awesome summer working with CBT. This will allow me to pursue my interests in the connections between the people and their environment that I know and love!"



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Aita Bezzola

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Community Engagement Team Connecting With Basin Residents

Monday, June 20, 2011

CBT's Community Liaisons actively promote and educate residents about the work of CBT, address requests for CBT support and assist with community development in their areas.

Not all communities are the same, so CBT plays a variety of roles in the region. Whether at a town meeting, an arts council, a social planning network or over coffee in the kitchen, CBT is interested in meeting and working with the many communities that make up the Columbia Basin.

CBT's Community Engagement team includes five Community Liaisons who work out of each of the Golden, Cranbrook, Nakusp and Castlegar offices, and a Director of Community Engagement.

To learn more about CBT or to connect with a Community Liaison, visit www.cbt.org/workingwithus, and connect with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ColumbiaBasinTrust.

You can also connect with a Community Liaison by visiting your local CBT office, phoning 1.800.505.8998 and asking for your local liaison or emailing your liaison at:

South Central Basin, Jennifer Krotz: jkrotz@cbt.org

Southeast Basin, Carrie Schafer: cschafer@cbt.org

Northeast Basin, Katherine Hamilton: khamilton@cbt.org

Southwest Basin, Rona Park: rpark@cbt.org

Northwest Basin, Lynda Lafleur: llafleur@cbt.org

Director of Community Engagement, Gary Ockenden: gockenden@cbt.org



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CBT's Community Engagement team connects with Basin residents and communities.





Columbia Basin Watershed Network

Introductory Course on Mapping Applications in Watershed Planning

The Columbia Basin Watershed Network (CBWN) in partnership with the Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre (SGRC) is pleased to offer an introductory course on Mapping Applications in Watershed Planning to Columbia Basin Watershed Network members and groups.

The training course will introduce GIS and Google Earth and its applications for watershed groups. The second day will focus on GPS and options for web based mapping tools. No GIS experience is necessary but basic computer familiarity is expected (ideally using a PC).

When: June 23 and June 24, 2011

Where: Selkirk College, Castlegar Campus

Time: Thursday, June 23: 12:00pm - 4:30pm
Friday, June 24: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Who: Open to Columbia Basin Watershed Network members and groups
(20 people maximum on a first come first serve basis)

How: Register online at:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cbwngsrc>
or contact Karen Nickurak at: cbwatersheds@gmail.com

AGENDA:

Day 1: Watershed Mapping: An Introduction to GIS and Google Earth

- 12:00 – 12:10 **Welcome and Introductions**
Karen Nickurak, CBWN
- 12:10 – 12:30 **An introduction to GIS and how can it be applied to Watershed Planning**
Ian Parfitt, SGRC Coordinator
- 12:30 – 1:00 **Case Study**
Unconfirmed
- 1:00 – 2:45 **Google Earth Part 1: Learning the basics of how to use including how to add data**
Chris Gray, Selkirk Instructor and Kristen Milburn, SGRC Coop Student
- 2:45 – 3:00 **Break**
- 3:00 - 4:30 **Google Earth Part 2: Creating tours/fly-thru's and time animated layers and sharing Google maps content**
Chris Gray and Kristen Milburn

Day 2: GPS and Web Based Mapping Tools

- 9:00 – 9:30 **Watershed Planning applications**
Frank Fowler, Selkirk Instructor
- 9:30 – 10:00 **Introduction and orientation to recreation GPS units and data (Garmin)**
Chris Gray
- 10:00 – 11:00 **Using GPS: Navigation and Data Collection. This session will use GPS outside.**
Chris Gray and Kristen Milburn
- 11:00– 11:15 **BREAK**
- 11:15- 12:30 **GPS and Mapping Integration**
Chris Gray
- 12:30 – 1:30 **LUNCH**
- 1:30 – 2:15 **GIS - Overview of available free and online tools**
Chris Gray and Kristen Milburn
- 2:15-2:50 **GPS and GIS data integration**
Chris Gray
- 2:50 – 3:00 **Wrap-up**
Karen Nickurak

The CBWN is a water stewardship initiative
proudly supported by CBT

