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March 2012

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Attend our

CBT Board Meeting

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Non-profit organizations wishing to apply for Enterprising Non-Profits social enterprise grants must attend a workshop. The next two in the Basin are in

March 23: [Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Programs Application Deadline](#) (Regional District of Kootenay Boundary)

March 23 to 24: [CBT Board of Directors Meeting](#) (Fairmont Hot Springs)

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April 4: [CBT Summer Student Administrative Assistant Application Deadline](#)

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**New: CBT's
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2014/15
Service
Plan**



\$1 Million Earmarked for Columbia Lake Conservation

Monday, March 05, 2012

CBT backs the Nature Conservancy of Canada's plan to conserve Lot 48

CBT is pleased to announce it has committed \$1 million to the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) to go toward the conservation of Columbia Lake – Lot 48.

Located on the east shore of Columbia Lake, approximately five kilometres south of Fairmont Hot Springs, Lot 48 is 127 hectares of ecologically and culturally important private property sandwiched between protected areas and Crown land.

"CBT encourages long-term stewardship of the Basin's natural assets, which is why we're pleased we can provide support toward the conservation of Lot 48," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "The purchase will not only help preserve the ecological and cultural values of Lot 48 itself, but of the entire east side of Columbia Lake."

Columbia Lake and its shoreline hold great spiritual significance to the Ktunaxa Nation. The area features as the cradle of human life in the Ktunaxa Creation Story, and, for thousands of years, the Ktunaxa used the area as a transportation route to the prairies and built villages and camps there. They held ceremonial events there, plus harvested salmon, hunted game and gathered food in the area. Archaeological evidence remains, including pictographs and burial sites.

"The east side of Columbia Lake is an integral part of Ktunaxa history," said Kathryn Teneese, Ktunaxa Nation Chair. "It is the foundation of the Ktunaxa Creation Story, and has been used by our people for thousands of years."

"Lot 48 is a significant piece of the cultural landscape of that area. The Ktunaxa Nation supports all efforts to conserve this area for future generations, and we would like to commend Columbia Basin Trust and the Nature Conservancy of Canada for their work and dedication to this common goal."

The property is bounded by Columbia Lake Provincial Park, the Columbia Wetlands Wildlife Management Area and the East Side Columbia Lake Wildlife Management Area.

"Lot 48 is the last remaining unprotected parcel in a larger mosaic of protected lands, forming an essential contribution to a larger landscape," said Linda Hannah, BC Regional Vice President, NCC. "Conserving this parcel will create an unbroken network of protected lands that will span more than 7,600 hectares."

The area is home to mixed forests and grasslands that provide habitat for rare and endangered animal species like badgers, flammulated owls and grizzly bears. In addition, endangered plant communities like bluebunch wheatgrass and junegrass thrive on the land. Plus it provides valuable winter range for ungulates like bighorn sheep and elk.

"With this contribution CBT has provided foundational funding that takes us significantly closer to realizing our goal of conserving Lot 48 for now and forever," said Hannah.

The entire cost of conserving Lot 48, including setting up a stewardship endowment, will come to \$7.2 million. CBT is one of several confirmed funders; NCC is in the process of confirming other contributions in order to complete the purchase.

NCC is a national non-profit, non-advocacy organization that works to protect Canada's most ecologically significant and threatened habitat. Learn more at

www.natureconservancy.ca or call 1.800.404.8428.



[Click to Enlarge](#)

Looking out toward Columbia Lake from Lot 48. Photo courtesy of Nature Conservancy of Canada.



Affordable Seniors' Housing Under Way in Nelson

Friday, February 10, 2012

Construction is now under way at Anderson Gardens, a new 33-unit affordable housing development for seniors and persons with disabilities in Nelson funded by the governments of Canada and British Columbia along with community partners.

"Our Government is investing in affordable housing here in Nelson to help create jobs and improve the quality of life for those seniors who need it most," said the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages and Regional Minister for British Columbia, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). "This initiative will help people in our community access safe and affordable housing that meets their needs."

"The Province values the importance of providing seniors affordable housing options that allow them to remain in the community they know and love," said Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy and Mines and Minister Responsible for Housing. "The apartments at Anderson Gardens offer seniors in need and people with disabilities quality, affordable housing that they can truly call home."

Through an amendment to the Canada-British Columbia Affordable Housing Agreement, the federal and provincial governments contributed a combined total of approximately \$3 million for the construction of 20 seniors' apartments within the 33-unit Anderson Gardens project.

The Province of British Columbia also invested over \$3.2 million toward the development of the remaining 13 apartments and provided the land valued at \$675,000. Columbia Basin Trust will provide \$150,000 in equity and the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia will contribute \$175,000 for the project. The Canadian Mental Health Association – Kootenays Branch will provide \$250,000 toward this development.

"Columbia Basin Trust wants to help communities assist their vulnerable residents in finding safe, supportive and affordable housing," said Neil Muth, President and CEO, Columbia Basin Trust. "This project is one way we can do that, and we were pleased to provide \$150,000 to help house seniors and persons with disabilities in Nelson."

"The project partners had a shared vision of building more affordable homes for local seniors," said Jack Wong, CEO of Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia. "By creating more housing options for people who need them, Anderson Gardens will realize this vision and contribute to a more sustainable community."

The Canadian Mental Health Association – Kootenays Branch will manage and operate Anderson Gardens. Incorporated in 1994, the Canadian Mental Health Association – Kootenays Branch is a non-profit organization committed to raising awareness and promoting the mental health of all people through the provision of services, programming, advocacy and public education.

"This development provides Nelson seniors with quality, affordable housing, but more importantly it gives them peace of mind that their housing needs are met so they can focus on things that matters most to them," said Wally Eddy, Board Chair, Canadian Mental Health Association – Kootenays Branch. "I would like to thank all partners involved and I eagerly look towards the opening."

The Seniors' Rental Housing initiative was a result of a \$365-million joint investment under an amendment to the Canada-British Columbia Affordable Housing Agreement, which included funding through Canada's Economic Action Plan and by the government of British Columbia. This initiative, initially announced by the two levels of government on April 8, 2009, provided \$123.6 million, including \$104 million for seniors and \$19.6 million for persons with disabilities, to develop approximately 1,300 new affordable rental housing units, which is helping to stimulate local economies in smaller communities across B.C. Under terms of the agreement, the provincial and federal governments provided matching contributions of \$61.8 million.

Canada's Economic Action Plan built on the Government of Canada's commitment in 2008 of more than \$1.9 billion, over five years, to improve and build new affordable housing and help the homeless. It provided \$400 million, over two years, to build new rental housing for low-income seniors. Overall, the Economic Action Plan included \$2 billion for the construction of new and the renovation of existing social housing, plus \$2 billion in low-

cost loans to municipalities for housing-related infrastructure.

A new agreement signed in July 2011 by both orders of government confirms B.C.'s allocation of the remaining three years of the \$1.9 billion, which amounts to a further \$90 million in federal funding for British Columbians in housing need. With the provincial contribution of \$90 million in matching funds, there is a combined investment of \$180 million to support housing programs that help B.C. residents access safe, affordable housing.

For more information on this and other measures in Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit: www.actionplan.gc.ca.

To find out how CMHC is working to build stronger homes and communities for all Canadians, call CMHC at 1 800 668-2642 or visit: www.cmhc.ca/housingactionplan.

Over the last decade, the Province has invested \$2.8 billion to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals, seniors and families. This year, more than 95,000 B.C. households will benefit from provincial social housing programs and services. To find out more, visit: www.bchousing.org.



Local Community Hall to Become More Accessible and Eco-friendly

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Crescent Valley washroom renovations supported by CBT

Since 1959, users of the Crescent Valley Community Hall—previously the local elementary school—have been using the same aged, cramped washrooms. This will change once renovations are complete, thanks to \$15,277 in support from CBT. The project is being spearheaded by the Crescent Valley Hall Society, which manages and maintains the hall.

The main goals of the renovation are to make the washrooms environmentally friendly and accessible to everyone, including people in wheelchairs. For example, low-flush toilets and motion-sensing light and fan switches will be installed. To allow universal access, a hot water tank will be relocated and entry doors and vanities will be replaced.

"Once renovations are complete, the washrooms will be in compliance with current design standards for both energy efficiency and universal access," said Lynda Lafleur, CBT Community Liaison. "We're pleased that this will make the hall more usable."

The hall was an elementary school until 1978, when it was donated by the school board to the community. Since then it has been used by many different groups, as well as individuals, for various purposes. It also currently houses the Sequoia Learning Centre, which provides lifelong learning programs to a range of community members.

"By providing space to everything from dance classes, to weddings, to government elections, the hall has been an asset at the heart of our community for over 50 years," said Phil Chernenkoff, Crescent Valley Hall Society. "Upgrading the washrooms to current standards allows us to demonstrate leadership in our community with regard to environmental and universal-access building design."



Film Collection on BC Environment to Be Preserved

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

UBC Library welcomes extensive collection thanks to Columbia Basin Trust support

One of the largest private film collections in Canada, which provides a fascinating document of rural BC, will be housed and preserved by **UBC Library** thanks to a generous donation from the Halleran family and the support of community partners including CBT.

The Halleran Collection, valued at \$750,000, consists of about 250 nature-oriented video programs produced in British Columbia over the decades, first by Mike Halleran and then by his son Terry.

These shows, known collectively as the Westland series, were broadcast by the Knowledge Network from 1984 to 2007. They examine a broad range of issues associated with forestry, freshwater fishing, endangered species and ecosystem restoration. The donation also includes an extensive library of 2,000 source tapes.

Terry Halleran donated the bulk of the collection to UBC Library, and the remainder was purchased. Halleran was introduced to the Library by Don Laishley, a UBC alumnus and member of the Library's Advisory Board.

"We took a lot of pride in what we did. It wasn't always easy, but we believed in environmental education," said Halleran. "UBC Library was the obvious choice for us, considering the long-standing relationship between our series and the expertise UBC faculty and students brought to the table."

Halleran notes that the Westland programs have been used as teaching tools in classrooms at UBC and elsewhere since the 1980s. The programs also feature some former UBC faculty members.

"We anticipate that with increasing interest in natural resource management, environmentalism and sustainability, this collection will be of considerable interest to a variety of researchers at the University and the broader community," noted Chris Hives, University Archivist.

CBT is providing \$100,000 to support the acquisition and digitization of the Westland series tapes.

"We're delighted to contribute toward preserving the collection and making it available to all to study, reflect on and simply appreciate," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "Thanks go to UBC for organizing this and to Terry Halleran for donating a huge portion of the collection."

Other community partners that provided funds to support the purchase of the collection include the Okanagan Region Wildlife Heritage Fund Society, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

Halleran would like to recognize the Kootenay Wildlife Heritage Fund and the British Columbia Conservation Foundation for their support with the preservation and management of the Westland series in advance of its transfer to UBC. University Archives staff have begun preparing an inventory to enable access to the Halleran Collection.



CBT Rewards Students for Community Service

Thursday, March 01, 2012

Sixty-six \$2,000 CBT Community Service Awards available

CBT is accepting applications for two of its community service award programs. Valued at \$2,000 and based on volunteer service rather than academic standing, there are up to 66 awards to be given out.



[Click to Enlarge](#)

College of the Rockies nursing student
Melissa Monsen.

College Community Service Awards (CCSA) are intended to benefit Basin college students who plan to further their education. Youth Community Service Awards (YCSA) are given to graduating high school students. Deadlines are March 15 and April 13. More details can be found online at www.cbt.org/programs.

One of last year's CCSA recipients spoke of the benefit to her family: "I am very grateful to receive this award from Columbia Basin Trust. I am a single mother of two, and a full-time nursing student. The award is a great help to my family, and is very much appreciated," said Melissa Monsen, nursing student at the College of the Rockies.

"CBT is happy to reward and encourage volunteerism in the region while also providing financial assistance to students," said Wayne Lundeberg, CBT Director, Youth Initiatives. "Communities are strengthened as a whole and residents benefit individually."

Twenty-one awards are offered to Basin residents attending Selkirk College, College of the Rockies and the Revelstoke Centre of the Okanagan College for their use at a college or university of their choice.

Forty-five awards are offered to high school grads from a Basin high school, alternate school or other institution that grants Ministry of Education-recognized grad diplomas.

CCSA applications are available at each college and online at www.cbt.org/ccsa. The College of the Rockies deadline is March 15, 2012; the Selkirk College deadline is April 13, 2012; and the Revelstoke Centre of the Okanagan College deadline will be announced soon.

YCSA applications are available at local high schools and online at www.cbt.org/ycsa. Applications must be submitted by April 13, 2012, to the public senior secondary high school where the applicant resides.

For more information on the award or application process, contact Michelle d'Entremont at mdentremont@cbt.org or 1.800.505.8998.



Waneta Expansion Project Reaches Milestone

Monday, February 13, 2012

Powerhouse excavation complete

Partners in the Waneta Expansion Project—Fortis Inc., Columbia Power Corporation, and Columbia Basin Trust—are pleased to announce a major milestone has been reached with the completion of powerhouse excavation.

The contractor, SNC-Lavalin Inc., has been working hard to complete excavation in the powerhouse area so construction of the powerhouse can begin.

In total, approximately 230,000 cubic metres of overburden and 141,000 metres of rock were removed (loading more than 50,000 trucks) and quarried within seven kilometres of the site. The rock will be available for reuse in future highway and other infrastructure projects in the area.

"Completion of the excavation at the powerhouse site is a significant milestone in the construction of this \$900 million project," said Audrey Repin, spokesperson for the Waneta Expansion Project. "Over one year into the project, the owners are pleased with the progress and appreciate the efforts of each and every person working to make the project a success."

The viewing area across Highway 22A has been temporarily closed due to slippery conditions, but will reopen so the public can safely view the project once conditions improve. The owners thank the contractor for constructing this viewing area, which has seen heavy traffic since opening last summer.

Early this year, the project will see the completion of tunnel and intake excavation, the assembly and installation of the travelling form for the tunnel linings and continued concrete work in the powerhouse and service bay areas.

The project is focused on a high standard of safety, quality and environmental protection and is committed to delivering local benefits. Currently, more than \$72 million has been injected into the local economy through the purchases of goods and services, and there are over 200 employees working directly on the project. Of these, 80 per cent are local and 11 per cent are self-identified in equity groups. The \$900-million project is expected to provide \$200 million in wages and benefits and the equivalent of more than 400 jobs during its construction.

The Waneta Expansion Project is a partnership between Fortis Inc., Columbia Power Corporation and Columbia Basin Trust. For more information, visit

www.columbiapower.org/wanetaexpansion.

