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BASINLink

Issue 42

May 2012

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Read the latest [SCRATCH magazine](#), a forum for Basin youth to share their artwork,

photography, writing and ideas.

Get Involved

May 24 to 26: [British Columbia Community Forest Association Conference and AGM](#) (Kaslo)

May 24: [Enterprising Non-Profits Deadline](#)

May 24/25: [CBT Board of Directors Meeting](#) (Castlegar)

May 28 to 31: [Behavioural Support Conference](#) (Cranbrook)

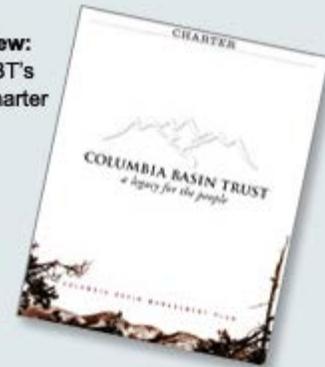
May 28 to June 3: [Bike to Work Kootenays Week](#)

May 30: [Affordable Rental Housing Initiative Deadline](#)

June 8 to 10: [BC Lake Stewardship Society Conference](#) (Silverton/New Denver)

[View more events and deadlines.](#)

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Columbia Basin Trust supports efforts by the people of the Basin to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being and to achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations.

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Spring 2012: Provincial Consultation Begins

In May and June of 2012, the **Province of BC** began consulting with First Nations and residents of the Columbia River Basin to ensure regional interests help shape the future of the Columbia River Treaty. Sessions were held in seven communities, including Jaffray, Creston, Castlegar, Naksup, Revelstoke, Golden and Valemount.

Your **local government**, with support from Columbia Basin Trust, hosted an open house and discussions with experts to help residents learn more and prepare for the consultation with the provincial consultation. A summary report of the discussions with experts will be available soon. To be notified, **subscribe** to CRT email list.

Information Sessions: 2011 and 2012

From June 2011 to March 2012, CBT, in partnership with the CRT Local Governments' Committee, hosted public information sessions in **Castlegar**, the Columbia Valley (Invermere), **Cranbrook, Creston, Golden, Jaffray, Kaslo, Nelson, Nakusp**, New Denver, **Meadow Creek, Revelstoke, Trail** and **Valemount**. Three online information sessions and 12 small group presentations were also held.

Three information sessions were held in 2012 for the Lower Kootenay Band, St. Mary's Band and Tobacco Plains Band. In March 2012, a conference for young leaders from across the Basin was held in Rossland.

More than 1,600 Basin residents took part in Columbia River Treaty (CRT) information sessions in 2011 and 2012, and their input helped shape the sessions held in May and June 2012.

What do residents think?

In general, Basin residents said they want more information on several topics, including:

- the benefits and negative impacts of the current CRT;
- issues related to compensation;
- the feasibility of bringing salmon back to the upper Columbia River;
- climate change and how it may influence the CRT in the future; and
- scenarios for the future of the CRT.

They also want to learn more about how the current CRT operates, including flood control and downstream power benefits, as well as roles and responsibilities of key players, including the federal and provincial governments.

- Read the [2011 CRT Education and Engagement Summary Report](#)
- Read the [2011 CRT Information Session Summaries by community](#)
- See the diagram about [What Residents Said](#)
- Watch the video about [What Residents Said](#)
- Watch the short [Speakers' Corner videos](#) that capture ideas from Basin residents.

Three New Directors Join CBT Board

Tuesday, May 08, 2012

CBT welcomes three new members to its Board this year and would like to also recognize the continued contribution of nine of its current members.

The new directors, who are appointed for a two-year term, are:

- Andru McCracken from Valemount;
- David Raven from Revelstoke; and
- Gord DeRosa from Trail.

"We are fortunate to have these new members who have strong ties to the region, are passionate about serving their region and communities and have valuable experience to offer CBT," said Garry Merkel, CBT Board Chair. "We also need to thank and recognize the commendable contributions of departing members Bill Trehwella, Ron Oszust and Bob Smith."

With the addition of three other directors appointed in January, Merkel said CBT's Board is undergoing a positive rejuvenation, with fresh perspectives and ideas.

David Raven had a 35-year forestry career in Revelstoke, is serving his second term as Mayor of Revelstoke and volunteers on several boards and community organizations.

"I am excited to join the Board and look forward to working with Columbia Basin Trust and all of the residents and communities across the Basin," Raven said. "I was born here, grew up here and continue to have my family and career here. Being part of an organization that is helping to strengthen my home is an honour and I intend to support its efforts to make the Basin a better place for all."

Andru McCracken has lived in Valemount for 11 years and is serving his first term as Mayor of Valemount.

"Joining Columbia Basin Trust is daunting because it's unique and its work is vital," McCracken said. "This is a transformative organization. The Board and its work speak to possession of spirit and a love of the Basin and its people, and, more critically, a vision. My goal is to become as knowledgeable as Valemount's past representatives. I hope to serve with the same integrity on behalf of the whole Basin."

Gord DeRosa is a long-time resident of Trail and has been a councillor for the City of Trail for over 25 years.

"It is with a sense of pride I receive my appointment to CBT's Board," DeRosa said. "I recognize the virtuous contributions by those who have gone before me, and will diligently endeavour to complement and contribute to the Board. My immigrant father told me to dedicate myself to building my community; to do less would leave me unfulfilled at life's end. Accordingly, I now serve my Columbia River Basin community."

Denise Birdstone, from Ktunaxa Nation Council, was reappointed, with her term ending December 31, 2014.

Existing members include Wendy Booth (Fairmont Hot Springs), Kim Deane (Rossland), Greg Deck (Radium Hot Springs), Cindy Gallinger (Elkford), Garry Merkel (Kimberley), Am Naqvi (Nelson), Laurie Page (Nakusp) and Paul Peterson (Burton).

CBT's 12-member Board consists of qualified individuals appointed by the provincial government: six from among the nominees of the five regional districts and the Ktunaxa Nation Council and six others. All directors must be residents of the Basin.

The Board meets six times a year in communities around the Basin. The public is invited to attend these meetings in order to meet CBT's Board and ask questions about CBT's work in the Basin. The next meeting is:

- May 25 at 4 p.m. at the Columbia Basin Trust building in Castlegar.

For more information about the Board, and to read highlights and minutes from Board meetings, visit www.cbt.org/board.



Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Government Convention Participants Tour Project

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Participants from the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Government (AKBLG) convention toured the Waneta Expansion Project today.

As part of this year's annual event, which is being held in Trail, the partners in the Waneta Expansion Project—Fortis Inc., Columbia Power Corporation and Columbia Basin Trust—are providing the opportunity for regional officials to get a first-hand look at this significant project.

"I remember when, as a minister, I was helping to set the stage to allow this project to move forward," said Bill Bennett, MLA Kootenay East. "It is very gratifying to see all the good family-supporting jobs in our region from this great project."

"This four-and-a-half-year, \$900-million project is bringing extensive benefits to the communities and regions represented by AKBLG convention participants," said Audrey Repin, spokesperson for the Waneta Expansion Project. "It is important to us that elected officials have an opportunity to view the construction progress, as well as ask questions about the project."

Recently, the project reached major milestones with the completion of excavation of the powerhouse, intake and tunnels.

Project highlights:

- Currently over 250 people are working directly on the project.
- \$84 million has been allocated to local businesses for the purchases of goods and services.
- Equity hiring provisions are in place for women, persons with disabilities and/or visible minorities.
- Major excavation for the powerhouse, power tunnels and intake structure was completed and hauled safely, without damage to existing facilities and without major environmental incident.
- Upcoming work includes construction of the powerhouse, including carpentry and major concrete work, and the concrete lining of the two circular tunnels that will carry water to the turbines.
- The public can view construction from a viewing area and platform across Highway 22A.

The project has an independent contractor monitoring the social and economic impacts in the local area. The contractor works with the Community Impact Management Committee to ensure the reports are relevant to communities. To view the 2011 annual report, please visit www.columbiapower.org/SEM2011.

The Waneta Expansion Project is a partnership between Fortis Inc., Columbia Power Corporation and Columbia Basin Trust. For more information, please visit www.columbiapower.org/wanetaexpansion.



Lake Windermere Building to Receive All-season Amenities

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

New Kinsmen Beach Amenity Building being constructed with CBT support

From swimmers and kayakers to cross-country skiers and skaters, Invermere residents and visitors have made Kinsmen Beach on Lake Windermere a year-round destination. A new amenity building will soon better service these users, supported in part by \$200,000 from CBT.

The building will replace the current washrooms and concession, which are open only in summer, while providing additional space for equipment rentals and small gatherings. The end result will be a facility that can support year-round use by individuals, host small events and provide a venue for larger outdoor events. The project total will come to over \$686,000.

"Since the development of the Whiteway in 2008, Kinsmen Beach has become the prime year-round venue for outdoor community activities," said Gerry Taft, Mayor, District of Invermere. "The new amenity building will increase the enjoyment of those wishing to experience Lake Windermere and the recreational and social benefits it provides."

The building will integrate eco-friendly building practices. For example, water will be heated by the sun and grey water will be used for irrigation. The goal is to be energy efficient, be carbon neutral and minimize greenhouse gas emissions.

"The Kinsmen Beach Amenity Building will be an all-season facility that encourages health and wellness through outdoor activities," said Katherine Hamilton, CBT Community Liaison. "It will also highlight sustainable building practices."

