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EVENTS | BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS | FUNDED PROJECTS | BASINLINK ARCHIVES | CONTACT



BASINLink

Issue 43

June 2012

Economic Development Initiative Gets a Boost



Invest Kootenay is a joint initiative of local governments, economic development organizations and chambers of commerce with the aim of attracting and retaining investment to and in the Kootenay region. The Partnership recently received a boost thanks to \$100,000 in support from CBT...[full story](#)

Breaking Ground for New Residential Care Beds in Invermere



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Youth Came, Connected and Created



Youth from across the Basin met at CBT's Youth Action Summit in Kimberley on May 3 to 6, 2012, to get inspired, educated and empowered to create action events in their own communities...[full story](#)

Get Involved

CBT NEWS

[Cranbrook Food Bank Constructs New Warehouse](#)

[Fundraising for Lot 48 at Columbia Lake Successful](#)

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June 18: [Online Columbia River Treaty \(CRT\) Info Session](#)

June 19: [CRT Info Session](#) (Golden)

June 20: [CRT Info Session](#) (Revelstoke)

June 24: [Round the Mountain](#) (Kimberley)

July 1: [Mountain Mosaic Festival of the Arts](#) (Invermere)

July 1: [Kokanee Creek Visitors Centre Opens](#) (Nelson)

[View more events and deadlines.](#)

Opportunities

[CBT's Environmental Initiatives Program Accepting Small Grant Applications](#)

[Join the Youth Advisory Committee \(YAC\)](#)

[BACK TO TOP](#)



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Economic Development Initiative Gets a Boost

Monday, May 28, 2012

The Invest Kootenay Partnership recently received a boost thanks to \$100,000 in support from CBT.

Invest Kootenay is a joint initiative of local governments, economic development organizations and chambers of commerce with the aim of attracting and retaining investment to and in the Kootenay region. The partnership plans to use the funds to increase awareness of Invest Kootenay on the regional and international stage, attract and engage investors, strengthen the partnership as a regional asset and be a leader in regional investment strategies.

"Invest Kootenay gives potential investors a true sense of this region and provides succinct information on investment opportunities in the area," said Garry Jackman, Chair of Invest Kootenay. "This strong partnership is an indication of how our communities are working together regionally, an element valued by investors looking to become future residents."

Invest Kootenay aims to educate communities on effective investment strategies and attract investors to local opportunities, while also increasing awareness of the services in, and investment-readiness of, Basin communities.

"Part of CBT's mission is to create a legacy of economic well-being in the Basin," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "CBT is proud to work with the Invest Kootenay Partnership communities to support economic sustainability and development in the region."

The Invest Kootenay Partnership is currently made up of the following partners in the region: Nelson, Castlegar, Revelstoke, Radium Hot Springs, Fernie, Sparwood, Elkford, RDCK Area A and RDCK Area D, and Community Futures Central Kootenay. Learn more about Invest Kootenay at www.investkootenay.com.



Breaking Ground for New Residential Care Beds in Invermere

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

A ceremonial ground breaking today marked the start of construction on 34 new residential care beds for Invermere. With shovels in hand, District of Invermere Mayor Gerry Taft, Golden Life Management's Chief Operating Officer Celeste Mullin, Columbia Basin Trust Board Member Wendy Booth, and Interior Health Board Member David Goldsmith pitched in to help with the work.

The new beds are expected to be ready by early 2013 and will be in addition to the 55 independent living and eight assisted living suites already in place at Golden Life Management's Columbia Garden Village.

"The start of construction on the new beds for Invermere and area is welcome news," said IH Board Chair Norman Embree. "The addition of these beds, plus the over 500 new residential care beds being built across Interior Health, helps to keep seniors in their home communities close to family and friends."

To help bridge the community's needs, Interior health added 12 temporary residential care beds to the Invermere and District Hospital in December 2010. These beds will be shifted to the expanded Columbia Garden Village site upon completion of the expansion.

"Golden Life is very proud to be working with Interior Health and Columbia Basin Trust to provide the additional beds to the Columbia Valley," said Celeste Mullin, Golden Life's Chief Operating Officer. "Everything from the design of our buildings to the care and compassion our staff put into their work every day provides our residents the opportunity to live their best life. We continue to be committed to delivering the highest quality of care to our residents and their families every day."

Golden Life Management's partnerships with Interior Health, BC Housing, Columbia Basin Trust and nonprofit societies enable hundreds of seniors to access innovative seniors housing, services and resources.

"CBT is proud to be part of this expansion that is helping to increase the number of homes available for seniors living in this region," said Johnny Strilaeff, CBT Vice-President of Investments. "Our investment in seniors care facilities provides positive, long-term value to our investment portfolio, while addressing the need for quality housing for seniors."

CBT 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.

Interior Health awarded the contract for the new health authority funded residential care beds to Golden Life Management in May, 2011 following a request for proposals.

With the addition of these new residential care beds and the existing 35 beds at Interior Health's Columbia House site the community will have a total of 69 residential care beds by 2013. Interior Health and CBT have partnered with Golden Life Management in the past to build assisted living and residential care villages in Cranbrook, Creston, Fernie, Kimberley, Trail, Castlegar, Nelson, and Fruitvale. And, most recently Interior Health and Golden Life Management partnered on a care village in Grand Forks.



[Click to Enlarge](#)

Construction has begun on new residential care beds in Invermere. From left to right: Invermere Mayor Gerry Taft; CBT Director Wendy Booth; Columbia Garden Village resident Betty Eacrett; Golden Life COO Celeste Mullin; Interior Health Board member David Goldsmith.



Youth Came, Connected and Created

Thursday, May 24, 2012

18 Youth Action Events taking place this month

Youth from across the Basin met at CBT's Youth Action Summit in Kimberley on May 3 to 6, 2012, to get inspired, educated and empowered to create action events in their own communities. The result is CONNECT: Youth Action Month, which will see 18 youth-inspired and -created Action Events happening right now across the Basin.

At the summit, participants heard from engaging speakers and participated in planning sessions and networking opportunities, all directed toward assisting attendees in creating Action Events in their own communities.

"It was such an uplifting experience," said Fernie participant Ayla Bennett. "I loved seeing so many youth from throughout the Basin engaged and enthusiastic about making a positive change in their communities."

At the summit, eight youth were selected to form CONNECT's Multimedia Team. Supported by two members of **Pacific Cinémathèque's Education Department**, these youth had a full day of media training boot camp before the summit. The team then filmed and edited material from the summit and documented it in short videos, which can be seen at www.cbt.org/connect. Also, a special issue of **SCRATCH magazine** will be out this summer featuring CONNECT and the Action Events.

"CONNECT was an opportunity for youth to get engaged and grow as leaders, and wow, did the participants step up," said Michelle d'Entremont, CBT Basin Youth Liaison. "I saw such dedication and commitment to planning and carrying out these actions, and I really got caught up in the incredible energy and passionate networking that took place at the summit."

Action Events planned at CONNECT are being implemented all around the Basin this month. Visit www.cbt.org/connect for more information on the following:

East Kootenay

- **Apathy Project:** A Kimberley awareness campaign for younger students about how they can make a difference in their community;
- **Born This Way:** A Cranbrook awareness campaign for students to break down personal barriers;
- **Coffee Talk:** An Elkford community event to showcase local music and gather contributions for the local food bank;
- **Cranbrook Bicycle Parking:** The installation of public bike racks for the community;
- **Food for Thought:** A Kimberley dinner, film and discussion session to build momentum toward a sustainable future;
- **Speak Up, Speak Out Youth Dinner:** A Cranbrook youth gathering for discussions on local issues and the challenges youth face;
- **Untitled: An Art Project:** A Kimberley planning session for a youth art auction in the fall;

- **Youth Art on the Elk:** A Fernie art club and exhibit for youth with the theme of the Elk River; and
- **Support for the Invermere Safe House:** A volunteer event to put together household essential kits for families of the safe house.

West Kootenay

- **Activate Winlaw:** A gathering to inspire, educate and plan for community volunteer opportunities;
- **Bridging the Gap:** A multi-generational art exhibit in Castlegar showcasing local talent;
- **Operation Youth – Creston:** Youth centre research and presentations to schools, along with a survey to gather ideas for a local centre;
- **Paws Project:** A Nelson pet food drive and awareness campaign for the SPCA;
- **RSS Clothing Swap:** A Rossland awareness event promoting reusing and recycling clothing;
- **Skills Share:** A Nakusp event for youth and seniors to share skills, create conversation and build ties across generations.
- **Thinking Outside the Bottle:** A Kaslo awareness campaign to reduce the consumption of bottled water; and
- **This Is the Truth:** A Nelson information session about bullying.

Revelstoke

– **Revelstoke Branding and Engagement:** A name and logo contest for a new youth community network.

CBT works with youth and communities to increase youth opportunities and engagement through enhancing capacity, leadership and participation, plus offers support through the Columbia Basin Youth Grants, Community Directed Youth Funds and Youth/College Community Service Awards. CBT also publishes **SCRATCH magazine**, which provides a forum for Basin youth to share their art, ideas and experiences with each other. Learn more at www.cbt.org/youth.



Cranbrook Food Bank Constructs New Warehouse

Wednesday, June 13, 2012

CBT supports food bank with \$30,000

A new 4,000 square foot warehouse is currently being built at 572 Industrial Road 2. The new facility enables the Cranbrook Food Bank Society to better store food and supplies for the Cranbrook Food Bank, which provides 4,500 hampers per year to Cranbrook and area (Jaffray, Wardner, Yahk and RDEK Area C). The new space will help the society become more financially sustainable by reducing operational costs. This larger warehouse facility also enables local community donations to go further because of optimized storage systems, and the society will be able to purchase more bulk items, reducing the overall costs of food purchases.

The society has been fundraising toward this goal since 2007 and is excited to move into the new space at the end of June.

"We would like to thank all of our contributors to making this new space a reality, including Columbia Basin Trust, Lions Club, Rotary Club, community member donations and Miller Custom Builders, who are providing their services at a reduced rate," said Brian Smith, Director, Cranbrook Food Bank.

The Food Bank is run solely by volunteers and through the donations of the local community. For more information, to donate or to volunteer, contact Brian Smith, Director, Cranbrook Food Bank at 1.250.489.3650.



Fundraising for Lot 48 Successful

Wednesday, June 13, 2012

The Nature Conservancy of Canada

The Nature Conservancy of Canada is pleased to share that fundraising efforts for Lot 48 have been successful, thanks to the generous support of many who came forward to protect this ecologically and culturally important property on the east side of Columbia Lake.

Lot 48 is the last parcel not designated for conservation on the east side of the Columbia Lake and efforts to protect it have been supported at both the local and provincial levels.

Major support for Lot 48 has come from Columbia Basin Trust, Regional District of East Kootenay, BC Hydro Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Teck, provincial and federal governments, as well as other corporations and individuals.

CBT committed \$1 million toward Lot 48 conservation efforts. [Read more.](#)

