

Having trouble reading this email? [View it on your browser](#)

[EVENTS](#)

[BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS](#)

[FUNDED PROJECTS](#)

[BASINLINK ARCHIVES](#)

[CONTACT](#)



BASINLink

Issue 48

December 2012

Solutions Strengthening Basin Communities



As part of the province-wide BC Ideas competition, five Basin-based ideas are being awarded \$10,000 each for their innovative approaches to addressing Basin issues...[full story](#)

Students Learn About Their Local Watersheds



This fall, grade eight students in select communities throughout the Basin spent a day travelling around their areas in order to learn first-hand where their water comes from, where it goes after it's used and how important it is to look after water and keep watersheds healthy...[full story](#)

Castlegar Infrastructure to Be Upgraded

The Castlegar and District Public Library will be undergoing infrastructure upgrades thanks to funding from the federal government's Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund, with additional support from CBT...[full story](#)

CBT NEWS

[Affordable Seniors Housing Celebrated in Revelstoke](#)

[Kootenay Communities Cooperate, Save and Lead](#)

[Work Begins on Columbia Valley Directed Funds Priority Plan](#)



FOR YOUR INFORMATION





Cranbrook Food Bank Warehouse Opens



A ribbon cutting ceremony was recently held for the new 4,000 square foot warehouse of the Cranbrook Food Bank. The new facility enables the food bank—which provides 4,500 hampers per year to people in Cranbrook and area—to better store food and supplies...[full story](#)

Get Involved

Dec. 17: [Columbia Basin Youth Grants Deadline](#)

Jan. 1: [SCRATCH Submission Deadline](#)

Jan. 1: [Youth Action Grants Deadline](#)

Jan. 25 to 26: [CBT Board of Directors Meeting](#) (Revelstoke)

Jan. 31: [Waneta Terrestrial Compensation Program Deadline](#)

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Request your [2013 desktop calendar](#) now, while supplies last!



What's the current state of our region's economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being? Find insight in the newly released [2012 State of the Basin Snapshot Report](#).



Basin youth: Get published, get paid! Submit your items to [SCRATCH](#) by Jan. 1.



Know someone who might be interested in this email?
Forward to a friend.

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.

Follow us:



www.cbt.org • 1.800.505.8998 • cbt@cbt.org

You're receiving this email because of your previous interest or involvement in CBT.
You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive this.

Solutions Strengthening Basin Communities

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Five ideas awarded \$10,000 each from CBT as part of BC Ideas competition

Five Basin-based ideas are being awarded \$10,000 each for their innovative approaches to addressing Basin issues. The projects have strong potential to improve social, economic or environmental well-being in the Columbia Basin, and are being awarded the money by CBT as part of the province-wide **BC Ideas** competition.

"These ideas demonstrate innovation, impact and sustainability in the Columbia Basin region," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "Our support is helping turn inspirational ideas into action that will enable them to take root and grow, helping ensure their positive effects are widely felt."

The BC Ideas competition, launched in May 2012, sought innovative solutions to challenges faced by BC communities. There were over 460 submissions from 82 communities, of which 33 are receiving more than \$270,000. In addition, CBT committed \$50,000 for five Basin-based solutions. The five Basin recipients are as follows:

Columbia Mountains Resource Policy Council

This **solution** aims to bring together multiple stakeholders involved in land use planning and protection to create a think tank/research centre that identifies, defines and works toward promoting sustainability at a meaningful scale. [Learn more.](#)

"The council is a grassroots organization focused on coordinating, conducting and compiling research on ecosystem management at a meaningful scale defined by natural boundaries," said Federico Osorio, President and Founder. "It brings to the Basin an open organization that provides the opportunity for diverse interests to be taken into account while trying to promote sound ecosystem management policy."

Community Mediation Services (Transition Nelson)

This **solution** trains and supports volunteer mediators to help community members resolve disputes and build positive relationships and community dialogues. [Learn more.](#)

"As the Basin adapts to economic and ecological changes, community ties will become more important than ever," said Fiona Galbraith, Volunteer Mediator. "What's different about community mediation is that we're creating a culture of collaboration rather than one of winners and losers. We want neighbours to feel comfortable sharing resources for the benefit of the community, whether it's a shovel, a cup of sugar or an idea."

Green Heat Initiative (Community Futures East Kootenay)

This **solution** works with local governments, First Nations organizations and non-profits to increase the use of local wood waste resources as an efficient and cost-effective heating solution. [Learn more.](#)

"This initiative is like the 100-mile diet, but for energy," said Rob Gay, General Manager. "We're bringing biomass heating to the next level in communities by providing resources and information, and bridging the knowledge gap through education, outreach and community engagement."

Keeping Vulnerable Families Together (Trail Family and Individual Resource Centre Society)

Rather than placing a child in foster care, this **solution** will allow vulnerable children and their parents to stay together by offering supported housing and training in areas such as parenting and employment skills.

"This idea grew out of the belief that some parents—often people whose own childhoods were chaotic or abusive—need more intensive help in order to be successful as parents," said Gail Lavery, Executive Director. "The supportive housing environment, along with the other supports we currently provide, will keep children with their parents, ensure the children's environment is safe and support parents in making the deep changes and acquiring the full range of skills they need to successfully raise their children."

Signs of Safety for Families: Reforming Child Welfare for Aboriginal Families (Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services Society)

This **solution** helps First Nations communities develop and implement culturally relevant child welfare practices.

"The protection of children is a critical responsibility of family, communities and society as a whole," said Bart Knudsgaard, Executive Director. "Signs of Safety for Families supports

families and ensures the safety of children using a collaborative approach that involves a network of family, extended family and community. It allows children to be protected within and by families while maintaining a sense of belonging and identity."

Other BC Ideas award winners from the region include:

- **The Learning Place (Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy)**, which was awarded a \$5,000 Literacy Award; and
- **Keeping Vulnerable Families Together**, which was granted another \$10,000 through the Health and Productivity Award.

Learn more about BC Ideas, and view the entire list of winners, at www.bcideas.ca.



Students Learn About Their Local Watersheds

Monday, December 03, 2012

This fall, grade eight students in select communities throughout the Basin spent a day travelling around their areas in order to learn first-hand where their water comes from, where it goes after it's used and how important it is to look after water and keep watersheds healthy. The field trips were part of Know Your Watershed, a water stewardship program developed by CBT and local environmental educators. To learn more, visit www.cbt.org/waterstewardship.

Scroll down to view photos from [Invermere](#), [Fernie](#), [Golden](#), [Revelstoke](#), [Kimberley](#) and [Castlegar](#).

David Thompson Secondary School (Invermere)

BELOW: Students, teacher Mr. Zahara and Know Your Watershed Educator Kalista Pruden (far right in back row), visit the Patty Ryan Reservoir, which supplies Invermere's drinking water.



BELOW: Students visit the District of Invermere's waste water treatment facility with District of Invermere Public Works staff Doug Hagan and Mark Swindell.



BELOW: At Abel Creek, student Matt Swallow catches aquatic macroinvertebrates with a dip net for his group to examine.



Fernie Secondary School

BELOW: The City of Fernie's Terry Nelson shows bioswales to the students. Although they simply look like landscaping, these areas help clean stormwater before it reaches the Elk River.



BELOW: Students Megan Gigliotti and Ander Pelletier test water flow on Lizard Creek.

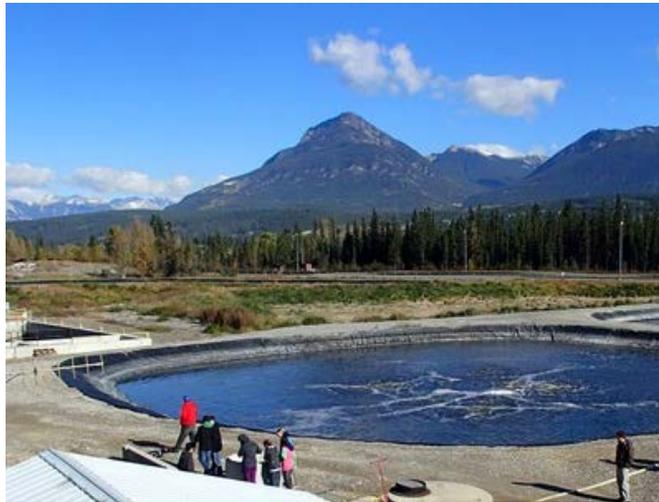


BELOW: Students sort aquatic organisms to determine the health of Lizard Creek.



Golden Secondary School

PHOTO 1: Students visit the Town of Golden's waste water treatment facility.



BELOW: Al Taylor, Town of Golden Water Systems Operator, explains to students how water is cleaned.



BELOW: Students test the water and find organisms at North Hospital Creek.



Revelstoke Secondary School

BELOW: Students test water quality and sort aquatic organisms at Montana Creek.



PHOTO 2: Students tour the City of Revelstoke's Greeley Creek Water Treatment Plant.

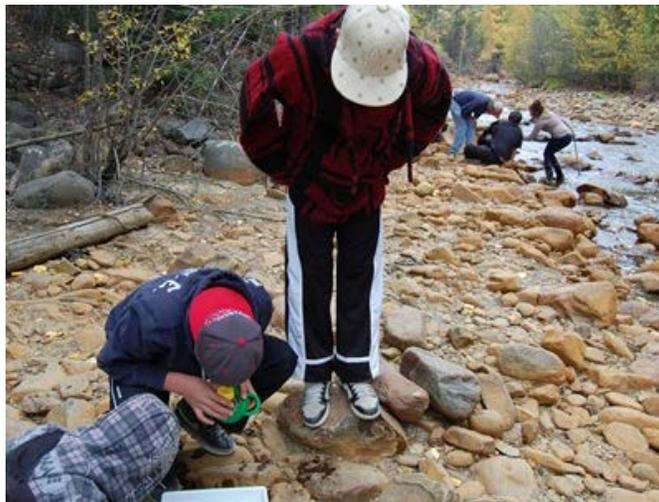


Selkirk Secondary School (Kimberley)

BELOW: Students visit the City's waste water treatment facility.



BELOW: Students test water quality and sort aquatic organisms at Mark Creek.



Stanley Humphries Secondary School (Castlegar)

BELOW: Student James McGoun looks at microorganisms at the Castlegar sewage treatment plant.



BELOW: Students Eric Waldie, Hannah Sanders and Shawn O'Keefe view a river snail in a water sample pulled from the Columbia River.



BELOW: Students observe the primary treatment basin while Jesse Reel, the City of Castlegar's Water and Sewer Treatment Foreman, explains the process.



Castlegar's Community Infrastructure to Be Upgraded

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

The Castlegar and District Public Library will be undergoing infrastructure upgrades thanks to funding from the federal government's Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund, with additional support from CBT.

With \$14,118 in federal funding and \$6,750 from CBT—50 per cent of the community's required portion—the City of Castlegar will make upgrades to the library's heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. As a result, the library will benefit from modern, reliable components that help improve efficiency and reduce energy consumption, and its patrons will benefit from a controlled and comfortable environment.

"It's great to see an important community asset being further developed through this program," said Garry Merkel, CBT Board Chair. "This was a unique opportunity for CBT to provide matching grants to help communities leverage federal funding to improve infrastructure in our region."

To read more, [click here](#).



Cranbrook Food Bank Warehouse Opens

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

A ribbon cutting ceremony was recently held for the new 4,000 square foot warehouse of the Cranbrook Food Bank. The new facility enables the food bank—which provides 4,500 hampers per year to people in Cranbrook and area—to better store food and supplies. It was built with the help of \$30,000 in support from CBT.

The new space will help the society become more financially sustainable by reducing operational costs. It will also enable local community donations to go further because of optimized storage systems. As well, the food bank will be able to purchase more bulk items, reducing the overall costs of food purchases.



Affordable Seniors Housing Celebrated in Revelstoke

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Seniors in Revelstoke are celebrating increased access to affordable housing at Moberly Apartments and Mount Begbie Villas. The two new buildings provide 24 affordable seniors apartments, funded by the governments of Canada and British Columbia, along with CBT and other community partners.

"Columbia Basin Trust is committed to supporting initiatives throughout the Basin that contribute to the betterment of our communities, and affordable housing is just one example of this commitment," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "By working closely with all levels of government and community partners, we've been able to increase the number of seniors housing units in Revelstoke and in six other communities across the Basin."

Under the Seniors Rental Housing Initiative, CBT has committed \$425,000 to the overall capital costs of seven sites in Basin communities, for a total of 114 units. In addition to Revelstoke, projects have been built in Cranbrook, Kimberley, Creston, Baynes Lake, Golden and Valemount.

To read more, [click here](#).



Kootenay Communities Cooperate, Save and Lead

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Regional districts and municipalities go carbon neutral together

Eleven local governments are the first to sign on to meeting their carbon neutral commitment together through the joint procurement of Kootenay-based offsets. The first to commit are the Regional Districts of Central Kootenay (RDCK), Kootenay-Boundary (RDKB) and East Kootenay (RDEK), and the municipalities of Fruitvale, Kaslo, Trail, Midway, Slocan, Rossland, Greenwood and Invermere. More local governments are expected to sign on to this initiative in the coming weeks.

By working together over the last four years, local governments across the Columbia Basin and Boundary areas are estimated to have saved up to \$750,000 on energy in their own operations. By buying Kootenay-based offsets together, the local governments will save again while keeping the investment in the region.

"The RDKB's commitment to acting responsibly is clear. We are saving energy, emissions and money in our operations through actions such as retrofits. We are piloting approaches to save emissions in our communities such as organics diversion," said RDKB Board Chair Larry Gray. "Becoming carbon neutral is one part of that commitment."

"While it is not realistic for us to completely eliminate fossil fuels from our operations, we can take responsibility for reducing our emissions and keep those investments in the Kootenays," said RDCK Board Chair John Kettle, referring to the purchase of carbon offsets.

"Becoming carbon neutral is an important milestone and reaffirms our collective commitment to take responsibility and to take action on climate change," said RDEK Board Chair Rob Gay.

"Congratulations for the leadership shown by these local governments on working together to take tangible actions on climate change," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "We are pleased to support these efforts and applaud the regional districts for their innovative approach to buying Kootenay-based offsets."

Local governments voluntarily signed BC's *Climate Action Charter* and have committed to becoming carbon neutral in their operations by 2012. Here in the Basin, a multi-year effort known as the Carbon Neutral Kootenays (CNK) project is supporting local governments and First Nations that are working toward becoming carbon neutral. CNK is funded jointly by CBT and the regional districts of Central Kootenay, East Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary.





File:
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 4, 2012

Work Begins on Columbia Valley Directed Funds Priority Plan

Earlier this year, Columbia Basin Trust committed \$200,000 per year for the next three years to the Columbia Valley Community Directed Funds (CVCDF) Program to support initiatives that provide socio-economic benefits to the Columbia Valley.

The CVCDF Committee, which is made up of the five Regional District of East Kootenay Columbia Valley Directors and four members of the public, is now working to complete a Priorities Plan. “The creation of a Priorities Plan is a key step in the process. The Plan needs to reflect the priorities of the Valley and outline criteria to assist in selecting or developing projects,” explains CVCDF Committee Chair Wendy Booth. “To help us identify those priorities, we will be undertaking a community consultation process, which will be led by Jamie Chicanot of ADR Education.”

Chicanot will be in the Valley the week of December 10th to begin the consultation process. “I will be meeting with individuals and groups to discuss priorities, possibilities, and their vision of socio-economic growth and development,” he says. “I will be listening to the views and ideas brought forward, working to build consensus about the Columbia Valley’s priorities, and identifying actions that could help us meet those priorities.”

The community consultations are expected to continue through the spring. Chicanot will then prepare a draft Priorities Plan for consideration by the CVCDF Committee. Once the Priorities Plan has been adopted by the Committee, it will help guide funding allocations for approved projects and potential new initiatives.

The CVCDF Committee is a standing committee of the Regional District of East Kootenay that administers and operates the Columbia Valley Community Directed Funds Program in accordance with the Contribution Agreement between Columbia Basin Trust and the RDEK.

For more information on the Program or the Committee, contact Committee Chair Wendy Booth at 250-345-6155 or by email at wndbooth@gmail.com.

-30-

For more information: Wendy Booth
Chair, Columbia Valley Community Directed Funds Committee
250-345-6155
wndbooth@gmail.com