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Issue 53

May 2013

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**Investing in Power  
to Deliver Benefits to the Basin**



## Get Involved

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**May 23:** [Enterprising Non-Profits Deadline](#)

**May 27:** [Columbia Basin Trust Microsoft SCCM Upgrade Request for Proposals Deadline](#)

**May 28/29:** [CBT Board of Directors Meeting](#) (Rosland)

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**June 7:** [Affordable Rental Housing Initiative Deadline](#)

## Opportunities

### Job Postings

[Community Liaison, Southwest Basin](#)

### Request for Proposals

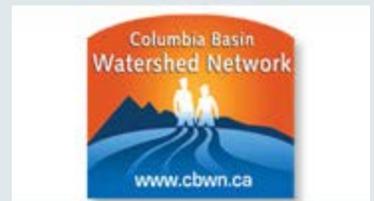
[Janitorial Services for CBT Castlegar Building](#)

[Columbia Basin Trust Microsoft SCCM Upgrade](#)

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**How does** CBT's Community Directed Youth Funds process work? View [this example](#) from Valemount.



**The Columbia Basin Watershed Network** provides information and educational resources to local watershed groups. Help it finalize its [strategic framework](#).



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## Basin Lenders Event Focuses on Networking and Collaboration

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

### *Improving access to capital for Basin businesses*

This spring, 36 people attended a unique gathering of commercial lenders from throughout the Basin. The Columbia Basin Lenders Networking Event took place in Creston and was hosted by CBT.

The goal of the event was to provide a networking opportunity between Basin lenders and key business advisors while encouraging collaboration between participants, broadening the awareness of non-traditional financing partners and enhancing capital services to Basin businesses.

"Bringing together professionals in the specific field of commercial banking provided a unique opportunity to discuss our specific challenges, share knowledge and network," said Cranbrook's Theresa Larson, Senior Commercial Account Manager, Bank of Montreal. "In fact, I've already reached out to one of the contacts I met at the event to utilize their services."

Experts presented on the topics of alternative financing options, security and collection considerations and venture capital investing, and participants ranged from representatives of banks, credit unions and Aboriginal capital corporations, to professionals like accountants, lawyers and business consultants.

"The purpose of the Lenders Event was to bring lending professionals together to establish a better network and, through that, improve access to capital for businesses in the Basin," said Tim O'Doherty, CBT Manager, Investments. "Attendance and participation exceeded expectations and feedback from participants was positive. We hope to be able to repeat this type of event on an annual basis."

CBT's Investment Program invests in power projects, Basin-based businesses, real estate and market securities to generate a predictable, sustainable and appreciating income stream to fund CBT's current and future Delivery of Benefits activities and corporate operating expenses. Learn more at [www.cbt.org/investments](http://www.cbt.org/investments).



## Groundswell to Share Success With Others

Friday, May 03, 2013

*CBT funding helps Community Greenhouse meet demand for expertise*

Invermere's Groundswell Network Society has been a growing success for more than a decade, and soon other communities will be able to learn from that success thanks in part to nearly \$25,000 from CBT.

The society is widely recognized for its Community Greenhouse, which, since 2009, has enabled hundreds of students and community members to get their hands dirty and learn about growing their own food. The greenhouse also showcases a commitment to sustainability—for example, through using solar energy for both heat and electricity—and was recognized as a **finalist** in the Real Estate Foundation of BC's 2012 Land Awards.

Because of this success, other communities have looked to Groundswell for help in creating their own community greenhouse and garden projects. CBT's funding will help the society deliver workshops, plus look toward creating webinars that can spread its knowledge even further.

"We've been facing a growing demand from other communities, organizations and individuals asking for help on developing their own projects," said Bill Swan, Groundswell Project Leader. "This funding will help us better share our experience and understanding of what it takes to design and execute these community assets successfully."

The funding will also be used to create a Groundswell brochure, improve signage, update its website and install screens in teaching locations in the greenhouse.

"Groundswell has been an excellent example of a community collaborating to realize a shared a vision," said Katherine Hamilton, CBT Community Liaison. "This next step will help it increase its outreach efforts, extending its benefits beyond the immediate area."

To learn more about Groundswell, visit [www.groundswellnetwork.ca](http://www.groundswellnetwork.ca) or like them on Facebook at **Groundswell Network Society**.



## New Visitor Information Centre for Revelstoke

Friday, May 10, 2013

Construction has begun on a new Visitor Information Centre for Revelstoke, funded in part by \$200,000 from CBT. The two-storey building, located on Victoria Road, should be open for business in November.

"Many thousands of people drive through Revelstoke on the Trans-Canada Highway," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "This new facility will promote the tourism attractions of Revelstoke and other communities in the Columbia Basin, contributing to the economic well-being of the entire region by encouraging visitors to discover the Basin, for longer periods of time."

Revelstoke's current visitor centre is housed in two downtown locations: a year-round site and a summer site. Both are hard to find, don't provide adequate parking for larger recreational vehicles and are too small to accommodate the rapidly increasing number of visitors.

The new centre will house an expanded visitor centre and offices spaces for the Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce, Community Futures Revelstoke and Community Economic Development.

[Read the original announcement.](#)



## Welcome Tim Hicks

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

CBT is pleased to announce that Tim Hicks has joined as Manager, Water and Environment. Tim will play a significant role in overseeing CBT's Water and Environment strategic plans, programs and initiatives.

"I'm excited to be working with CBT and sharing my knowledge of water management and environmental stewardship," Tim said. "I'm also excited to be returning from Victoria to the Kootenays, where my family and I are now living on the same Castlegar acreage my wife's grandfather settled many years ago."

Tim comes to CBT with a passion for people and the environment complemented by diverse experience in the environment sector, ranging from volunteer experience with a local stream keepers group, to work with a consulting firm in Nelson and with municipal, regional and provincial governments. Prior to coming to CBT, Tim was Project Director for Masse Environmental Consultants in Nelson and Manager of Policy and Project Assessment with the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office in Victoria.

He has a Master of Arts in Environment and Management from Royal Roads University, plus a Diploma in Integrated Environmental Planning from Selkirk College.

Tim is based out of CBT's Castlegar office. To connect with him or other CBT staff members, visit [www.cbt.org/staff](http://www.cbt.org/staff).



## Burton Gazebo Ready to Enjoy

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

*Official opening took place Saturday, May 11*

Burton residents and visitors now have a large covered gazebo under which they can gather, picnic and enjoy entertainment. A crowd gathered at the Burton Historical Park on Saturday, May 11, 2013, to celebrate the gazebo's official opening. The project was supported in part by \$59,300 from CBT

"This gazebo is one step toward improving our infrastructure, which will help our economic situation and entice new residents to settle in the area," said Al Ralston, Burton Community Hall Association. "It instills us with a feeling of community pride and a sense of a positive future. It also reflects the success of the strong volunteerism in Burton."

"The new gazebo enhances one of the community's main amenities: the historic park and campground," said Lynda Lafleur, CBT Community Liaison. "It will help improve the experience of those who come to enjoy activities along Arrow Lakes Reservoir and support the well-being of the region."

To learn more about the park and campground, visit [www.burtonhistoricalpark.com](http://www.burtonhistoricalpark.com).



## Lions Community Den to Open Soon

Tuesday, May 07, 2013

*CBT supports purchase and preparation of new Fairmont multipurpose space*

What was once a pizza shop and real estate office will become a gathering place for the Fairmont Hot Springs community at large. Thanks to \$100,000 from CBT, the Fairmont and District Lions Club has purchased a building that will soon become the Lions Community Den: a centrally located, multipurpose meeting place for groups of all kinds.

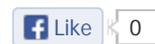
"This project will give Fairmont Hot Springs a much needed facility to hold community activities," said Norbert Schab, Project Chair Person, Fairmont and District Lions Club. "It will assist greatly in providing a sense of community and a focus for social development."

The community has been raising funds and working toward realizing its dream of a community centre for about 25 years. One of the members of the original group that started raising money for a centre is Filmer Coy, age 91, who has lived in Fairmont since 1922. He's pleased to see the money raised in the 1980s finally being put to use.

"We raised \$13,000, which seems pretty small potatoes," Coy said. "But every little bit helps."

Plans are to have the building renovated, furnished and open for use in May, then to spend the summer landscaping and adding a deck. Future plans include adding a playground, and fundraising efforts will be ongoing.

"It's very fulfilling to be able to help a community realize such a long-standing dream and address an important community priority," said Katherine Hamilton, CBT Community Liaison. "Supporting this hall will enhance the community now and for many years to come."



## Investing in Power to Deliver Benefits to the Basin

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

CBT delivers benefits to the Basin in a myriad of ways—from supporting community projects, to helping residents conserve water, to disseminating information on subjects of interest. It wouldn't be able to do this so successfully, however, without the Columbia Power Corporation. That's because Columbia Power is CBT's partner on four hydroelectric projects—projects that generate over 80 per cent of CBT's income.

Three of the projects are shared between CBT and Columbia Power 50-50, meaning profits are shared equally. These are Brilliant Dam, Brilliant Expansion and Arrow Lakes Generating Station. A fourth project, the Waneta Expansion Project—currently under construction, with completion expected by spring 2015—is a partnership between CBT (16.5 per cent interest), Columbia Power (32.5 per cent) and Fortis Inc. (51 per cent). All are located in the [southwestern Basin](#).

"We see the development of hydroelectric power projects in the Basin as a way to provide clean, green power to an energy-hungry market," said Audrey Repin, Columbia Power Director, Stakeholder Relations and Communications. "Our projects primarily use water that would otherwise be spilled over existing dams to produce renewable electric power."

Not only do the projects provide income to CBT to allow it to deliver benefits to the region, and make Columbia Power one of BC's largest producers of electricity, but they create jobs for local workers and inject millions of dollars into the local economy through the purchase of goods and services.

Columbia Power also gives back to the region through activities like sponsoring community events, offering student scholarships and supporting environmental projects. In addition, it works with groups and individuals to ensure power projects are undertaken in the most sensitive and inclusive manner possible.

To learn more, visit [www.columbiapower.org](http://www.columbiapower.org).

The public is also invited to learn more about the Waneta Expansion Project on Waneta Community Day, scheduled for Sunday, June 23, 2013. To learn more about the event as information comes available, visit [www.columbiapower.org](http://www.columbiapower.org).



## Columbia River Treaty Update

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

### The Province Wants Your Input on the Future of the CRT

Ask a question, subscribe to the provincial newsletter and read the latest documents [online](#).

### Basin Residents Provide Input to the Province

The Province has formed a [Sounding Board](#) comprising Basin residents with knowledge of and/or experience with dam/reservoir planning and operations. They will provide a Basin-wide perspective on CRT-related issues, including key areas of interest identified by Basin residents during the [CRT Review process](#).

### What Are Future Scenarios for the CRT?

The Province has prepared a [Technical Studies Report](#) and posted a [visual overview](#) of the potential scenarios for the future and key interests of Basin residents. They are [seeking public comment](#) on the report.

### Basin Residents Asked for—and Got—Kootenay-Koocanusa Fish and Wildlife Program

Basin residents have long expressed a desire to have a fish and wildlife program to help protect and enhance fish, wildlife and habitats in and around Koocanusa Reservoir. Last month [CBT announced](#) \$3 million in funding to respond to this request and address issues on the East Kootenay reservoir that resulted from construction of Libby Dam in Montana. Libby Dam was constructed under the 1964 CRT, but until now there was no fish and wildlife program in place to address the impacts in that area.

### Dam and Reservoir Issues Raised by Residents

CBT and the Local Governments' Committee have compiled [dam and reservoir issues](#) raised by Basin residents.

### New Video: What Younger Residents Think

[Watch this](#) and in two minutes you'll have a better idea about what younger Basin residents think about the CRT.

### Update from BC River Forecast Centre

Water levels in local rivers and creeks are starting to rise. On May 9 an advisory was issued for the Kootenay Region. Get updated water level info from the [River Forecast Centre](#).

### Water Levels and Hydro Operations

Visit [www.cbt.org/powerandwater](http://www.cbt.org/powerandwater) and get current info on water levels and hydro operations. Check out the interactive map.

### Looking for More Information?

CBT's primary role is to be an information resource for Basin residents and local governments. Take the [online tutorial](#) and learn more. Watch a [video](#) or read a [fact sheet](#). [Contact us](#) if you have a question and [subscribe](#) to CBT's CRT email updates. Share this info and join the discussion on Twitter at #crteaty.

