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BASINLink

Issue 57

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Thoughtstream Results Now Available Online



You logged on, you thought, you prioritized. Now Basin residents can visit CBT's Thoughtstream website to see results from our online engagement pilot project...[full story](#)

Salmo Affordable Rental Housing Project Under Way



Construction for a new 28-unit affordable housing development for families and seniors broke ground today in Salmo thanks to funding by the governments of Canada and British Columbia and CBT...[full story](#)

Businesses to Benefit From Enhanced Program

CBT has committed \$1,980,000 in funding over the next three years to the Basin Business Advisors program. Delivered by Community Futures, the program aims to build economic capacity in Basin communities by strengthening and supporting all business models...[full story](#)

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Get Involved

Nov. 4 to 14: [Columbia River Treaty Workshops](#) (Jaffray, Golden, Nakusp, Castlegar, Valemount)

Nov. 15: [Request for Proposals: Irrigation Best Practices Training for Columbia Basin Local Governments Deadline](#)

Nov. 22 to 23: [CBT Board of Directors Meeting](#) (Radium)

[View more events and deadlines.](#)

Opportunities

Request for Proposals

[Irrigation Best Practices Training for Columbia Basin Local Governments](#)

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Many of the old ways of life in the Basin have disappeared, but some of the stories have been captured on the [Basin Stories videos](#).

**New: CBT's
Community
Initiatives
Strategic
Plan**





Know someone who might be interested in this email?
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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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The Results Are In: CBT Thoughtstream Report Available Online

Monday, September 30, 2013

You logged on, you thought, you prioritized. Now Basin residents can visit [CBT's Thoughtstream website](#) to see results from our online engagement pilot project.

Close to 1,400 residents participated in CBT's Thoughtstream and answered six questions about economic, social and environmental well-being. Over 10,000 thoughts were generated and grouped under main ideas. Participants then assigned stars to those ideas, identifying over 1,800 priorities in total.

Priorities that received the most stars from the most residents were identified as top ideas and grouped into themes to show the major areas of interest across the Basin. Those interests range from land use to affordable housing to local food security and many topics in between.

"We are always looking at ways to improve how we gather input from residents of the Columbia Basin. Online tools such as Thoughtstream are one more way to ensure CBT considers a wide variety of information as we plan for the years to come," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO.

CBT will be inviting public comments on the first draft of its new environmental strategic plan this fall, and is just getting underway with public engagement on the renewal of its social and economic strategic plans.

"As we renew these plans, the more information we can gather about what is important to Basin residents, the better," added Muth.

Visitors to [CBT's Thoughtstream website](#) can choose to view social, economic and environmental priorities organized into Basin-wide themes or select a region to see priorities identified in that specific geographic area. The website also allows residents to look at any of the original 10,000-plus thoughts and download a report of all results.

"While CBT cannot directly address some of the ideas identified, we can address others and in some cases are already doing so through existing CBT programs," said Muth.

Information gathered in Thoughtstream will also be available to organizations interested in knowing more about what Basin residents have identified as important.



First Project Under Affordable Rental Housing Initiative Under Way in Salmo

Friday, October 11, 2013

Construction for a new 28-unit affordable housing development for families and seniors broke ground today in Salmo thanks to funding by the governments of Canada and British Columbia and Columbia Basin Trust.

"Our Government is investing in affordable housing in British Columbia and across the country to help create jobs and improve the quality of life for people who need it most. When complete, this new development will bring 28 more affordable rental housing units to Salmo, a new place to call home for seniors and families in this community," said David Wilks, Member of Parliament for Kootenay. "Columbia on behalf of the Honourable Candice Bergen, Minister of State for Social Development. "We remain focused on four priorities, as outlined by the Prime Minister, that Canadians care most about: their families, the safety of our streets and communities, their pride in being a citizen of this country, and of course, their personal financial security."

"The Province is committed to creating new affordable housing options for families and seniors in smaller communities like Salmo," said the Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing. "We're thankful to our community partners, Columbia Basin Trust and Salmo & Area Supportive Housing Society, for helping to make this new affordable housing a reality for individuals in the community."

The governments of Canada and B.C. will provide a combined investment of \$1,296,000 through the Affordable Rental Housing initiative, under the Investment in Affordable Housing 2011-2014 Agreement. Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is contributing \$1,296,000. In addition, the Government of B.C. will provide interim construction financing of nearly \$2.6 million. The Salmo & Area Supportive Housing Society will provide the land valued at approximately \$106,000 and equity of nearly \$42,500.

"I admire the determination and perseverance of the community of Salmo who are now witnessing a great idea materialize into a modern building to house families and seniors," said Neil Muth, president and chief executive officer, Columbia Basin Trust. "This initiative is a key part of improving the well-being of residents in the Columbia Basin and CBT is proud to work with the Salmo & Area Supportive Housing Society in partnership with the federal and provincial governments to improve housing options for local residents."

Located at 730 Railway Ave. in Salmo, the new affordable housing site will consist of 20 apartments for seniors and eight townhouses for families. The development will be owned and operated by Salmo & Area Supportive Housing Society.

"This project has been 25 years in the making for our society, and today's groundbreaking marks a milestone for us and this community," said Phil Berukoff, chair and executive director, Salmo & Area Supportive Housing Society. "We'd like to express our greatest appreciation to the Government of Canada, Province of B.C. and Columbia Basin Trust for providing the funding for this project. I'd also like to acknowledge our community for supporting this project from the beginning, helping us bring more affordable housing to Salmo."

The Affordable Housing Rental initiative is a component of the \$180-million Investment in Affordable Housing 2011-2014 Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia, which was announced in July 2011. With a combined contribution of \$5 million from both levels of government over three years, this investment helps to support new affordable rental housing projects in communities across the Columbia Basin. Through a separate funding agreement with the province, Columbia Basin Trust is contributing a further \$5 million to this initiative.

One of CBT's strategic priorities is to assist Columbia Basin communities in effectively dealing with affordable housing issues and to support new housing initiatives. CBT has



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(Left to right) Phil Berukoff, Salmo & Area Supportive Housing Society, Shayne Ramsay, CEO, BC Housing, Mayor Ann Henderson, Village of Salmo, David Wilks, MP for Kootenay-Columbia, Hans Cunningham, Salmo & Area Supportive Housing Society, and Neil Muth, CEO, Columbia Basin Trust.

helped communities plan affordable housing projects, provided capital grants to projects and shares information on affordable housing issues.



Basin Businesses to Benefit From Enhanced Program

Thursday, October 17, 2013

CBT commits nearly \$2 million over three years to Basin Business Advisors program

CBT has committed \$1,980,000 in funding over the next three years to the **Basin Business Advisors** (BBA) program. Delivered by **Community Futures** (CF), the program aims to build economic capacity in Basin communities by strengthening and supporting all business models.

"As we move into our new agreement with Community Futures to deliver the enhanced BBA program, we would like to join Community Futures in welcoming the new program staff on board," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "We encourage existing businesses to connect with these experts in order to take advantage of the recently expanded program."

BBA supports small- and medium-sized businesses in the Basin by providing free, one-to-one, confidential business counselling and assessment services, and by arranging and cost-sharing specialized consulting services. These services are now available to all business models, including social enterprises. Starting this fall, the program will also offer pre-start-up entrepreneurial education to individuals or organizations exploring entrepreneurship or considering purchasing or starting a business.

BBA staff are:

- **Program Manager: Amber Hayes** (based out of CF Central Kootenay in Nelson);
- **Central Basin Business Advisor: Barb Williams** (based out of CF Central Kootenay);
- **Southwest Basin Business Advisor: Wendy Morrison** (based out of CF Greater Trail);
- **North Basin Business Advisor: Roberta Ciolli** (based out of CF Revelstoke); and
- **East Basin Business Advisor: Will Nixon** (based out of CF East Kootenay in Cranbrook).

"Community Futures is thrilled to be expanding our services and team to enhance our support to existing and new entrepreneurs," said Andrea Wilkey, Executive Director, Community Futures Central Kootenay. "Our new BBA team members bring a diverse set of skills and expertise and are looking forward to working with Basin entrepreneurs to help them succeed."

To learn more about BBA and connect with one of our Basin Business Advisors, visit www.cbt.org/bba or call 1.855.510.2227.

Community Futures is a not-for-profit community economic development organization that is committed to helping people who are operating or are planning to start their own businesses. For information on CF programs, call 1.250.352.1933 or visit www.futures.bc.ca.



Communities Become More Climate-Resilient

Wednesday, October 09, 2013

As countries and citizens around the world discuss the latest global scientific report on climate change recently published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, communities in the Columbia Basin are already preparing thanks to their participation in the **Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative** (CACCI), spearheaded by Columbia Basin Trust (CBT).

Since 2008, CACCI has helped communities increase their resilience to climate change impacts, from offering one-day workshops to helping with year-long planning processes.

"Participating communities have taken important steps by sharing climate impacts with residents, undertaking projects that help plan for change, and considering climate change science when making decisions," said Neil Muth, President and Chief Executive Officer for Columbia Basin Trust. "We applaud the communities that are planning and becoming more resilient to these changes and invite other communities to connect with us to learn more."

The District of Sparwood, for example, has been taking action on wildfire risk reduction, emergency preparedness, water supply and flood prevention. The District has also helped local residents understand what climate change impacts and adaptation mean by piloting a community engagement and communications project last year centred around the theme "Nature Changes, We Adapt." This project places Sparwood as a leader in engaging residents on climate impacts and adaptation at a local level.

"What we have learned is that climate resilience is about integrating considerations of future climate into everyday planning and decision making at all levels. As communities we have to start planning differently to better accommodate future weather extremes," said Sparwood Mayor Lois Halko.

For the City of Castlegar, extreme precipitation has in the past caused significant flooding, which prompted it to undertake an engineering vulnerability assessment of its stormwater infrastructure in 2010. Today the City continues to build on that work, and is now looking at developing a master drainage plan to help prioritize infrastructure investments.

Examples of other initiatives include the City of Revelstoke's Greeley Creek Watershed Source Protection Plan, which outlines how climate change is impacting the community's water source and how to protect it, and a recent study by the Regional District of East Kootenay on flood hazards in the region and how climate change may be affecting them.

In addition to CACCI, CBT works with a range of partners to increase awareness of local climate change impacts; provide credible, science-based information on expected changes; and support local governments, municipalities and First Nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For more information, visit www.cbt.org/climatechange.



\$1.25-million, Five-year Commitment to the Arrow Lakes Reservoir Nutrient Restoration Program

Thursday, October 03, 2013

The Arrow Lakes Power Corporation (ALPC), a subsidiary of Columbia Power and CBT, has signed another five-year funding agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) for the Arrow Lakes Reservoir Nutrient Restoration Program. ALPC will contribute one quarter—or an estimated total of \$1.25 million over five years—of the cost of the reservoir's Nutrient Restoration Program.

The Nutrient Restoration Program is managed by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, with the majority of funding coming from the FWCP. It aims to benefit fish populations, primarily kokanee, within the Arrow Lakes Reservoir by dispersing nutrients into the water to enhance aquatic productivity. The contribution from ALPC is intended to offset any fish losses through entrainment at the Arrow Lakes Generating Station.

"Since the restoration program began in 1999, Columbia Power and Columbia Basin Trust have contributed approximately \$3.13 million," said Llewellyn Matthews, Director of Environment, Columbia Power Corporation. "We are pleased to be a part of the continuation of this program."

Each year from April to September, nutrients, in the form of a liquid agricultural fertilizer (nitrogen-phosphorous) mixture, are dispersed into the Upper Arrow Lake from the Galena Bay ferry as it makes its run from Galena to Shelter Bay. The ferry is also contracted to disperse nutrients on a north-south run during the peak summer months. The nutrients are added to provide food for phytoplankton, which are the base of the aquatic food chain. As the season progresses, intensive monitoring is done to prevent over-fertilization and maintain a proper nutrient balance.

The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program in the Columbia region is a partnership between the Province of British Columbia, BC Hydro, First Nations and community members to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife impacted by the construction of BC Hydro-owned and -operated generation facilities. For more information, visit www.fwcp.ca.

Columbia Power is a Crown corporation wholly owned and controlled by the Province of British Columbia. Columbia Power's mandate is to manage assets and undertake power project investments as the agent of the Province. For more information about Columbia Power, visit www.columbiapower.org.



A Helicopter for Every Need

Friday, October 18, 2013

From forestry to tourism, industries of all types rely on the services of Yellowhead Helicopters. Based in Valemount, the family-owned business has been operating since 1975 and, as required, updates its equipment to keep pace with the ever-changing demands of the industries it supports.

This year, that meant purchasing five new helicopters with the help of CBT financing. These machines have increased the diversity of its fleet, helping ensure that new and existing clients are provided with the aircraft and equipment best suited to their needs.

"The addition of five Eurocopter AS350 helicopters to our pre-existing fleet has helped us expand our operations and enter into new industries such as seismic and oil and gas," said Garry Forman , CEO, Yellowhead Helicopters.

Learn more at www.yhl.ca.

CBT's Investment Program prudently invests the \$321-million endowment it received from the provincial government in 1995 in order to deliver long-term benefits to the residents of the Basin. The program currently invests in power projects, Basin-based businesses, real estate and market securities. These investments generate a predictable, sustainable and appreciating income stream to fund current and future Delivery of Benefits activities and cover corporate operating expenses. In addition to providing financial benefits, many of our investments promote social, economic and environmental well-being.

www.cbt.org/investments/privateplacements



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A new helicopter long-lining seismic equipment.

