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BASINLink

Issue 59

January 2014

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**Youth:
Have a
Project in
Mind?**

**Apply for a
grant!**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Our community liaisons are hosting [free grant writing workshops](#). Learn how to identify funders, focus your project idea and more.



Get Involved

Jan. 9: [Social Grants Program Deadline](#)

Jan. 9: [Deadline to Submit Feedback About the Draft 2014 - 2019 Environmental Strategic Plan](#)

Jan. 15 to Feb. 19: [Grant Writing Workshops](#) (various Basin locations)

Jan. 31 and Feb. 1: [Trust Board of Directors Meeting](#) (Fernie)

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

[View more events and deadlines.](#)



Wanted: Columbia Basin Watershed Network [steering committee members](#).



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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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Send Us Your Input On CBT's Proposed Environmental Focus

Tuesday, December 03, 2013

Draft strategic plan proposes CBT's environmental priorities for next five years

Since spring 2013, CBT has been engaging with Basin residents and organizations to help renew its water and environmental strategic plans. CBT is now asking for feedback on the culmination of that input - the [draft 2014 - 2019 Environmental Strategic Plan](#).

Once finalized, the plan will guide how CBT supports activities to strengthen the Basin's collective ability to address current and future environmental priorities. The draft plan sets goals in five areas: water, ecosystems, climate change, environmental education and enhancing the capacities of environment-focused organizations.

"Thank you to everyone who has joined the discussion; your ideas are helping to shape the Trust's environmental focus for the next five years," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "We now seek your help again to finalize the plan-do you feel supportive of this plan, what will this plan mean to you in your community?"

To help shape the goals, objectives and activities in the draft plan, CBT sought out a range of perspectives. Residents participated in workshops and meetings across the Basin, and in a Basin-wide online survey process called Thoughtstream. CBT also consulted with environmental experts and a range of organizations, plus reviewed technical documents that identify environmental challenges in the Basin, and strategic plans from other Basin organizations doing environmental work.

To read the draft plan, visit www.cbt.org/draftenvironmentalplan. Provide your input by emailing environment@cbt.org by noon on Thursday, January 9, 2014.



Projects Benefit Youth In The Basin

Tuesday, January 07, 2014

15 projects to receive support from the Trust's Youth Grants Program

Fifteen projects that benefit Basin youth were recently approved to receive funding through Columbia Basin Trust's **Youth Grants Program**. The projects will receive a total of \$107,400.

"Applicants submitted a diverse range of project ideas to the program," said Sabrina Curtis, Director, Sector Initiatives for the Trust. "We are excited that all of the funded projects will strongly support meaningful engagement of Basin youth."

Wishbone Theatre Productions will use the funding to help Valemount youth create a musical play that explores their visions of community.

"By researching the past and examining the present, youth actors will create a play with music that reflects their visions of an ideal society," said Sharon Stearns, Artistic Producer, Wishbone Theatre Productions. "Youth in Valemount will be able to develop their creative performance skills and connect these skills to a meaningful project that strengthens their participation in local culture."

The 266 Kimberley Air Cadets Squadron Sponsoring Committee will use the funds to encourage youth to develop interest in aviation.

"I was able to learn a lot about rocketry through air-cadet-sponsored summer camps and want to share that knowledge," said Sgt. Coren Green, 266 RCACS Kimberley. "With the help of the grant, I will be able to host a rocket program that will teach youth within my squadron and community how to build and launch rockets - that will have us shooting for the stars!"

Projects that directly benefit Basin youth aged 12 to 29 can receive up to \$15,000 per project through the Youth Grants Program. A range of organizations can apply including school districts, First Nations and local governments, plus youth aged 15 to 29 with a sponsoring organization. The Trust's Youth Advisory Committee, made up of youth aged 15 to 29, adjudicate the applications.

The next Youth Grants Program deadline is March 10, 2014, at 2 p.m. PT. For more information, visit www.cbt.org/ygp.



Expanded Conservation Corridor Helps At-risk Grizzlies and Frogs

Friday, December 20, 2013

The **Nature Conservancy of Canada** has made it easier for the threatened South Selkirk population of grizzly bears to connect with a larger population to the east. With support from the Trust, the group has added over 370 acres to the **Frog Bear Conservation Corridor**, which runs through the Creston Valley and creates a safe passage for grizzlies travelling between the Selkirk and Purcell mountains. The northern leopard frog will also benefit from these conservation efforts.

"The Nature Conservancy of Canada did a great job bringing seven partners together to protect nearly 400 acres of grizzly bear and amphibian habitat. This project helps to support environmental well-being in our region," said Neil Muth, Trust President and CEO.

Connecting the threatened South Selkirk grizzly bears with the more abundant grizzly population to the east is considered critical to the long-term prospects for this species in this corner of the province. Biologists have identified the lands being conserved as key areas used by bears as they move through the valley.

One parcel is a 162-acre forested property on the western edge of the valley that serves as a gateway for bears moving down from the mountains. The land was purchased from Creston-based Wynndel Box and Lumber and is adjacent to the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area.

An additional 211 acres has been protected through a conservation covenant that will prevent the subdivision of the valley-bottom land. The property will continue to be used for agriculture.

The total cost of conserving these two parcels is \$1.14 million, which includes an endowment to fund the long-term management of the project.

Read the full news release [here](#).



100 Years and Beyond

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

In 1913, Monrad Wigen started a small box factory near Creston, in Wynndel. One hundred years later, Wigen's descendants are still operating Wynndel Box & Lumber, making it the oldest family-owned lumber mill in BC and—with over 100 employees—one of the largest employers in the Creston Valley.

The sawmill may not have reached its 100th birthday, however, without a complete restructuring—made possible in part by financing from the Trust. The management team was changed and the organization refocused on what it does best: making high-quality wood products and providing excellent customer service.

"CBT has been and will continue to be an excellent partner for Wynndel Box & Lumber. Once our restructuring plan was in place, we reached out to CBT and received funding and the support we needed," said Michael Combs, Wynndel Box & Lumber CEO and Chair. "We're more than halfway through our turnaround and the future is looking bright."

www.wyndellumber.com

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



Researchers Uncover Significant Fossil Finds

Friday, December 13, 2013

Five-hundred-million years ago, the land between current-day Cranbrook and the Bull River valley lay under an ocean. Last summer, researchers searched for the fossils of that ocean's former residents—particularly small marine animals called trilobites. The results of the project included some never-seen-before species.

Several organizations and experts joined efforts to unearth and establish the rarity of the specimens: the Burgess Shale GeoScience Foundation, College of the Rockies, East Kootenay fossil expert Chris Jenkins and Brian Chatterton from the University of Alberta. Columbia Basin Trust supported the project with over \$14,000.

"The results of the project far exceeded the goals and expectations, said Randle Robertson, Executive Director of the Burgess Shale Geoscience Foundation. "They confirm that this region contains one of the most exciting and massive fossil deposits from the ancient ocean floor."

"For years it's been known that the East Kootenay region has significant fossil deposits, but the extent and rarity had not been established," said Jennifer Krotz, Trust Community Liaison. "Thanks to this project, researchers can now start to determine the role these fossils play within this region and around the world, and we can better appreciate the natural heritage of the Basin."

