



Join Our Environment Grants Evaluation Committee...and More!

Are you interested in contributing to decisions that support environmental well-being in the Basin? We're seeking volunteers to join our Environment Grants Evaluation Committee. Apply by July 25...[full story](#).

We're also excited to point out some of the great, Trust-supported environmental work that's being done around the Basin. Here are a few examples:

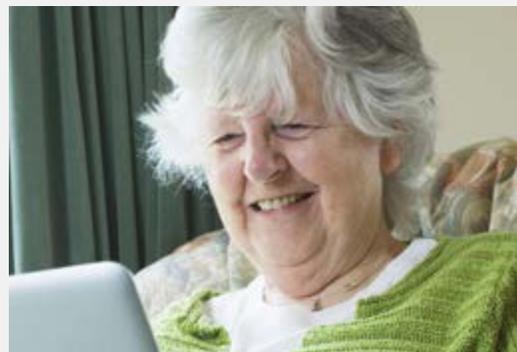
Sparwood Students Create Wild Water

Selkirk Secondary School Students Paint the Town for Fish

WildSafeBC Launches Season



SunMine Offers a



Send Us Your

Bright Future to Sunny Kimberley

The City of Kimberley's future is bright as it announces the start of construction on the \$5.3-million SunMine solar project, supported in part by the Trust...[full story](#)

Input on Social Strategic Direction

In 2013, we began discussions with people in the Basin about the renewal of our Social Strategic Plan. We now ask for your feedback on the outcome of that input...[full story](#)

Opportunities

July 21

Deadline

Job Posting: Analyst, Operations

July 21

Deadline

Job Posting: Executive Assistant and Corporate Secretary

July 23

Deadline

Request for Proposals: CBBC Fibre Construction

July 25

Deadline

Volunteer Position: Environment Grants Evaluation Committee

July 31

Deadline

Invitation to quote - CBBC Micro Data Cabinets

[Go to events page >](#)



Learn how we connected with Basin residents over the past year.

[2013/14 Annual Report](#)

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Join the Trust's Environment Grants Evaluation Committee

Monday, July 07, 2014

Columbia Basin Trust is offering an exciting opportunity to Basin residents: to volunteer on its **Environment Grants** Evaluation Committee. Members will serve a three-year term and will review environment grant applications and make funding recommendations. For more information and to apply by July 25, visit cbt.org/eevaluation.

While the Trust has always relied on a group of environmental experts from the Basin, it is now creating a new committee structure that will include more community input. This approach will ensure that project funding decisions are based on a balance of technical and community input from Basin residents.

The revision is one of several changes being made to the Environment Grants program in response to input received from residents when the Trust was creating its new *Environment Strategic Plan 2014 - 2019*.

"One of the things we heard when creating our new plan is that people would like to see deeper community involvement in the project evaluation process - so this new committee structure is a response to that feedback," said Tim Hicks, Columbia Basin Trust, Manager, Water and Environment. "We are looking for applicants from across the region with a range of experience and perspectives - from technical and professional environmental expertise to non-profit, business and industry experience."

Through its Environment Grants program, the Trust has provided over \$5 million during the past 12 years for environmental conservation, restoration, stewardship and education projects across the Basin. Learn more at cbt.org/eg.



Sparwood Students Create Wild Water

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Grade eight students in Sparwood have learned about stream health and how water flows through their community thanks to the Trust's Know Your Watershed program.

They also built a Wild Water activities kit to donate to a local daycare centre. The kit includes a fishy facts game and pond study equipment, and will help kids learn about the variety of water-based animals that live in the Elk River Watershed.

"The daycare staff and kids were thrilled to receive the Wild Water supplies and excited about using the activities. Thank you grade eight students for your hard work!" said Jamie Chisolm, Treehouse Daycare Centre staff.

Working with environmental educators in the Basin, the Trust developed the **Know Your Watershed** water stewardship education program, which is aimed at grade eight students. This hands-on initiative helps students understand where their water comes from, how it is used and where it goes after it is used.



Selkirk Secondary School Students Paint the Town for Fish

Thursday, June 05, 2014

Several students, supportive family members and Ms. Difilippo, teacher at Kimberley's Selkirk Secondary School, dedicated Saturday, May 24, 2014, to keeping their local watershed healthy.

By painting a fish silhouette near storm drains in downtown Kimberley in the Platzl and near the school, the community is reminded that the storm water goes untreated directly into Mark Creek. Recovering Westslope cutthroat trout and other aquatic life require clean water to be healthy.

"These grade eight eco-stewards from Selkirk Secondary School took what they learned through Columbia Basin Trust's Know Your Watershed education program and put it into student action to help protect water quality for fish in Mark Creek," said educator Patty Kolesnichenko. "The community was so supportive of their efforts, including: Burrito Grill and Snow Drift Café, which provided discounted food; Home Hardware, which discounted equipment and paint; and the City of Kimberley, which loaned high-visible vests and brooms to students and made them the fish stencils."

During the day, students talked to community members while they painted, and reminded people that the water that runs off their properties, driveways and streets goes into Mark Creek. They also reminded them to dispose of oils, paints and chemicals at the appropriate places, not down the storm drain.

The positive community feedback really encouraged students and they want to do it again next year, commented Kolesnichenko.

The student action project was part of Know Your Watershed, a water stewardship program developed by the Trust and local environmental educators, which is managed and delivered by Wildsight. To learn more, visit cbt.org/environmentaleducation.



WildSafeBC Launches Season

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

WildSafeBC community coordinators are starting their season of door-to-door campaigning, school programs, public displays and working with the public to help keep wildlife wild and communities safe.

Through a partnership of the Trust and the BC Conservation Foundation, WildSafe BC programs are offered in several Basin communities. A few of the community coordinators are:

- Sarah Jane Osadetz in the Golden area.
- Kara Haugseth in the Invermere and Radium Hot Springs area.
- Sonja Seher in the Kimberley/Cranbrook area.

The program provides conflict reduction advice for all types of wildlife—including bears, coyotes, cougars, deer, raccoons and even rattlesnakes. It also offers an **interactive mapping program**, which allows residents to see where, when and why wildlife has been spotted in their neighbourhoods:

For more information, visit wildsafebc.com.



SunMine Offers a Bright Future to Sunny Kimberley

Thursday, July 10, 2014

The City of Kimberley's future is bright as it announces the start of construction on the \$5.3-million SunMine solar project, supported in part by the Trust.

The project takes advantage of Kimberley's clear and sunny conditions. Located on Teck's former Sullivan Mine, it will have over 4,000 solar-cell modules mounted on 96 solar trackers that follow the sun's movement, maximizing solar exposure. It will be western Canada's largest solar project, and the first solar project in BC to sell power to the BC Hydro grid.

In addition to generating energy, SunMine will benefit the regional economy through increased visibility and awareness, plus will give the region a competitive edge when it comes to future initiatives in the growing renewable energy market.

Construction is taking place over summer and fall 2014, targeting operation in January 2015.

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

Learn more about SunMine [here](#).



Send Us Your Input On Our Proposed Social Strategic Direction

Thursday, July 10, 2014

In summer 2013, Columbia Basin Trust (the Trust) began discussions with Basin residents, communities and social sector stakeholders about the renewal of the Trust's Social Strategic Plan. Input and ideas were generated through broad public engagement including online input, social sector round table conversations, community workshops, and stakeholder interviews. We are now asking for feedback on the outcome of that input - the **draft 2014 - 2019 Social Strategic Plan**.

Once finalized, the Plan will guide the Trust's roles, actions and funding in assisting communities to improve social well-being in the Basin region. The draft plan identifies objectives and activities related to three goals: addressing systemic social issues, responding to social priorities and solutions at a community level, and strengthening social sector capacity.

"Thanks to all residents and social sector representatives for their time, participation and input into the development of the draft Social Strategic Plan so far," said Neil Muth, Columbia Basin Trust President and CEO. "To help finalize the plan we are seeking further comments from residents on the following questions: Are you supportive of this plan? And what does this plan mean to you and your community?"

Read the draft plan, and **provide your input online** by 4:30 pm PT on Friday, August 15, 2014.

Provide your feedback by clicking [here](#).

