



## Working Together to Prevent Aquatic Invasive Species

Four invasive species committees and the Trust have come together to develop one cohesive strategy and implementation plan to address aquatic invasive species in the Basin. The goal of this collaboration is to reduce the spread and prevent the introduction of invasive species that pose significant risk in this region [...full story](#)



## State of the Basin Snapshot Report

Understanding the important trends related to the well-being of our communities helps the people of the Columbia Basin-Boundary region make informed decisions [...full story](#)



## Outdoor Rink Opens in Wasa

A number of community members and dignitaries were on hand for the first "official" puck drop at the upgraded Wasa and District Lion's Pete Vereshagen Memorial Rink [...full story](#)

## Events and Deadlines

**January 14 to 21**

Kimberley, Cranbrook, Invermere,  
Fernie

*Our Trust, Our Future Workshops*

**January 15 and February 12**

Online

*Columbia Basin Watershed Network  
Webinars*

**January 17 and 22**

Creston and Cranbrook

*Grant Writing Workshops*

**January 30**

Cranbrook

*Trust Board of Directors Meeting*

**January 31**

Deadline

*Waneta Terrestrial Compensation  
Program*

*Go to events page.*



## Free Grant Writing Workshops in Creston and Cranbrook

[Learn more](#)

## Tell Us What's Important to Your Community

Submit your feedback [online](#), or attend an Our Trust, Our Future workshop in Kimberley, Cranbrook, Fernie or Invermere.

[Learn more](#)

## CONTACT

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## Working Together to Prevent Aquatic Invasive Species

Thursday, January 08, 2015

Four invasive species committees and Columbia Basin Trust have come together with the goal to develop one cohesive strategy and implementation plan to address Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in the Columbia Basin. The goal of this collaboration is to reduce the spread and prevent the introduction of invasive species that pose significant risk in this region.

This month, Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee (CKIPC), East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council (EKIPC), Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS) and North West Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC), along with 20 other participants came together to discuss how to address and prevent AIS in the Basin. Participants represented provincial and local government, hydro-electric power, First Nations fisheries, non-profit societies, stewardship groups and compliance and enforcement officers.

"Aquatic invasive species such as zebra and quagga mussels can be extremely damaging to our ecosystems and economy," says Crystal Klym, Executive Director of CKIPC. "Once they arrive here they are extremely difficult to get rid of so developing strategies to prevent them is key."

Zebra and quagga mussels have infested waterways as close as Manitoba and Colorado. Boats traveling from these waters into the Columbia Basin can transport these mussels and introduce them into local waterways -- something that many partners are trying to prevent.

"Residents identified invasive species as one of the priorities to address in our strategic planning sessions last year," says Tim Hicks, Columbia Basin Trust, Manager of Water and Environment. "We are really excited about the collaborative efforts of the local invasive species councils. We're adding our support to help enhance and expand these efforts to implement a strategy that will reduce and prevent the spread of invasive species in the Basin."

"Although we tend to focus on the invasive mussels, there are many other species that can impact our waterways," emphasizes Klym. "Invasive plant species like yellow flag-iris and flowering rush can escape from garden ponds and enter our rivers, lakes and wetlands, choking out native species and impacting wildlife habitat."

This Steering Committee will guide the development of the strategy and implementation plan which is expected to be completed by spring of 2015.

To find out more about aquatic invasive species contact your local invasive plant committee or visit [www.ckipc.ca](http://www.ckipc.ca).



## 2014 State of the Basin Snapshot Report Released

Tuesday, December 23, 2014

Understanding the important trends related to the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of our communities helps the people of the Columbia Basin-Boundary region make informed decisions.

This information is compiled in the 2014 State of the Basin Snapshot Report, released by the **Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute** (RDI). The report provides brief highlights of ongoing State of the Basin research and is meant to inspire readers to learn more about the topics that are important to them.

This year, the RDI has made it easier for readers to dig deeper into facts that pique their interests; they can click on any page heading or individual fact to access in-depth data and analysis.

Highlights from this year's report include:

- The median property value for a single family residence is \$261,000.
- Incomes are more equally distributed in all Basin-Boundary communities than the BC and Canadian averages.
- Our region hosts over 100 annual festivals and special events each year.
- 2014 was the biggest wildfire year since 2007.

To read the report, [click here](#).

Columbia Basin Trust and Selkirk College established the RDI in order to promote and support informed planning and decision-making in the Columbia Basin-Boundary region through the provision of information and applied research. [Learn more](#).



### Community Celebrates Official Opening of Wasa Outdoor Rink

Wednesday, December 17, 2014

A number of community members and dignitaries were on hand for the first "official" puck drop at the newly completed Wasa and District Lion's Pete Vereshagen Memorial Rink.

The Wasa and District Lion's Club has always maintained a rink in Wasa and it has been a popular winter fixture in the community; however, without a proper concrete pad at the facility, it was difficult to retain a quality ice surface. The Lions Club and Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) applied for funding through the Provincial Community Recreation Program and received \$70,482 in 2012.

Columbia Basin Trust allocated \$8,800 to the project through its Community Development Program. "Being able to access this new, quality rink will help Wasa residents be physically active and increase community well-being," says Katherine Hamilton, Columbia Basin Trust Community Liaison. "Skaters of all ages and abilities will be able to take advantage of improved recreation opportunities and have a lot of fun and enjoyment on this new outdoor rink.

[Read more](#)



## Wasa Outdoor Rink Official Opening

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Kootenay East MLA Bill Bennett was another advocate for the project. "I am so happy to see the Wasa outdoor rink completed. Jane Walter deserves the credit and I am pleased for Jane as well. She worked so hard to make this happen," says MLA Bennett. "As senior as I am getting to be these days, I hope that I can come for a skate someday soon on Wasa's beautiful, new, outdoor ice rink!"

The rink project included building a concrete pad, rink boards and a storage shed/warming hut in addition to the installation of additional outdoor lights.

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) allocated \$8800 to the project through its Community Development Program. "Being able to access this new, quality rink will help Wasa residents be physically active and increase community well-being," says Katherine Hamilton, Columbia Basin Trust Community Liaison. "Skaters of all ages and abilities will be able to take advantage of improved recreation opportunities and have a lot of fun and enjoyment on this new outdoor rink."

Prior to being awarded the funding, the Lion's Club raised thousands of dollars for the rink by selling rink boards with business and individual donators' names on them. "We are so grateful to the Province, CBT, RDEK and the many businesses and individuals who supported this project. The Lion's have had a vision of improving this piece of recreational infrastructure for residents and visitors. We are so excited to officially open the rink and have this asset in our community," say the Lion's.

The project was administered by the RDEK and Electoral Area E Director Jane Walter says it is truly a community project. "I want to thank the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, Kootenay East MLA Bill Bennett and CBT for their support of the outdoor rink," says Director Walter. "The community of Wasa has a big heart and this project would not have been possible without the generosity and hard work of the volunteers who have put in countless hours from planning right through the construction." The concrete slab is 72 feet wide by 168 feet long and was designed and constructed by Western Recreation Ltd, a specialty ice rink contractor based in Red Deer. The rink will be maintained by volunteers from the Lion's Club, is free to use and is well lit at night.

The community is planning its first Winterfest Celebration at the Wasa and District Lion's Pete Vereshagen Memorial Rink on December 31, 2014 from Noon to 4pm and everyone is invited to come out and celebrate this new community jewel.