



Another Great Year for Columbia Basin Trust

As it approaches its 20th anniversary, Columbia Basin Trust is pleased to announce 2014/15 was another year of strong support to the area it serves in the Columbia Basin. Over the year the organization delivered nearly \$22 million in programs and services to communities and residents [...full story](#)



Fight Against Invasive Mussels



Waneta Expansion Celebrated

The Waneta Expansion Limited

Getting a Boost

Three mobile inspection and decontamination crews will be ensuring boats are free of mussels. The teams will be based in Cranbrook, Valemount and Nelson. [...full story](#)

Partnership, a partnership between Fortis Inc., Columbia Power Corporation and Columbia Basin Trust, celebrated the grand opening of the \$900 million Waneta Expansion Project, near Trail today. [...full story](#)

Events and Deadlines

Ongoing

Various Locations

[Me Inc. Workshops](#)

July 27

Deadline

[Request for Proposals: CBBC
Regional Network Project Manager](#)

July 30

Deadline

[Request for Proposals: IPv6
Migration](#)

[Go to events page](#)



We Want Your Photos for Our 2016 Calendar!

[Learn more](#)

High-Speed Internet Coming to the Columbia Basin-Boundary Region

[Learn more](#)

CONTACT

1.800.505.8998
cbt@cbt.org
cbt.org

SHARE

Know someone who
might be interested in
this email?

[Forward to a friend](#)

FOLLOW



Another Great Year for Columbia Basin Trust

Thursday, July 16, 2015

\$22 million in programs and services delivered to the Basin over 2014/15

As it approaches its 20th anniversary, Columbia Basin Trust is pleased to announce 2014/15 was another year of strong support to the area it serves in the Columbia Basin. Over the year the organization delivered nearly \$22 million in programs and services to communities and residents, \$17 million in new loans to Basin businesses and earned revenues of over \$29 million.

The Trust works to strengthen the region's social, economic and environmental well-being. In 2014/15, activities included establishing a new resource to support **sports and physical activity**, helping **Junior Achievement** expand into the Basin so youth can learn about entrepreneurship, renewing the Trust's **Social Strategic Plan** and continuing to create a regional open-access **broadband network**.

The main way the Trust supports these activities is by investing in power projects. All power projects performed well over the year, and brought in revenues of over \$22 million (out of total revenues of \$29 million). In spring 2015 **Waneta Expansion** began operating, which will positively impact future revenues. The Trust also invests in market securities (stocks and bonds) and local real estate, and provides loans to Basin-based businesses.

"Because of the strong performance of our investments, our revenues were higher than anticipated, which means we were able to offer more programs and services to Basin residents," said Neil Muth, Columbia Basin Trust President and Chief Executive Officer. "Moving into the future, we look forward to having even greater impact on well-being in the region."

A major emphasis over the year involved **engaging with residents** to ask what's important to them and how the Trust should focus its efforts. About 3,000 people provided input that will help the Trust make decisions, set priorities and manage how it provides programs and services to the region.

Read more about the Trust's performance in its 2014/15 Annual Service Plan Report at cbt.org/annualreport. For stories and photos of some of the projects it has supported, look for the magazine Your Trust (formerly Report to Residents) in your mailbox this fall.

RELATED ITEMS

 [Annual Service Plan Report \(1.77 MB\)](#)

 [Financial Statement \(47.68 KB\)](#)

 Like

Fight Against Invasive Mussels Getting a Boost in Columbia Basin Trust Region

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Columbia Basin Trust is helping the province to double the number of mobile decontamination units aimed at stopping invasive mussels from entering British Columbia waterways, thanks to \$360,000 in new funding.

This new partnership, in the Ministry of Environment led Invasive Mussel Defence Program, also includes support from Columbia Power Corporation, FortisBC and the four local invasive species councils operating in the region East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council, Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society and the Northwest Invasive Plant Council.

"Preventing the threat of invasive mussels is critical to protecting our waterways for environmental, economic and recreational reasons, and has been identified as a priority by the residents that live here," said Neil Muth, President and CEO, Columbia Basin Trust. "Increasing the level of protection in this region is key and we are pleased to support the prevention efforts this summer to keep mussels out of the Columbia Basin."

The new resources mean an additional three mobile inspection and decontamination crews will be dedicated to stopping and ensuring boats are free of mussels. The teams will be based in Cranbrook, Valemount and Nelson, to target major entry points from Alberta and the U.S. The new teams join three other crews that are already operational, doubling the number of mobile units dedicated to protecting B.C.'s lakes and rivers against the threat of quagga and zebra mussels.

The decontamination units allow auxiliary conservation officers, who are trained to identify mussel-infested boats, to decontaminate boats and trailers entering B.C. The teams also respond to boats identified as concerns by the Canada Border Services Agency, and partner agencies in Alberta and the U.S. The mobile units move between border locations, focusing on high-traffic routes and have the ability to quickly respond to any reports of potential threats called in through the provincial Report All Poachers and Polluters line.

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



Waneta Expansion Celebrates Grand Opening & Workers Who Made It Happen

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

The Waneta Expansion Limited Partnership (WELP), a partnership between Fortis Inc., Columbia Power Corporation and Columbia Basin Trust, celebrated the grand opening of the \$900 million, 335 MW Waneta Expansion Project, near Trail today. The official grand opening celebration took place at the facility with project stakeholders, contractors, government representatives, and First Nations.

Located immediately downstream of the Waneta Dam on the Pend d'Oreille River, the Waneta Expansion adds a second powerhouse that shares the existing hydraulic head, generating clean, renewable, cost-effective power from water that would otherwise be spilled. The project included the construction of a 10 km, 230 kV transmission line.

Earlier this year, Waneta Expansion achieved substantial completion, a major project milestone, when the two generators began producing power. The eighth largest infrastructure project in British Columbia at its time of construction, Waneta Expansion was completed within budget and six weeks ahead of schedule. Throughout its four-and-a-half-years of construction, the project maintained an excellent safety and environmental protection record.

Major project benefits include the injection of over \$300 million into the local economy through the purchase of goods, services and wages. Along with the clear financial benefit to the region, the project also allowed many tradespeople to stay at home and work, while many new workers got to participate in apprenticeship opportunities. Employment reached over 1,400 people and the project provided 194 apprenticeship opportunities from 13 different trades.

"This project's success shows the value of teamwork between our well-established regulated utility operations at FortisBC and Columbia Power Corporation and Columbia Basin Trust," said Karl Smith, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Fortis Inc. "Not only has this project resulted in clean, renewable hydroelectric power for the region but it has also served as an opportunity to support the local economy, leaving a legacy for future generations."

"In 2010 when I was Energy Minister the first time, there was a vigorous debate within government about whether to allow the Waneta Expansion project to proceed," said Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines. "I am grateful that, as a Kootenay resident, I had the opportunity at the time to ensure that this tremendous project was allowed to proceed. I want to thank John Walker in particular for his help in making this project happen."

"As a partner, and the Owner's Representative managing the project, we are extremely proud of the project and thank the workers and SNC-Lavalin Inc., the project contractor, for making this project a huge success," said Lee Doney, Board Chair, Columbia Power Corporation.

"This is a great day for every individual who has participated in the project," said Neil Muth, President and Chief Executive Officer, Columbia Basin Trust. "Not only will the expansion generate electricity, provide jobs and inject money into the local economy, but it will provide revenue that will help us deliver programs and services throughout the Columbia Basin."

The partners would like to extend a sincere thank you to the workers, contractors, First Nations, local communities, and the Community Impact Management Committee for their support throughout construction.

The partners invite all those who worked at the Waneta Expansion Project, along with their spouse and children, to attend the complimentary worker appreciation BBQ on July 26, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Birchbank Picnic Grounds, 501 Birchbank Road, Trail, BC.

Columbia Power managed construction of the Waneta Expansion Project on behalf of WELP. For more information please visit: columbiapower.org/wanetaexpansion.

For further information, please contact:

Audrey Repin
Waneta Expansion Project Spokesperson
250.304.6044

WANETA EXPANSION PROJECT QUICK FACTS

- Employed over 1,400 people.
- During peak employment, there were over 50 apprentices on site. 194 apprentices (from 13 trades) received skills training.
- Over 70 per cent of the workforce came from within 100 km of the project.
- 13 Ktunaxa Nation citizens, including trades apprentices and journeymen, worked on the project.
- Regional spending on goods and services exceeded \$220 million.
- Project wages exceeded \$95 million.
- With over 3 million person hours logged there were only two minor lost time incidents and no major environmental incidents or concerns.
- \$50,000 is awarded annually to research, physical works, and other on-the-ground or applied terrestrial compensation projects. The program will continue for three years following completion of the expansion project this year.
- The project is situated in an area claimed as traditional territories by both the Ktunaxa Nation Council and Okanagan Nation Alliance. Benefit agreements with both First Nations were executed and the Owner and Contractors worked closely with First Nations to maximize opportunities and benefits.
- Rock and overburden removed: enough to fill 82,000 tandem truckloads.
- Concrete used: 85,000 m³, enough to fill over thirty Olympic sized swimming pools.
- Completed all rock blasting without damage to any neighbouring facilities and without injury to white sturgeon.
- A Community Impact Management Committee met on a monthly basis to provide ongoing support to encourage positive community impacts and a forum to discuss and address issues raised by the community resulting from construction of the project. The committee includes local residents, members of local and regional government, First Nations and representatives from the Owner and Contractor.



We Want Your Photos!

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Send us your best Basin photos for our 2016 calendar

Please note: The deadline for submissions is **Sunday, September 20, 2015**.

Each year we produce a desktop calendar that showcases the beauty and wonder of the Basin through images taken by residents from around the Basin.

We're planning our 2016 calendar and need your photos! Photographers of selected photos will **receive \$200 each**.

We need 13 of the best Basin photos, from **all seasons** and of **all subject matters**. View samples of the [2013 calendar](#), [2014 calendar](#) and [2015 calendar](#) for ideas.

We are particularly interested in photos that represent a feeling of "community." This could mean people in the streets, at festivals, in parks or at other gatherings. However, privacy laws mean that either:

1) the people in the photos can't be recognizable (they're too small in the photo to identify, or we see only their backs, or their identity is obscured in some other way)

or

2) if the people are recognizable, the photographer is able to track them down to get them to sign Columbia Basin Trust's photo consent form (which we would supply to you if your photo was chosen).

To send us one or more photos for consideration, please email cbtcommunications@cbt.org with the following:

- 1) Your name.
 - 2) Your community.
 - 3) What the photo is of. (If it represents a specific month, please indicate that too.)
 - 4) Where the photo was taken (within the **Basin** only, please).
 - 5) Low-res copies of the photos you wish us to consider. (Please send no more than five.)
- If your photo is selected, we will require a high-res version (at least 300 dpi) that is at least 5" x 5" in size. If your photo is smaller than this, please do not submit it.

Youth are welcome to submit.

Also please note the following:

Credit: Your name and community will appear in the calendar; we will also mail you one free copy of the calendar.

Use: We are purchasing your photo to use in the 2016 calendar, plus for any other Trust-related items produced within a three-year period (2016 to 2018). This may include ads, social media, websites or brochures. You retain copyright and ownership of the photo.

Timeline: Please send samples by end-of-day Sunday, September 20, 2015, to cbtcommunications@cbt.org.

Thank you!



High-Speed Internet Coming to the Columbia Basin-Boundary Region

Wednesday, July 08, 2015

MP David Wilks and Minister James Moore announce major investment that will bring fast, reliable Internet services to 11,000 homes

Everyday tasks that were once done in person, such as shopping, communicating, learning and banking, are now done online. To help Canadians have better access to these and many other online opportunities, the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Industry and Minister Responsible for British Columbia, and David Wilks, Member of Parliament for Kootenay Columbia, announced that the Government of Canada will provide \$3.34 million to Columbia Basin Trust to bring high-speed Internet services to approximately 11,000 households in British Columbia.

"Columbia Basin Trust is committed to bringing better broadband to the Columbia Basin Boundary region, and this funding is an important step forward in giving over 11,000 households the ability to participate fully in the digital world," said Neil Muth, President and CEO, Columbia Basin Trust. "Thank you to the Minister, the Government of Canada, our local government partners and Internet service providers for their efforts in bringing affordable high-speed Internet services to our communities."

Under the Connecting Canadians program, the Columbia Basin Trust will receive \$3.34 million to connect approximately 11,000 households in the Kootenay region, including in Ainsworth Hot Springs, Baynes Lake, Beaver Valley, Blewett, Boswell, Boundary (Bridesville to Christina Lake), Bountiful, Brisco, Canal Flats, Canyon, Crawford Bay, Deer Park, Edgewater, Edgewood, Elk Valley, Elko, Fairmont Hot Springs, Ferguson, Field, Fruitvale, Genelle, Glade, Grasmere, Gray Creek, Harrogate, Harrop, Jaffray, Kingsgate, Kitchener, Lister, Moyie Lake, Northern Kootenay Lake communities, Parson, Renata, Riondel, Ross Spur, rural Rossland, Salmo, Sirdar, Slokan Valley, Spillimacheen, South Slokan, Tarrys, Thrums, Wasa, West Creston, Whatshan Lake and surrounding area, Wilmer, Windermere, Wynndel, Yahk and Ymir.

The Trust's subsidiary, Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation, will be coordinating this project and working with the following 12 Internet service providers:

- China Creek Internet Services Ltd.
- Columbia Wireless Inc.
- East Shore Internet Society
- Edgewood Community Internet Society dba: Inonoaklin Edgewood Broadband
- FlexiNET Broadband Inc.
- Kaslo InfoNet Society
- Peak Broadband Solutions
- 0764016 B.C. Ltd dba: SWIFT Internet
- Tough Country Communication Ltd.
- Trout Lake BC Internet Society
- Warner E. Einer dba: WINK Wireless
- Yahk Area Communications Society

Read the full news release at <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=997839>.

