



High-Speed Fibre Optic Service Now in Downtown Rossland

Businesses in downtown Rossland can now reap the benefits of high-speed Internet with up to 100 mbps symmetrical service. The downtown area is now connected to the fibre optic network of the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation [...full story](#)



Environment Project Grants Approved - More Invited to Apply!

Forty projects that support environmental well-being have been approved to receive funding through the Trust's Environment Grants. See



Register Today!

The goal of the conference is to provide learning and networking opportunities to educators, facilitators and coordinators of early years programs and services, that will strengthen professional practice and build better communities.

the [full list of approved projects](#).

Starting April 11, applications will be available for groups seeking grants of up to \$10,000 for their environmental projects. Visit the [Environmental Grants page](#) for more information.

The Trust is pleased to help offset conference costs to reduce barriers for early childhood practitioners to attend the event. [...learn more](#)

Events and Deadlines

March 22 & 23, April 13 & 14

Winlaw, Nelson, Cranbrook, Golden & Trail

[Me Inc. Workshops](#)

March 30

Cranbrook

[Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting Luncheon](#)

Keynote speaker: Rick Jensen, Trust Board Chair

March 31

Deadlines

[Applications: Summer Student Positions](#)

April 6-10

Invermere

[Slow Food Canada National Summit 2016](#)

April 8-9

Sparwood

[Trust Board of Directors Meeting](#)

April 11-12

Nelson

[CBEEN Inquiry Institute](#)

[Go to events page.](#)



We're Recruiting Summer Students: Apply by March 30

[Learn more](#)

Call For Entry: Columbia Basin Culture Tour 2016

Registrations are being accepted for artists/venues in the Columbia Basin to participate in the 8th annual Columbia Basin Culture Tour, a celebration of culture taking place August 13-14, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This is a self guided tour showcasing local arts, culture and heritage offered at no charge to the general public.

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High-Speed Fibre Optic Service Now in Downtown Rossland

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Businesses invited to see live demo of super-fast 100 mbps service at March 23 event

Businesses in downtown Rossland can now reap the benefits of high-speed Internet with up to 100 mbps symmetrical service. The downtown area is now connected to the fibre optic network of the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation (CBBC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Columbia Basin Trust (the Trust).

"We're proud to be celebrating this achievement with the City of Rossland and local Rossland residents who championed the need for better Internet in the community," said Neil Muth, Columbia Basin Trust, President and CEO. "Access to high-speed Internet can help improve the quality of life and prosperity of Basin communities, as well as make our smaller communities more sustainable and we hope this network helps Rossland's economy thrive."

To celebrate the launch, the Trust and the City of Rossland are hosting an event on March 23 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Rossland Public Library for businesses and organizations in the service area. Learn more at cbt.org/rosslandbroadband.

To connect to the network, businesses and organizations contact an Internet service provider and discuss their service plans/rates. Get in touch by April 8, 2016, to receive a free connection from the Rossland network to your business or organization. To learn if you're within the service area see cbt.org/rosslandbroadbandmap.

To help Rossland bring broadband to the community, CBBC took on the role of developing, funding and owning the local network. Until now, communities have had to develop their own networks.

"For a small city, getting high-speed fibre installed was beyond our limited means and yet, we recognize that broadband is an essential piece of the new economy," said Kathy Moore, Mayor of Rossland. "Many thanks to Columbia Basin Trust; without their help and support this project would never have gotten off the ground. I also want to acknowledge the efforts and tenacity of our local, volunteer Broadband Task Force. I hope usage of this network will blossom into a successful economic development tool for our community."

CBBC is working to bring better high-speed Internet connectivity to the Basin and continues to expand its regional network. Broadband is one of 13 strategic priorities for Columbia Basin Trust over the next five years. Learn more at cbt.org/broadband.

Like

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**ENVIRONMENT GRANTS FALL 2015 INTAKE:
LIST OF PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING**

Area	Organization	Project Description	Funding Amount
Central Purcell Range	Seepanee Ecological Consulting	Research wolverines in the central Purcell mountains to increase understanding and help manage fur harvesting, evaluate conservation areas and low-elevation habitat linkages, and establish protection measures if needed.	\$17,000
St. Mary's Band Reserve Lands	St. Mary's Indian Band	Manage invasive species on ʔaḡam reserve lands by using goats and doing outreach to community members.	\$20,000
Salmo River	Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers Society	Monitor rainbow trout in the Salmo River, conduct stewardship activities and educate the public.	\$20,000
RDCK Area D	Kootenay Centre for Forestry Alternatives	Conduct a water monitoring program in the Regional District of Central Kootenay Area D to help communities understand water supply and identify how climate change threatens the supply, ecosystem services and public safety.	\$40,000
Basin-Wide	Wildsight	Educate Basin students to encourage and empower them to make environmentally sustainable lifestyle choices.	\$50,000
Bull River (East Kootenays)	W.S.S. Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia	Identify management strategies for Bull River's blue-listed bighorn sheep by gathering up-to-date data on the movement and range use of the herd and comparing its health to other herds.	\$20,000
Rossland	City of Rossland	Restore, protect and conserve the integrity of Rossland's Centennial Wetland.	\$50,000
Fruitvale	RAP Park Contracting Ltd.	Increase public awareness about the western painted turtle.	\$6,500

Basin-Wide	WCS Wildlife Conservation Society Canada	Engage Basin residents in monitoring bat populations and preventing disease, specifically white-nose syndrome.	\$52,000
Invermere, Golden, Jaffray, Kaslo, Slocan	Wildsight	Engage residents to collect groundwater data from private and public wells to increase knowledge about groundwater in priority aquifers across the Basin.	\$45,000
Lower Columbia River (Canada)	Okanagan Nation Alliance	Conduct research to eradicate northern pike in Canada's lower Columbia River.	\$39,200
Crawford Creek	Eastshore Freshwater Habitat Society	Construct in-stream and riparian habitat enhancements in Crawford Creek to enhance kokanee habitat.	\$40,000
East Kootenay	CJC Ecologics	Develop and deliver environmental education programming at provincial, regional and municipal parks in the East Kootenay.	\$38,000
Nelson	Duhamel Watershed Society	Inventory and evaluate roads in the Duhamel Creek watershed to inform future environmental management actions, land stewardship and public education activities.	\$18,000
Basin-Wide	Mainstreams Environmental Society	Deliver field-based water education programs to students in approximately 14 Basin communities.	\$49,300
New Denver and Kaslo	Valhalla Wilderness Society	Research western toad breeding and migration areas between New Denver and Kaslo to design and test highway mortality mitigation strategies, and conduct public outreach.	\$20,000
Baynes Lake	Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society	Test grassland and forest harvesting treatments near Elko to determine their effects on wildlife, forage plants and wood value.	\$10,000
Tobacco Plains Indian Reserve	Tobacco Plains Indian Band	Test methods to reduce forest encroachment and restore grassland ecosystems on the Tobacco Plains Indian Reserve and adjoining lands.	\$25,000
Creston Valley	Birchdale Ecological Ltd.	Support non-lethal management of problem grizzly bears and research grizzly bear use of the Creston Valley.	\$49,500

Basin-Wide	Pandion Ecological Research Ltd.	Inventory great blue heron breeding and wintering sites in the Basin while involving residents in monitoring and stewardship activities.	\$20,000
Creston	Masse Environmental Consultants Ltd.	Restore riparian and wetland habitat along Indian Creek by planting native species and testing techniques to suppress invasive plants.	\$29,000
Kokanee Creek Provincial Park	West Kootenay Community EcoSociety	Develop and deliver public environmental education programs at the Kokanee Nature Centre in Kokanee Creek Provincial Park.	\$19,900
Kootenay Lake	Friends of Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society	Perform stewardship, education and outreach activities to maintain or improve the ecological health of Kootenay Lake.	\$26,600
Basin-Wide	West Kootenay Community EcoSociety	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by making ride sharing more accessible to Basin residents.	\$14,000
East Kootenay	Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC	Develop and deliver school-based and public environmental education programs at the Kootenay Trout Hatchery.	\$30,000
Flathead and Elk Valley	Hornaday Wilderness Society	Research wolverines in the Basin's southern Rockies to better conserve and manage them.	\$25,000
Meadow Creek and Lardeau Valley	British Columbia Conservation Foundation	Reduce grizzly bear mortality and human-bear conflicts in the Meadow Creek and Lardeau River areas by mapping bear activity, implementing non-lethal management techniques and educating residents and visitors.	\$17,700
Bummer's Flats, Fort Steele and wetlands west of the Kootenay River	Isabel Ohanjanian	Conduct research to assess the efficacy of northern leopard frog recovery efforts in the upper Kootenay floodplain.	\$29,000
Basin-Wide	Windermere District Farmers Institute and Livestock Association	Continue to develop and implement a "Payment for Ecological Services" program that works with Basin farmers to protect ecological values on their properties.	\$27,000
Creston Valley	Yaqaan Nuki Wetlands Friendship Society	Stabilize water levels at the Skincus marsh to benefit waterfowl.	\$17,700

Castlegar	Kootenay Native Plant Society	Conduct research, stewardship and public outreach activities to restore camas meadow communities on the Columbia River floodplain.	\$30,000
Flathead and Elk Valley	British Columbia Conservation Foundation	Research grizzly bear mortality factors and rates in the South Rockies and Flathead populations to help sustainably manage them.	\$15,000
St.Mary's Indian Reserve	Thomas Resources	Research burbot spawning in the St. Mary River and support stewardship activities by ʔaąam community members.	\$43,800
Summit Lake	Jakob Dulisse Consulting	Reduce highway mortality of the blue-listed western toad at Summit Lake through research, monitoring, mitigation strategies and public education.	\$24,000
Golden	Wildsight Golden Branch	Monitor the health and distribution of limber pine on Kapristo Mountain and in the Kicking Horse Canyon near Golden.	\$10,300
Creston Valley	Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority Trust Fund	Deliver public outreach and education programs at the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area through its Wetland Education and Awareness Program.	\$25,000
Slocan Valley	Slocan Solutions Society	Assess the condition of wetlands in the Slocan Valley and share findings with residents, non-profit organizations and government agencies.	\$28,000
East Kootenay	Blue Lake Forest Education Society	Educate Basin students about climate change and its effects on snowpack levels and water supply.	\$16,000
Revelstoke	BC Interior Forestry Museum Society	Use field- and classroom-based activities to connect Revelstoke youth with their surrounding forest ecosystems.	\$11,000
Columbia Wetlands	Wildsight Golden Branch	Conduct citizen science research to establish Important Bird Area status for the Columbia Wetlands.	\$36,000

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For more information contact:

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**Call
for**

**Columbia Basin
Culture Tour**

**Entry: Artists/Heritage
Venues**

**Columbia Basin Culture
Tour – August 13-14, 2016**

a project of the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance
Columbia Basin – Call for entry: registrations are being accepted for artists/venues in the Columbia Basin to participate in the 8th annual Columbia Basin Culture Tour (CBCT), a celebration of culture taking place August 13-14, 2016 from 10 am to 5 pm.

The CBCT is a self guided tour showcasing local arts, culture and heritage offered at no charge to the general public. “Arts” includes visual, written, performing, media and inter-arts! Participating as a venue allows you to really connect with locals, develop a wider audience, educate the public about what you do, market your activities, and attract visitors to your community.

The CBCT allows visitors to meet the participants “behind the scenes” and allows them to: visit artists studios that may not regularly be open to the public, purchase works directly from the artists, visit art galleries, museums and cultural centres to view special interpretive displays, archives, demonstrations or performances. It is also a chance for them to meet the people behind the scenes that are such a vital part of our local culture. Full colour tour directories will be available free of charge to the public as a guide to visit your location. Signage, posters and postcards are provided to promote your participation. Your web page profile will also remain for the rest of the year and will list your contact hours outside of the event.

FINAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 13, 2016

Register by Mar 31 and save!

\$40.00: Early Registration (registration received by March 31)

\$50.00: Registration (registration between April 1-April 13)

Participating individuals and venues must be located in the Canadian Columbia Basin, the southeast corner of British Columbia roughly bordered by the

communities of Valemount, Golden, Elkford, Creston, Rossland, Arrow Lakes and Revelstoke. Although not in the Basin, the communities of Grand Forks and Christina Lake are again invited to participate this year.

To register visit: www.cbculturetour.com. For information call: 1-250-505-5505 or toll free at 1-877-505-7355. The Columbia Basin Culture Tour is a project of the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance and is funded by Columbia Basin Trust which supports the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Columbia Basin.

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For further information contact:
Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance
1-250-505-5505 toll free 1-877-505-7355