

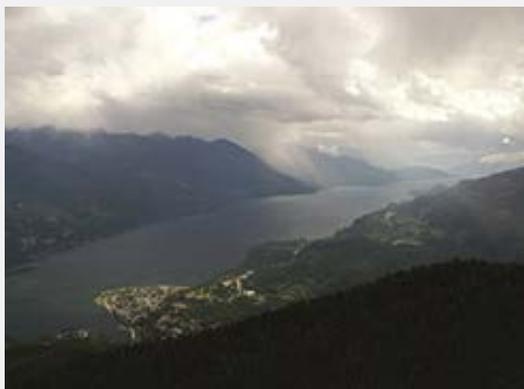


May the holiday season fill your home with joy

Columbia Basin Trust Board of Directors and staff wish you a very happy holidays and all the best in the new year!

Start the new year with our 2017 desktop calendar. The Trust's 2017 desktop calendar showcases the beauty and wonder of the Columbia Basin through images taken by residents from around the Basin.

Sign up [here](#) and a free copy will be mailed to you.



Water Smart Proves Successful



Building Up Affordable

Twenty-six Water Smart communities in the Columbia Basin have made tremendous gains in water conservation skills and strategies, and most were successful in reducing overall water use.

It's a story of seven years of effort, and we are proud to share these communities' successes with you. [...full story](#)

Housing

There is a clear need for affordable housing in the Basin. Working with our partners, we've made progress in helping communities offer more affordable housing options. Now the Trust is allocating \$5 million for each of the next three years to develop, manage and fund housing that meets community and regional needs. [...full story](#)

Events and Deadlines

Rossland Youth Action Network

December 22, 29 & January 5
Rossland

[Rossland Makerlab](#)

Application Deadline:

January 2, 2017
Basin-wide

[#BCTech Summit 2017](#)

Application Deadline:

January 16, 2017
Basin-wide

Request for Proposals:

[Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute Evaluation](#)

Application Deadline:

January 20, 2017
Basin-wide

Request for Qualifications:

[Market Housing Rental Units Development Project](#)

February 4, 2017

Trail

[Trust Board of Directors Meeting](#)

Application Deadline:

February 15, 2017
Basin-wide

[Recreation Infrastructure Grants](#)



Transition Hubs: Your Link to Societies Act Support

Our Trust is here!

Each year, the Trust mails out a magazine style annual report to all residents in the Columbia Basin, called [Our Trust](#). Our Trust magazine showcases community projects and programs we're proud to be a part of.

Read about the great things happening in our region and see the impact our programs and initiatives have in your community!

As always, we value your feedback. Please share your thoughts about Our Trust at ourtrust.org/otfeedback.

[Learn more](#)

[Go to events page.](#)

CONTACT

1.800.505.8998
info@cbt.org
ourtrust.org

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Innovative Water Conservation Model Proved Successful

News: December 9, 2016



Kaslo discovered and repaired a major leak in 2013, which resulted in a 39 per cent reduction in water use. Photo courtesy of: Picture BC.

After seven years of focused effort, 26 participating Water Smart communities in the Columbia Basin have made tremendous gains in water conservation skills and strategies, and most were successful in reducing overall water use, with local achievements ranging from 2 to 39 per cent.

“Columbia Basin communities have worked hard and have been recognized as emerging leaders in water conservation,” says Tim Hicks, Columbia Basin Trust Manager, Water and Environment. “Their collective accomplishments are significant, and could not have happened without the hard work and dedication of each participating community. I offer my congratulations for being leaders in water conservation and working together to conserve our water resources.”

Water Smart’s collaborative, regional, data-driven model has been recognized as unique, and academics, utility professionals and water experts across Canada are taking note of the success and its transferability to other regions.

Through Water Smart, the Trust provided a wide range of resources to participating communities:

- a technical support team
- a public outreach program called Water Smart Ambassadors
- accredited training for water utility operators
- support to collect and analyze water use data more accurately, which helped communities identify how to conserve water most effectively

- an online hub for sharing news, tools and resources
- community-specific Water Smart Action Plans
- grants for community water conservation projects.

“Our participation in Water Smart has been instrumental in our community’s water conservation success,” said Dave Cockwell, Director of Operational Services, City of Fernie. “One-to-one support for water conservation planning and practical training has resulted in significant and sustainable water savings. It has also improved our capacity to continue this work into the future as a normal part of water utility operations.”

Across the Basin, staff in Water Smart communities developed cutting-edge expertise in water loss management, used technologies and practices to support sustainable water system operations, improved park irrigation efficiency, and are more accurately measuring and accounting for water use. They also used public outreach to reduce water use.

The communities have conserved water in two main ways: by reducing leaks in their water distribution systems, and by helping residents irrigate lawns and gardens more efficiently during the summer.

“Since 2009 Creston has worked with Water Smart to conserve water by reducing leaks in our water system and residential irrigation. In 2015 our work paid off, it was the hottest year on record, but our community still reduced water use. Through cost-effective, community-supported water conservation strategies, Creston has improved the sustainability of our water system,” Colin Farynowski, Manager of Engineering, Town of Creston.

-more-

Participating communities are now well-positioned to continue reducing water consumption while improving the quality and longevity of local water infrastructure and cost-effectively improving their resilience to climate change.

While Water Smart is coming to a planned end in December 2016, community water conservation is one of several activities that will be eligible for support through the Trust’s new Climate Action Program which will be launching in early 2017.

Learn more about communities’ Water Smart achievements and lessons learned:

- a visual summary: ourtrust.org/watersmartinfo
- a summary report: ourtrust.org/watersmartsummary

- a full report: ourtrust.org/watersmartevaluation.



Building Up Affordable Housing

News: December 6, 2016



Housing is essential for healthy and resilient communities. Residents have identified affordable housing as a clear need in the Basin, and the Trust has established affordable housing as one of its 13 strategic priorities.

Working with our partners, we've made progress in helping communities offer more affordable housing options. Now we're getting ready to do even more. The Trust is allocating \$5 million for each of the next three years to develop, manage and fund housing that meets community and regional needs.

"Our new housing initiative gives us a stronger framework for working with communities to help them move ahead with their affordable housing priorities. We've accomplished a lot working with our partners in affordable housing, and we have learned a lot about the best ways to approach housing issues," said Aimee Ambrosone, the Trust's lead on Housing Initiatives.

"Our experience has strengthened our ability to make effective partnerships. We want communities to continue to come forward with their housing priorities so that we can keep bringing together the partners that will help us accomplish the Basin's housing goals."

Along with the \$15 million commitment to affordable housing, the Trust is establishing a target of creating 150 housing units over the next three years.

"We know that housing needs vary by community, location, size, demographics and local economics. Therefore our approach will have more than one focus. Our range of support will include researching housing needs to developing project proposals to capital grants for new projects," Ambrosone explained.

Providing capital grants to help create housing units is a big part of the initiative, and the Trust will work in partnership with communities, funders and other organizations with

complementary housing objectives.

Since 2009, the Trust has brought 405 units to 13 Basin communities through affordable housing initiatives with local housing organizations, the federal and provincial governments, and student housing initiatives with local colleges.



Societies Act Transition Hubs Launched

News: December 2, 2016



New information hubs are now available in the East and West Basin to help non-profits with transitioning to the new Societies Act. The Societies Act Transition Hubs have trained mentors who offer guidance and consultation, and deliver facilitated workshops to support the transition process.

The new Societies Act came into effect on November 28, 2016, and non-profit societies have two years to update their constitution and by-laws to comply.

For more information on the hubs, to access online resources (coming soon) and to sign up for email updates from the Hubs, click [here](#). The Trust has partnered with Law For Non-Profits (LFNP) to create and offer this service to non-profits in the Columbia Basin region.

Additional resources on the new Societies Act are available at ourtrust.org/npa.

Contact Keri Rinehart at nonprofit@cbt.org or 1.800.505.8998 for further questions about the Act or other topics on non-profit operations.



Our Trust Is Here!

News: December 19, 2016

Each year, the Trust mails out a reader-friendly annual report to all residents in the Columbia Basin, called [Our Trust magazine](#).

Our Trust magazine showcases community projects and programs we're proud to be a part of. [Flip through](#) and read about the great things happening in our region and to see the impact our programs and initiatives have on the ground.

As always, we value your feedback. Please share your thoughts about Our Trust at ourtrust.org/otfeedback.

Everyone who completes the survey receives a 12-pack of Basin photo note cards. Feedback must be submitted by January 31, 2017.

