



Submit your favourite photo of life in the Basin

Each year we produce a calendar that showcases the beauty and wonder of the Basin through images taken by residents from around the region. We are looking for photos that epitomize life in the Basin, a feeling of community and the spectacular scenery that surrounds us. If your photo is selected for our calendar you will receive \$300! [...learn more](#)



School Works Program Open Soon

Brandon was able to work throughout the year while attending college and his employer was able to invest in developing an employee thanks to our wage subsidy program, School



Neil Muth Memorial Scholarship Awarded

Three Basin students receive \$3,500 towards the pursuit of their educational dreams. Recipients have overcome adversity and will all be attending post secondary [...full story](#)

Works. Applications open for this year August 10...[full story](#)



Heritage Structures Face the Future

Sixteen heritage buildings around the Columbia Basin will be better able to take on the future after being upgraded. Over \$1.4 million in funding...[full story](#)



Edgewater Community Park Ups its Game

Edgewater community park will see major upgrades to the outdoor rink and adjacent ball park. The park will also benefit from a new building...[full story](#)

Events & Deadlines

August 10

[School Works Application Available](#)

September 22

Salmo

[Board of Directors Meeting](#)

AGM

[Free Community BBQ](#)

October 3

[Social Grant Applications Due](#)

[Environment Grant Applications Due](#)

October 13

Kimberley

[Basin Culture Night](#)

November 15

[Energy Retrofit Grant Intake Opens](#)

[Go to events page.](#)



New Program Helps Agriculture Grow

Agricultural producers in the Basin now have access to a new service offering technical support and expertise to help them succeed. The Kootenay and Boundary Farm Advisors Program is a free service launching this summer...[full story](#)

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Send Us Your Photos!

News: July 7, 2017

Send us your best Basin photos for our 2018 calendar

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

We are interested in photos that represent life in the Basin, a feeling of community and the great outdoors. This could mean photos of life in your town, at a festival, the flora and fauna or of the spectacular scenery that surrounds us. We want to see your photos of where you live and what makes you happy in your life as a Basin resident.



Selected photo submissions will **receive \$300 each**.

The deadline for submissions is **Monday, September 22, 2017**.

We need 13 of the best Basin photos, from **all seasons** and of **all subject matters**. View samples of the [2015 calendar](#), [2016](#)

[calendar](#) and [2017 Calendar](#) for ideas.

If there are people in the photos, privacy laws indicate 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 communications@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-resolution version that is at least 5" x 5" in size. If your photo is smaller than this, please do not submit it.

Residents of all ages 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 2018 calendar, plus for any other Trust-related items produced within a three-year period (2018 to 2020). 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 Monday, September 22, 2017, to communications@cbt.org.

Thank you!



Putting Skills Into Play

News: July 27, 2017



As a business student at College of the Rockies, Brandon Ouillette knows how important it is to gain an education in business outside the classroom.

Ouillette has been working at Players Bench in Cranbrook for five years, ever since the age of 16. What once started as a skate sharpening and back room gig has now transformed into a valuable sales, communications and marketing position. This growth has taken place with the help of the Trust's [School Works](#) program, which offers a wage subsidy to help Basin businesses, non-profits and more hire full-time students, including apprentices, on a part-time basis during the school year.

“There are so many different people coming in here, and I’m able to talk with them, communicate and learn what they are all about,” says Ouillette. “I learn about sales and how to do a lot of stuff on the computer. I’ve also learned about marketing. I talk with people and get to know what they want, what we should bring in and what the next best thing on the market is.”

Ouillette also takes on more senior responsibilities, such as closing out the computers at the end of the day. And he’s gained many connections through his position.

“It’s great to be able to go to school and still have some extra money to actually live life, while working a great job,” he says. “The School Works program has really helped me during the year. I would have been grinding through without it.”

Dave Snopek, Owner of Players Bench, says that having Ouillette work at his store year-round is beneficial to not only the company itself, but also to his customers. “It enables me to have stability in the store. When I have someone who knows everything from the ground up, it really does help. It allows you to develop a well-rounded employee. It’s also great to have that kind of stability for my customers, because they feel more comfortable and well-looked-after if they see a familiar face and know that my workers know what

they're talking about.”

Snopek says that when young adults are attending post-secondary, it's difficult to find a job where they can make good money for their schooling and other associated costs. The School Works program “is a great way to keep employees at your business, because, in Cranbrook especially, it's hard to find a job that pays well. I commend the Trust for helping with that.”

Applications for this year's School Works will be available August 10. To learn more about the program and to apply visit ourtrust.org/schoolworks.



Neil Muth Memorial Scholarship Recipients Announced

News: July 5, 2017



First time scholarship awards three students around the Basin

Three students are the first recipients of the Neil Muth Memorial Scholarship established earlier this year by the Muth family and Columbia Basin Trust.

The scholarship awarded \$3,500 each to three students who have overcome adversity to pursue their educational dreams. Michael Cupello from Trail, Natalia Grass from Golden and Cole Hoodicoff from Castlegar are the recipients of the scholarship this year.

“We received more than 100 applications for the scholarship. There were many brave stories, each one worth hearing. It was a privilege to read them. We appreciate the courage and honesty of all of the applicants, and were moved by the very personal stories each one of the three recipients shared with us,” said Cathy Muth, Neil’s wife.

“They exemplify the spirit of perseverance we want to acknowledge with this scholarship,” she said.

“Being chosen as one of the recipients of the Neil Muth Memorial Scholarship is an honour. As a student who graduated from J.L. Crowe in 2014 and Selkirk College this past spring, my plans are to one day return to the region. I will be attending Thompson Rivers University in the fall to complete my Bachelor of Arts. Thank you to the Muth family, Columbia Basin Trust, and my mother for believing in me,” said Michael Cupello.

“This scholarship means an incredible amount to me; being chosen shows that I can achieve the things I could before the accident if I put my mind to it. The Neil Muth Memorial Scholarship also lets me give back to my family, who has supported me without qualms, by easing their financial burden. Again thank you to everyone at the Trust, and

especially the family of Neil Muth, for this incredible opportunity!” Natalia Grass said.

Cole Hoodicoff is entering the engineering program at Selkirk College this fall. “Then I’ll be going to University of Victoria for three or four more years. This scholarship will help quite a bit for the university years. I’m very grateful for it,” he said.

The Neil Muth Memorial Scholarship honours Neil Muth, the Trust’s president and chief executive officer from 2005 through 2016, who passed away last November. Neil valued and supported perseverance and continuous learning. He encouraged his children, staff and others to be curious, to seek their own path, and to never give up.

The scholarship is awarded by the Muth family, administered by Columbia Basin Trust and made possible by the generous donations of family, friends, local governments and organizations.



Heritage Structures Face the Future

News: June 20, 2017



Columbia Basin Trust's Built Heritage Grants fund 16 projects with \$1.4 million

Heritage structures are physical reminders of our communities' pasts. They may represent community-defining businesses that have come and gone, or early ways of life that no longer exist. They may stand alone as singular examples or be part of a string of historic structures that add interest to a neighbourhood.

Now, 16 heritage structures in the Columbia Basin will be better able to take on the future after being upgraded thanks to support from Columbia Basin Trust. Through its Built Heritage Grants, administered by Heritage BC, the Trust is committing over \$1.4 million to these projects.

The three-year, \$6.15-million funding program helps groups preserve heritage structures to withstand time, rehabilitate them for continued use or new uses, or restore them to the way they once were.

"Heritage buildings are markers of our history, add character to our communities and remain valuable for many types of activities," said Wayne Lundeberg, Columbia Basin Trust Director, Delivery of Benefits. "Improving them for both today and tomorrow—whether they're important architecturally, culturally, visually, for tourism or otherwise—is one of our priorities."

In Fernie, for example, Home Bank built a downtown corner building in 1910, at the height of the area's coal production, which it occupied until the bank failed in 1923. Since then, the building has had a variety of occupants, and is now home to the Fernie Museum and Visitor Information Centre. With some interior renovations in the past, many of the building's defining interior details—including its ceiling mouldings and bank vaults—have

largely remained intact. Now the Trust grant is enabling the building's owner, the City of Fernie, to replace its leaky roof.

“The Home Bank is one of the oldest buildings in Fernie and helps define the historic character of downtown Fernie,” said Lloyd Smith, Director of Leisure Services, City of Fernie. “It has been well maintained, is in excellent condition and appears to have had little alteration from the original. These factors make it one of the most important heritage buildings in Fernie.”

In Meadow Creek, the Lardeau Valley Historical Society is taking on a project to preserve the one-storey log cabin of one of the area's pioneers. The cabin was built by Billy Clark in approximately 1939, and had to be moved to higher ground when Duncan Reservoir flooded the land in 1966. This year, the society will move the cabin onto secure concrete slabs behind the Meadow Creek Museum. In future years, it hopes to do more in-depth restoration.

“The Billy Clark cabin is the singular tangible structure that survived the flooding, and thus very much represents the stories of pre-60s pioneer life,” said Peter Jonker, President, Lardeau Valley Historical Society. “The restored cabin, when situated in a park-like setting behind our museum, will become our focal point of recreating and interpreting the life of a local pioneer trapper, hunter and craftsman.”

In Nelson, the Nelson Coke and Gas Works building was constructed in 1910 and helped establish a waterfront section (now known as Railtown) as the industrial area of the young community. In addition to making products like coke, tar, creosote and paint, the business supplied the town with coal gas for heating and cooking. Once natural gas arrived in Nelson in 1957, the plant closed down. Now the City of Nelson will be undertaking exterior renovations on this long-vacant building, with hopes it can soon be occupied and useful again.

“An important and culturally significant part of Nelson, Railtown borders the downtown core and waterfront and features a number of historical landmarks,” said Peter Sinstadt, Facilities Maintenance Manager, City of Nelson. “By modernizing the Coke and Gas Works building, we can ensure that this historic building remains a cornerstone of Nelson for years to come.”

There will be two more intakes of the Built Heritage Grants, in 2018 and 2019. Learn more at ourtrust.org/builtheritagegrants.

The program is administered by Heritage BC, which supports heritage conservation

through education, training and skills development, capacity building in heritage planning, and funding. Learn more at heritagebc.ca.

The Trust has also committed to supporting heritage in the Basin by funding a new professional heritage position. Located in the Basin, this person will help local groups and organizations build their capacity for conserving our heritage.

These activities are part of a greater emphasis on supporting heritage values in the Basin. In recent years, the Trust has supported major restoration and preservation work on several heritage buildings, including St. Eugene Church, ʔaq'am, the Rossland Miners Union Hall, the Langham Cultural Centre and Kaslo City Hall.

See the full list of projects funded: [Built Heritage Grants – June 2017](#)

PHOTO: Fernie's Home Bank building was built in 1910, at the height of the area's coal production. It is one of 16 heritage structures in the Basin that will be upgraded with over \$1.4 million from the Trust.



Edgewater Community Park Ups its Game

News: July 13, 2017



Trust funds upgrades for a better place to play

Volunteers built the sports facilities in Edgewater 20 years ago, and it will be volunteers doing a lot of the work to make improvements to the community park this year. The Edgewater community park project will see major upgrades to the outdoor Frank Schnider Memorial Rink that will also benefit the adjacent Wittman Field ball diamond.

The facilities will offer a place to play ball, skate and store equipment. A new building at the sports field will have a public washroom, concession and storage area for equipment, and the ice rink surface will be rebuilt with a concrete slab replacing the current clay surface.

“These upgrades provide residents of Edgewater with a better, safer and more versatile outdoor sports facility, and that’s great news for everyone in the community. There’s a tremendous volunteer commitment to make this happen, and we’re pleased to see residents and the RDEK working together to improve their park,” said Wayne Lundeberg, Columbia Basin Trust Director, Delivery of Benefits.

The Edgewater Recreation Society has been planning and fundraising for the past few years to get the project going.

“The building will also house the Zamboni that was graciously donated from Canal Flats as it must be stored in a heated place. The washrooms will be year round and will be a great asset for all activities that take place at the ball diamond or the skating rink. As soon as the permits are in place, construction will begin. We are hoping to complete everything by spring/summer of 2018,” said Nicole Baes, Recreation Society chair.

“The skating rink has been an essential recreational facility in Edgewater. During the winter, residents, local schools, skaters and after-school hockey players use the rink extensively. Building an engineered base with a concrete surface for the rink will significantly improve the maintenance and quality of the ice. The concrete surface will also be beneficial during the summer months with the addition of basketball hoops, making it a year-round facility,” said Gerry Wilkie, RDEK Area G Director.

The Trust is providing \$153,000 to the project. The Recreation Society and the RDEK are providing funding as well as substantial in-kind contributions.



New Program Helps Agriculture Grow

News: August 2, 2017



Agricultural producers in the region now have access to a new service offering technical support and expertise to help them succeed. Kootenay and Boundary Farm Advisors is a free service that is launching this summer.

The regional districts of Central Kootenay, Kootenay Boundary and East Kootenay have partnered with Columbia Basin Trust to provide the service. The new program offers agricultural expertise to producers to improve the efficiency, productivity and viability of their farming or ranching operations.

The services are free and open to agricultural producers working towards commercial viability in the regional districts and Columbia Basin Trust region. Services include expert advice on topics such as irrigation, pest control, production, water, soil, climate change and research.

“The program is active now with work building up to full services next spring,” explains Rachael Roussin, program coordinator. “Producers can now sign up and share their challenges, helping us connect them to appropriate technical expertise and develop workshops and educational opportunities.”

The Kootenay and Boundary Farm Advisors program evolved out of the work of the Regional Agricultural Liaison Services that the regional districts and the Trust collaborated on.

Keefer Ecological Services Ltd. (KES) has been awarded the Kootenay & Boundary Farm Advisors contract. KES has expertise in sustainable agriculture and a breadth of experience in agricultural program development and management, which includes providing extension services.

To sign up or learn more about Kootenay and Boundary Farm Advisors services, visit the KBFA website at www.kbfa.ca or call 1-800-958-7174.

The Columbia Basin Management Plan (CBMP) Strategic Priorities 2016-2020 identifies agriculture as a strategic priority for the Trust over the next five years. Within this priority area, the CBMP commits the Trust to define an appropriate role for the Trust in supporting the agriculture sector. Based on sector engagement, research and review of existing agriculture plans, the Trust developed an Agriculture Strategic [Framework](#) which identifies focus areas.

