



## Symposium in Kimberley a huge success

On October 13-15, we hosted the Columbia Basin Symposium, *SHIFT! Thriving in Change* in Kimberley BC. Astronaut Col. Chris Hadfield's inspirational address to over 450 delegates set the tone for a weekend of learning and discussing major trends facing our region: new technologies, shifting demographics and climate change. PLUS over 1,500 residents attended An Evening of Entertainment and Culture in Kimberley's Platzl on October 14. See [photos from Symposium](#), [presentations](#) and [highlight video](#).



## Funding: Habitat Restoration in Waneta

The Waneta Terrestrial Compensation Program is beginning its final application intake. Projects promoting conservation and habitat restoration in the Waneta area can



## Thrift Store On the Move

The Elk Valley Thrift Store in Sparwood gives \$5,000 back to its community each month. After participating in our Non-profit Advisors program and Basin Business Advisors, they

apply for funding by January 31, 2018...[full story](#)



## Survey: Involved with Youth Sport?

As part of our Recreation and Physical Activity strategic priority, we are seeking to learn more about youth sport in the Basin. Do you or someone you know participate in coaching or a youth sport organization? Tell us more...[full story](#)

are now ready to expand...[full story](#)



## Canada's Beloved Astronaut

Canada's first astronaut to walk in space spoke to students from around the Columbia Basin two weeks ago at our free community presentation. Over 2,200 audience members were inspired by Colonel Chris Hadfield's stories about his journey to becoming an astronaut. PLUS over 7,500 students from around the region tuned into the live stream [...see more](#)



## We are Hiring!

Two positions available with the Trust. We are seeking a Program Coordinator and Communications Coordinator to join our team. Find more details and see job descriptions on our website...[see more](#)

## Events & Deadlines

### November 6

[Child Care Educators Workforce Development Application Opens](#)

### November 15

[Recreation Infrastructure Grant Intake Opens](#)

### November 24

Invermere  
[Board Meeting](#)

### Throughout November

Basin Communities  
[Non-Profit Workshops](#)

[Go to events page.](#)

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## Local Environmental Program Celebrates Successes as it Enters Final Year



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CASTLEGAR, BC – The Waneta Terrestrial Compensation Program (WTCP) is beginning its final application intake as it enters year seven of a mandate to support habitat restoration and conservation activities in the Waneta area.

A commitment arising from the construction of the Waneta Expansion Project south of Trail by project partners Fortis Inc., Columbia Power Corporation and Columbia Basin Trust, the program has to date distributed \$300,000 to 32 projects that highlight the unique ecosystem of the Pend Oreille/Lower Columbia.

Butterfly and pollinator inventories, research on threatened bird and reptile species and rare plant studies are some of the activities that have taken place since the program began in 2012. Work supported by the WTCP has resulted in extraordinary findings. Research this summer by bee specialist Lincoln Best to catalogue bee species led to the discovery of bees from the family, Melittidae, the first time this family has been officially documented in BC.

“Through the Waneta Terrestrial Compensation Program we had the opportunity to generate new knowledge on the biodiversity of native bees in the Pend Oreille,” said Best. “We found native bee species of provincial and national significance and enhanced our understanding of their floral relationships. The program has enabled us to engage local communities and network with important groups like the

Kootenay Native Plant Society, Rossland Society for Environmental Action, and the Rossland Museum. By producing high resolution biodiversity data, we can aid decision making in conservation and remediation.”

Eligible activities under the Waneta Terrestrial Compensation Program Terms of Reference include research, physical works, and other on-the-ground or applied projects and may include educational programs, development of management plans, inventories, habitat creation (restoration, rehabilitation), weed control, habitat protection and land acquisition.

2017 terrestrial compensation projects included:

- Knapweed biocontrol monitoring
- Vascular plant inventory and management planning
- Reptile monitoring
- Monarch habitat improvements
- Recovery planting for *Clarkia rhomboidea*
- Monitoring and preparation for White-Nose Syndrome in local bat colonies

“So many valuable projects have been funded through this program to date that have contributed to the ecological understanding of this unique part of the province,” said Mike Hounjet, Waneta Terrestrial Compensation Program Manager.

“2018 is the final year of this seven-year program and I hope we see a diverse range of applications with great project ideas.”

Applications for the 2018 intake will be accepted until January 31, 2018 with up to \$50,000 awarded to successful projects. Visit [columbiapower.org/WTCP](http://columbiapower.org/WTCP) for an application form and more information.

For further information, please contact:

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# Elk Valley Thrift Shop is on the Move

News: October 30, 2017



The Elk Valley Thrift Shop in Sparwood is a relatively new enterprise run by a successful non-profit organization that distributes \$5,000 each month to its community. In just three years, the Elk Valley Thrift Shop Society donated more than \$220,000 to many causes throughout the Elk Valley.

They have a customer first policy, embrace the concept of reduce, reuse, recycle, and maintain a strict no dumping policy, demonstrated by the 57 tonnes of textiles they have recycled and kept from the landfill.

And now they are ready to expand.

The society participated in the Trust's [Non-Profit Advisors](#) program and the [Basin Business Advisors](#) program to develop a business plan to purchase their own building and move from the retail space they have outgrown.

Through a combination of a grant and a business investment loan, the Trust is helping the Elk Valley Thrift Shop Society purchase and renovate a three-storey building that will give them more retail space, more storage space, and more room for their volunteers. They plan to expand their volunteer program to attract more young volunteers, and the new space will be wheel chair accessible, making it possible for people with disabilities to volunteer.

Sparwood and the communities in the Elk Valley will continue to receive the benefits from the shop. With a new, bigger building and more capacity, the society is projecting increasing its donations to communities. Everyone wins!

The new location in Centennial Square will be open at the beginning of November.

