



Basin Youth Inspired and Equipped to Make a Difference

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Affordable Housing for Basin Residents

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New Regional Park Coming to Crawford Bay

The RDCK is taking the next step towards creating a new regional park on the East

\$14 million each, over the next three years, to create new affordable rental homes in the region...[full story](#)

Shore of Kootenay Lake. The land is made up of nearly 70 hectares surrounding the Crawford Bay beach and wetlands. The new park will offer a wide range of benefits to residents and tourists alike...[full story](#)



Connecting Golden to the International Stage

When the Town of Golden welcomed the Freeride World Tour in February 2018, a powerful broadband network became critical. FlexiNET Broadband, a local Internet service provider, worked with Columbia Basin Trust to make it happen...[full story](#)



Solar Power at Edgewood Fire Hall

A large south-facing roof in the small community of Edgewood has now been equipped to generate electricity. With \$22,500 in support from Columbia Basin Trust, the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department Society recently installed solar panels on the local fire hall...[full story](#)



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June - Various Dates and Locations

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June 5

[Affordable Housing Project and Funding Readiness Workshop - Revelstoke](#)

June 6

[Affordable Housing Project and Funding Readiness Workshop - Cranbrook](#)

June 7

[Affordable Housing Project and Funding](#)

[Readiness Workshop - Castlegar](#)

June 28

[Public Art Grants Deadline](#)

August 31

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Basin Youth Inspired and Equipped to Make a Difference

News: May 15, 2018



100 youth attend the Basin Youth Network 2018 Leadership Summit

(Columbia Basin) – *You’ve got the potential to make a real difference. Dare to believe one day you might change the world.* These are the kinds of messages youth received at the Basin Youth Network 2018 Leadership Summit. Youth were invited to apply to participate in Columbia Basin Trust’s Basin Youth Network event that welcomed nearly 100 youth from 22 community youth networks in the region.

Ranging in age from 13 to 18, participants gathered in Kimberley from May 4 to 6 to develop their leadership skills, learn public speaking techniques, network and take part in other confidence-building activities. They also benefited from an inspirational keynote from Rick Jensen, Chair of the Trust’s Board of Directors. To view highlights of the weekend, visit ourtrust.org/bynvideo.

“

“Youth voice matters; that’s why we’re supporting communities to engage youth to be an active part of the conversations that matter to them,” said Aimee Ambrosone, Trust Director, Delivery of Benefits. “Bringing youth together at the Summit to build on their skills will help them develop personally and beyond as their ideas and enthusiasm find a stage in their communities.”

The Trust’s regional Basin Youth Network helps communities increase local activities and opportunities for youth, enabling them to learn skills like leadership and engage more with each other and their communities. With \$4.55 million in funding over three years, the network has helped 28 communities form or continue local youth networks. The Trust has also helped develop local youth network coordinators to facilitate conversations that ensure youth priorities are identified and supported. Learn

more at ourtrust.org/youthnetwork.

Events like the Summit are just one way youth can benefit from their local youth networks. To find out more about what each network offers—from activities to places to gather—see the full list of networks and contact information at ourtrust.org/cyns.

“The Basin Youth Network allows communities the time and stability to really engage with youth and allows them to lead program development so that it’s unique to their needs,” said Mike Kent, Regional Coordinator of the Basin Youth Network. “This weekend was just one of many events the youth around the Basin benefit from as part of this Network. Our hope is that they take the confidence and energy they showcased during the Summit back to their communities to inspire their peers and help create opportunities locally.”



(Click image to enlarge.)

In addition to learning about themselves and fellow youth, Summit participants also learned more about their communities and the Ktunaxa people. Youth received a welcome prayer from ʔaq'am community member Bonnie Harvey, a welcome from Ktunaxa Nation Council Chair, Kathryn Teneese, watched a performance by the Adrumnik Drummers, participated in a workshop with the Ktunaxa Dance Troupe, and visited the Ktunaxa Interpretive Centre at St. Eugene Mission Resort, once a residential school for First Nations youth.

“Youth from Revelstoke really benefited by connecting with new people, creating new relationships and learning new skills. And as a coordinator, I always find the connections, brainstorming, idea sharing and storytelling at these events so inspiring,” said Leslie Hogg, Youth Liaison of Revelstoke’s Stoke Youth Network. “The Summit was able to ignite something in each of us that makes us want to bring youth in our community together. We now look forward to creating fun activities that all youth in Revelstoke can participate in.”



Affordable Housing for Columbia Basin Residents

News: May 1, 2018



The Trust is working with BC Housing to build 167 new affordable housing units for people in the region struggling to find housing they can afford.

“People living in the Columbia Basin, like the rest of the province, are feeling the weight of the lack of available, affordable housing,” said Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “Our government recognizes the urgent need to create more options for people struggling to find reasonably priced rental homes. These new projects will help make life more affordable for families in the region by delivering the housing they need and can afford.”

The projects will be funded by the Columbia Basin Investment in Affordable Housing agreement, announced in December 2017 between the Province and the Trust. The Province and the Trust will provide \$14 million each, over the next three years, to create new affordable rental homes in the region.

“We know that housing is essential for healthy and resilient communities,” said Johnny Strilaeff, president and CEO, Columbia Basin Trust. “Our priority is to help ensure residents have access to housing that meets their needs as they vary by community, across the basin.”

Ten new housing projects in the Columbia Basin region will increase the availability of affordable rental homes for individuals, families, seniors or those with disabilities, who are earning a low to moderate income.

“It’s clear that we need a new approach to help Kootenay residents,” said Katrine Conroy, MLA for Kootenay West and Minister Responsible for the Columbia Basin Trust. “I’m thrilled that our partnership with the Columbia Basin Trust is delivering on our goal for fair and affordable housing.

These investments will make real, positive impacts on people’s lives.”

The following projects have been selected to receive funding, based on the impact the project will have in reducing the community’s affordable rental housing need:

- Castlegar: 11 units, operated by Kootenay Society for Community Living
- Fernie: 35 units, operated by Fernie Family Housing Society
- Invermere: 16 units, operated by Family Dynamix Association
- Kimberley: 4 units, operated by Kimberley Seniors Project Society
- Nakusp: 10 units, operated by Arrow and Slokan Lakes Community Services
- Nelson: 3 units, operated by Nelson CARES
- Nelson: 39 units, operated by Share Housing Initiative Society
- Rossland: 24 units, initiated by the City of Rossland, proposed to be operated by Lower Columbia Affordable Housing Society
- Revelstoke: 21 units, operated by Revelstoke Community Housing Society
- Slokan: 4 units, operated by Slokan Valley Seniors’ Housing Society

To read the full release, [click here](#).



Trust Supports Acquisition of Land for New Regional Park in Crawford Bay

News: May 25, 2018

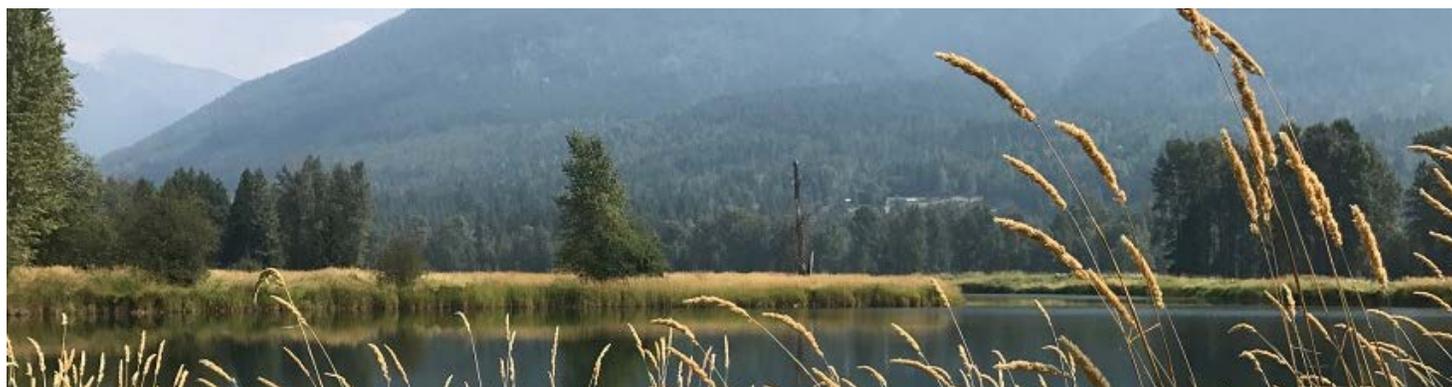


Photo courtesy RDCK

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) announced they are taking the next step in the process to purchase land for a new regional park on the East Shore of Kootenay Lake. This follows several months of community consultation and negotiation with the seller. The land—made up of approximately 69.68 hectares surrounding the Crawford Bay beach and wetlands—is being purchased from Kokanee Springs Resorts (KSR) for \$2.85 million.

The purchase is being partially funded with \$800,000 from Columbia Basin Trust. The remainder of funding for the purchase will be through property taxation and reserve funds.

“Public access to Kootenay Lake, recreational opportunities, protection of sensitive wetlands and riparian area restoration all resonate with residents and visitors alike,” said Garry Jackman, Director of RDCK Electoral Area A.

“Through the efforts of RDCK staff and with the generosity and support of Columbia Basin Trust we have reached that point at last.”



Photo courtesy RDCK

“The residents of the East Shore demonstrated overwhelming support for this opportunity, and the Trust is pleased to support their efforts to create a regional park,” said Johnny Strilaeff, President and CEO of Columbia Basin Trust. “It will offer a broad spectrum of benefits to the area including environmental preservation, economic development, tourism opportunities and

increased community-based recreation.”



Photo courtesy RDCK

In 2011, the RDCK acquired a small area of land along an undeveloped road allowance near the Crawford Bay foreshore as a preliminary step towards a potentially larger project. Historically, KSR has allowed the public to access Crawford Bay wetlands and the beach through a portion of their property. In the summer of 2017, KSR listed the land for sale, which prompted members of the community to express interest in the RDCK acquiring it for regional park purposes.

To read the full news release, [click here](#).



Connecting Golden to the International Stage

News: May 28, 2018



Photo credit: Andrew Chad

When the Town of Golden welcomed the Freeride World Tour in February 2018, a powerful broadband network became critical. FlexiNET Broadband, a local Internet service provider, worked with Columbia Basin Trust to make it happen.

This skiing and snowboarding event sparked a huge tourism boost for Golden when approximately 120 athletes, crew, sponsors and media descended on the town and Kicking Horse Resort—the only North American stop on the tour—along with thousands of spectators.



Photo credit: Andrew Chad

In order to provide these visitors with high-speed Wi-Fi, and support to media and operation teams, Tourism Golden reached out to FlexiNET to create a robust wireless Internet connection where there hadn't been one before. It did so by working with the Trust's broadband team to increase bandwidth, which gave the tour the capacity it needed.

“There were a number of challenges,” said Joanne Sweeting, Executive Director at Tourism Golden. “They needed multiple IP addresses, fast upload speeds (over 25 Mbps) to produce and distribute high-quality videos and space for up to 30 media and operation teams. The combination of these was difficult in Golden, a town where 5 Mbps is standard and no public space was set up with that capability.”

By connecting to the Trust's high-speed fibre optic network, FlexiNET was able to provide the required

IP addresses and increase in speed and capacity. Live streaming and immediate race results were shared around the globe. Videos uploaded in seconds, and the main race alone generated over four million live and replay video views. Overall, the event reached 250,000 viewers worldwide in the first week alone.

Thanks to Flexinet and the Trust's support, Sweeting says the town has now proven it has the capability to host an event of this size. This will enable it to be more proactive in seeking other big events.

"I think this demonstrates to other Basin communities that struggle with similar issues of connectivity and resources that, with some creative thinking, collaboration and support, it's possible to make things happen," said Sweeting.



Photo credit: Andrew Chad

Basin residents have told the Trust that high-speed Internet connectivity is important to them. With broadband as one of its strategic priorities, the Trust works to develop, activate and maintain a regional fibre optic network, support Internet service providers and aid communities, local governments and others seeking to extend or improve Internet services. To learn more, visit ourtrust.org/broadband.



Edgewood Fire Hall Turns on a New Source of Power

News: May 22, 2018



Solar panels are installed with support from Columbia Basin Trust

(Columbia Basin) – A large south-facing roof in the small community of Edgewood has now been equipped to generate electricity. With \$22,500 in support from Columbia Basin Trust, the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department Society recently installed solar panels on the local fire hall.

The 42 panels will use the sun to generate up to 15 kilowatts of power. This will reduce expenses for the society, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and serve to educate local children and others about building sustainable futures.

“It’s great to see an initiative like this that uses the latest technology to realize energy and cost savings for the society,” said Kindy Gosal, Director of Special Initiatives at Columbia Basin Trust. “We were particularly impressed with how many people and organizations supported and partnered with the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department Society to make it happen.”

“This solar project seemed like a great way to minimize the monthly expense of paying a hydro bill,” said Lynda McNutt, Society President. “Our solar project will be quite visible to the community and hopefully it will generate conversation and encourage others to look at solar possibilities.”

The Trust has also helped install solar panels on other buildings in the region, including on community buildings in Balfour and the Ktunaxa Nation Council’s government building in Cranbrook. Projects like these are one of the ways the Trust is helping communities and groups generate and conserve energy through renewable and alternative energy sources—one of its strategic priorities.

The Trust is in the process of developing new energy sustainability programs expected to launch this fall. The Trust also supports Accelerate Kootenays, which is creating a network of electric vehicle

charging stations throughout the region (acceleratekootenays.ca), and recently offered support for energy retrofits to affordable housing units.

