



Show us your #BasinLife2019 to win \$100

We want to see photos of your life in the Basin – whether that means your experience at a community event, a local historical site or the beautiful scenery that surrounds us. This year we'll give you weekly hashtags to inspire your shots. Then vote for your favourite on Facebook each week. Photographers of selected photos will receive \$100 each and credit in our 2020 calendar...[learn more](#)



Access to Local Food

Did you know there's a program focused on providing families, seniors and pregnant women with access to healthy food? The BC Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program is expanding to New Denver and Valemount this year and will serve approximately 325 people in 14 Basin communities...[full story](#)



Strength and Courage

Three students, each with a passion for helping others and giving back to their communities, and who have persevered through adversity, will receive a Neil Muth Memorial Scholarship this year to help them pursue their educational dreams...[full story](#)



Explore Basin Culture

Self-directed and free of charge, the culture tour is a great opportunity to meet people behind the scenes at galleries and museums, visit studios and venues not normally open, shop for original art or fine crafts and experience special events planned only for this weekend...[learn more](#)



Nelson Gets Prepared

After two record breaking wildfire seasons in BC, communities across the Basin are working hard to become better prepared. In Nelson, this work has not only been about getting ready for the immediate response to an event, it is also about the ability of the community to recover quickly...[full story](#)



Come Together for One River, One Future

Scientists, policy-makers and subject-matter experts representing energy, economic, and environmental perspectives - register now for One River, One Future in Kimberley, September 12 to 14...[full agenda](#)

Events & Deadlines

- Closes Monthly
[Basin PLAYS Training Grants](#)
- Apply Now
[COR Project Planning and Design Grants](#)
- Deadline: July 31
[Child Care Capital Grants](#)
- August 10-11
[Columbia Basin Culture Tour](#)
- September 20-22, 2019
[Inquiring Voices Gathering \(CBEEN\)](#)
- September 26-28, 2019
[Columbia River Basin Transboundary Conference](#)
- [Go to events page.](#)

CONTACT

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Our Annual Photo Contest is Back!

News: June 17, 2019



Show us your #Basinlife2019 for a chance to win!

We want to see photos of your life in the Basin – whether that means your experience at a community event, a local historical site or the beautiful scenery that surrounds us. This year we'll give you weekly hashtags to inspire your shots.

Photographers of selected photos will **receive \$100 each**.

Weekly polls will be posted on Facebook starting Monday, June 24. The deadline for submissions is **11 p.m. PT / Midnight MT on Monday, August 6, 2019**.

TO PARTICIPATE ON INSTAGRAM

- Follow [@columbiabasintrust](#) and watch for the weekly post announcing that week's hashtag.
- Post a photo that represents life in the Basin.
- Tag [@columbiabasintrust](#) in the photo and include the weekly hashtag and #BasinLife2019 in the caption.
- Head to the Facebook poll every Monday starting June 24 to vote for your favourite from the week!

TO PARTICIPATE ON FACEBOOK

- Like [Columbia Basin Trust](#) on Facebook and watch for our weekly posts announcing that week's hashtag.
- Post your photo submission in the comments of that post.
- Share the post with #BasinLife2019 so your friends can enter too!
- Watch for the poll every Monday starting June 24 to vote for your favourite from the week!

NOTES

Permissions: 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).

Credit: Your photo, name and community will appear in our 2020 calendar – and you'll get one copy for yourself.

Use: We will purchase your photo to use in the 2019 calendar, plus for any other Trust-related items produced within a three-year period (2019 to 2021). You will be asked to sign a Photography Agreement. This may include advertising, social media, website content or other promotional materials. You retain copyright and ownership of the photo.

Disclaimer: This contest is in no way associated with, affiliated with or endorsed by Facebook or Instagram.

Happy photographing!

Increasing Access to Locally Grown Food

News: June 26, 2019



Through its support of the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program, Columbia Basin Trust is increasing residents' access to locally grown food at farmers' markets across the Basin. Photo credit: BC Farmers' Market Trail and Anice Wong.

Farmers' markets are an important way of connecting Columbia Basin residents with the products of local farmers. Columbia Basin Trust is increasing access to fresh, healthy food by providing even more funding to the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program run by the BC Association of Farmers' Markets (BCAFM).

The Trust began supporting the existing provincial program in 2018. After a first successful year, it's now committing more funding to the program: \$420,000 over three years. This will enable the program to eliminate wait lists and add two new Basin communities. Each year the program will serve approximately 325 people through 16 farmers' markets operating in 14 communities in the region.

"We've been very pleased with this program's impacts, which is why we've decided to give it even longer-term support," said Will Nixon, Senior Manager, Delivery of Benefits, Columbia Basin Trust. "In addition to helping make sure that Basin residents receive the healthy food they need, this program helps us deliver on our strategic priority to foster agricultural production in the region."

The program provides coupons to lower-income families, seniors and pregnant women participating in food literacy programs delivered by eligible community partners. Recipients receive coupons valued at \$21 each week for 16 weeks. They use these at participating BCAFM member farmers' markets to purchase vegetables, fruits, nuts, eggs, dairy products, cut herbs, meat and fish directly from Basin farmers, supporting the local economy.

"Columbia Basin Trust is an incredible partner of ours, supporting Basin residents, farmers and farmers' markets, increasing access to healthy, fresh food, while boosting the local economy all at the same time," said Heather O'Hara, Executive Director, BCAFM. "This new contribution will sustain and expand the reach of this amazing program in the region for years to come."

This year's program starts in June. The communities returning this year are Cranbrook, Creston, Elkford, Fernie, Kaslo, Kimberley, Nakusp, Nelson, Revelstoke, Rossland, Trail and Windermere. Joining the program this year are New Denver and Valemount. To become program participants, Basin residents should contact a local eligible community organization that partners with the program. To learn more, visit bcfarmersmarket.org/coupon-program/about-program.

The BC Association of Farmers' Markets promotes, develops and strengthens 145+ farmers' markets across the province so they can better support local farmers, food processors and artisans, and provide British Columbians with fresh, healthy, local food. Learn more at bcfarmersmarket.org.

The Trust fosters agricultural production in the region and works to make sure residents have access to healthy food. Learn more about its efforts in agriculture, as well as in improving the economic and social well-being of residents, at ourtrust.org/our-work.

2019 Neil Muth Scholarship Recipients Announced

News: June 25, 2019



The 2019 Neil Muth Memorial Scholarship recipients are from left to right: Makayli Wilkinson, Tara Woods and Elizabeth Sutton.

Three students from around the Basin will receive a Neil Muth Memorial Scholarship this year. The scholarship was established in 2017 by the Muth family and Columbia Basin Trust.

The scholarship awarded \$3,300 to each of the students who have overcome adversity to pursue their educational dreams. Tara Woods from Invermere, Makayli Wilkinson from Crawford Bay and Elizabeth Sutton from Cranbrook are the recipients of the scholarship this year.

“We were amazed by the strength and courage of each and every applicant who shared their very personal and powerful story of perseverance through adversity,” said Cathy Muth, Neil’s wife. “Tara, Elizabeth and Makayli demonstrate a continued positivity and a strength of believing in themselves and their dreams, no matter what they’ve had to face in life. They are truly inspiring, and we are so glad that we can support their efforts as they work towards realizing their educational and career goals.”

Tara Woods will begin the last two years of her Social Work undergraduate degree through the University of Victoria distance education program in September. Receiving the scholarship means that she can continue her work in her community and help her realize her final goal of a master’s in counselling.

“My hope for my future is to continue to work with vulnerable and marginalized youth and give back to Indigenous and LGBTQ2iA+ residents in my community,” says Tara. “This scholarship will allow me to finish my degree within two years. I have been working towards this degree over the last several years and now I will have the opportunity to complete it sooner than expected. I am incredibly honoured and grateful that this scholarship is supporting me to continue to work towards my goals and to help others.”

Elizabeth Sutton is looking ahead to a career in helping children. Graduating from Mount Baker Secondary this year, she has been accepted into the College of the Rockies’ Pre-Education Certificate Program for her first year of undergraduate studies this September to prepare for a bachelor’s degree in education through the University of Victoria, ultimately working towards a master’s in counselling psychology. For Elizabeth, the scholarship is helping her onto an educational and career path that she might have not been able to pursue.

“I am very grateful to be a recipient of the Neil Muth Memorial Scholarship this year. Without this scholarship, it is questionable whether I would have been able to afford to begin my post-secondary education,” says Elizabeth. “Now I can start working towards a career where I can be part of a supportive network for children. That is what helped me as a child and now I can help give back.”

Makayli Wilkinson loves horses and working with and helping others. As a recipient of the Neil Muth Memorial Scholarship she will be attending Olds College in Alberta this fall as part of their two-year Equine Science Program, a program that will allow her to combine her joy of riding and her desire to assist children and youth who face physical and emotional challenges. Makayli became interested in equine-assisted therapy when she volunteered at Creston’s Therapeutic Riding Centre as a student at Crawford Bay Secondary. Now ready to graduate, Makayli is looking forward to her future goal of becoming a therapeutic riding instructor.

“I’ve spent so much time doubting myself, but I have persevered and made it through. I am so happy to receive this scholarship. It will allow me to pursue my life’s goal.”

The Neil Muth Memorial Scholarship was created to honour Neil Muth, the Trust’s president and chief executive officer from 2005 through 2016, who passed away in November 2016. 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.



Columbia Basin Culture Tour

Aug 10 & 11, 2019



Welcome to the 11th annual Columbia Basin Culture Tour!

On August 10 & 11, from 10 am to 5 pm, this year's culture tour will include many returning favourites as well as a number of exciting new locations to explore.

Self-directed and free of charge, the culture tour is a great opportunity to meet people behind the scenes at galleries and museums, visit studios and venues not normally open, shop for original art or fine crafts and experience special events planned only for this weekend.

Before you hit the road, check out the [profiles](#) to see the special events and exhibitions that are happening at each location! You can also get a sneak peek by checking out our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Here are 10 hints for a great Culture Tour, passed on from a seasoned "Culture Tourist" who has been every year

1. Start with a full tank of gas - some great spots are off the beaten track!
2. Take your 'Backroads of BC' or other detailed map. The CBCT Directory maps are good, but sometimes a bigger picture will be helpful.
3. Be prepared to get a little lost - or at least think you are. One-way streets and cul-de-sacs can be hard to find sometimes but don't give up; that out of the way location might be a treasure! I have a friend who calls this being an 'adventure kitty'.
4. Bring a friend or family member or two as there will be lots of activities and events for all ages. Please leave your dog at home, as it may not be welcome at some of the venues and it is usually hot on this weekend.
5. Take your restaurant and hotel coupon book if you have one. This is a great chance to visit some new places to eat, and who knows? You might want to make this an overnight trip!
6. Take your cheque book. Some of the studios are not set up to take credit or debit cards. 'Small' money for small purchases will be appreciated.
7. If you see something you like, buy it! It may not be there if you wait for next time, and many of these locations are not open regularly. Don't be surprised if you save the sales taxes. Many home-based artisans do not have to collect GST and/or PST, so purchasing directly benefits both the customer and the vendor. (They aren't paying commission to a commercial outlet either.)
8. Wear comfortable walking shoes. You might be doing some wandering through gardens and yards to get to studios.
9. Sunscreen and a hat aren't bad ideas, either. Even a bottle of water or two. Staying hydrated keeps your energy up.
10. Plan to spend one day, at least! Events start at 10 am and run to 5 pm, both Saturday and Sunday, which gives you a chance to explore further afield.

See you on the tour!

For further information, please contact the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA)
250-505-5505 or toll free 1-877-505-7355, e-mail: wkracprojects@telus.net

Liability: The Columbia Basin Culture Tour, its partners and funders including, but not limited to, Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, West Kootenay Regional Arts Council, Columbia Basin Trust, registered artists/venues, or any of their members, staff or volunteer workers will not be held liable for any damage, loss or injury to person or property sustained by a member of the public attending any Columbia Basin Culture Tour site or event. They do so at their own risk.

Emergency Preparedness in Nelson

Nelson, [Public Safety and Emergency Services](#), [Community](#),

“Emergency planning for communities is sometimes like having a difficult conversation in a family; everyone knows you need to have it, but it can be hard to tackle. We are having that conversation about how our community can be more resilient in the face of a large emergency. We are coming together as a community to grapple with it since it takes a whole community approach to get there. The support we received from the Trust last year is helping us to do that in a meaningful way.”

That is Nelson Fire & Rescue Services Chief Len MacCharles who is also the Director of Emergency Management for the City of Nelson. When it comes to assisting communities with difficult situations, Chief MacCharles has been part of some of the biggest emergencies in recent memory in western Canada. As Deputy Fire Chief in Calgary, he served as Incident Commander for the 2011 Slave Lake wildfire which forced the complete evacuation of the community’s 7,000 residents and he managed the Emergency Operations Centre during Calgary’s historic flooding in 2013.

After two record breaking wildfire seasons in BC along with the devastating flooding that occurred in the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary in 2018, communities across the Basin are working hard to become better prepared. At the City of Nelson, this work has not only been about getting ready for the immediate response to an event, it is also about the ability of the community to able to recover quickly. For Chief MacCharles, it’s looking at the big picture to strengthen Nelson’s resiliency in the face of an emergency, such as a wildfire at Nelson’s doorstep. He describes resiliency as a community’s ability to withstand and recover from a wildfire, flood or other significantly difficult event.

Last year, through the Trust's Wildfire Mitigation Grants, the City of Nelson received funding to carry out a number of strategic efforts to focus on the key principles of emergency management: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery. Along with reviewing and updating emergency response plans, training key City staff, establishing a mass emergency notification system and completing risk assessments of critical infrastructure and water-supply/fire-flows, Trust funding also supported resident outreach and awareness – activities helping to support the difficult conversations residents needed to have with themselves, their families and their neighbours about what they need to do to be prepared for an emergency.

Chief MacCharles says that “a community can meet its legislative requirements related to emergency planning, but still have significant gaps that can make a world of difference in how a community is able to respond and bounce back from an event.”

“That’s where Trust came in. The Trust’s support has allowed us to go beyond the minimum requirements and begin a meaningful Emergency Management Program that will benefit the whole community, not just a plan on a shelf. The support is helping us to do more thorough work and to engage with our residents and businesses.

Distributed over two years, the funding has also allowed the City to leverage new partnerships with the Regional District of Central Kootenay and other communities like the City of Castlegar where they are working on plans around mutual assistance for disasters. And it has moved emergency management forward at the City to a place where a dedicated resource can now be put in place to take on the day-to-day work of emergency planning.

“It’s created an opportunity for us to start a conversation about what Nelson will have to do in the face an emergency; for residents to ask themselves: how will I be prepared, how will I help my neighbours, who is vulnerable in my neighbourhood and might need my help. With the Trust’s support, we are on a path to success for emergency management because we are able to take a whole community approach.”

Published June 11, 2019