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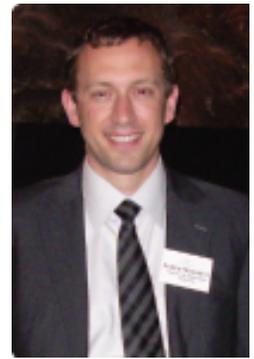
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Advisory Committee Members Meet and Share Ideas

Thursday, November 20, 2008

To support Basin residents in improving the quality of life for themselves and for future generations, CBT needs to be aware of current concerns and issues in Basin communities. CBT's Advisory Committees are an important way to gather this type of input. These volunteer committees give CBT strategic advice in key areas.

On Oct. 24-25, four Advisory Committees meet in Castlegar to exchange ideas, to learn more about one another, and to talk about broad-based solutions to issues facing CBT and the region.

"We rely on our Advisory Committees as one way to hear about concerns and trends of the Basin," said Aimee Ambrosone, CBT Policy Advisor. "We can ask these specialists what they think, and what their advice would be on how to respond."

CBT has three core advisory committees in CBT's mandated areas of social, economic, and environment. Each is made up of 8-12 Basin residents that provide advice to CBT on delivering benefits to the region. CBT also has a Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) that provides advice on youth initiatives and is made up of youth ages 15-29. CBT also has a Water Advisory Committee that provides specific advice related to the Water Initiatives program.

"To hear different perspectives on issues and to recognize that CBT is working on all of these from different aspects and points of view was really nice," says Jordon Osiowy, a member of YAC.

"It was time well spent," says Bob Ivison, Chair of the Economic Advisory Committee. "It was a time for us to see where everyone else was coming from with their priorities, but it was also a chance to meet with the people from CBT and the Board and that was really important."

The meeting included 40 participants, and presentations by Felice Mazzoni, a sustainability award-winning planner from Ucluelet; George Penfold, Selkirk College Regional Innovation Chair; and Gary Ockenden, Withinsight Services.

Discussions spanned an array of topics that are affecting, or will be affecting, the Basin region such as affordable housing, the Columbia River Treaty, and outcomes of the State of the Basin Initiative.

"It's obvious that some issues extend to all committees," says Rob Fogal, a member of the Environment Advisory Committee. "I think the various committees and the wide variety of opinions expressed during the course of their meetings provide a reality check for CBT."

Charlotte Ezaki, Chair of the Social Advisory Committee adds, "This meeting was especially meaningful as it appeared the committees' work and the board's strategic planning are dove-tailing nicely."

Members to the committees generally serve three-year terms and are selected based on geographic representation and the experience and interest they bring to the committee.

If you interested in joining a CBT Core Advisory Committee, contact us at 1.800.505.8998 or info@cbt.org.

Cranbrook's New Bright Lights Theatre Project

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mount Baker Secondary School in Cranbrook and Columbia Basin Trust are proud to announce the Bright Light Theatre project.

This unique pilot-project is bringing together various organizations in Cranbrook in a combined effort to create a theatrical presentation for the community. Under the direction of Mount Baker Drama teacher Rod Osiowy, the Bright Lights Theatre Project is an extra-curricular program that sees collaboration between his drama students and colleagues, and students or other community members with developmental delays.

"I want to provide an awareness for the community that we have some unique individuals who don't always have the opportunity to be showcased," says Osiowy "This project provides an artistic outlet and is such a great way to raise self-esteem and sense of community for all involved. We want this to be fun, cool and we want everyone to have a great experience."

The project kicked off in September with gathering materials, costume creation, fundraising, and production, and involved approximately 90 individuals including teachers, students, performers, and community care workers. The show will be modeled after the Famous People's Players with actors performing using giant props and puppets in a black light musical production.

Work will continue throughout the school-calendar year culminating in three shows at the end of May, two daily shows for elementary school-aged children and one evening show open to the public, being held at the Key City Theatre on May 23, 2009. This show is suitable for all ages and tickets will go on sale in December.

"To make a project worth while you have to do it well, and you have to do it big," says Osiowy. "This show will be a modern day Alice in Wonderland. We will use a big computer screen, black light and special effects lighting, unconventional sets, giant puppets and freeze frame elements to give this show a wow factor."

CBT provided \$6,000 towards the project for the many required resources such as the black lights, the costumes, advertising, posters and program materials.

The project was also endorsed by the Cranbrook Society for Community Living, a Cranbrook-based organization dedicated to the integration of people with developmental delays into the mainstream of society as well as the support and enhancement of the lives of our clients through advocacy and education.

Revelstoke Remembers and Celebrates Chinese Legacies

Thursday, November 20, 2008

This past August Revelstoke's Railway Days had a special theme, Chinese Legacies. The theme celebrated a key group of workers in making the transcontinental railway a reality - our Chinese immigrants.

After discussing ideas for an exhibit that could be partnered between museums, while also capturing the imaginations of those that visit the city for Railway Days, the theme Chinese Legacies was chosen by the Revelstoke Museums & Gallery Collective (a joint marketing initiative between the four museums and the arts centre in town).

Roberto Rodriguez, Executive Director of the Revelstoke Railway Museum, says the idea for Chinese Legacies came from listening to museum visitors who had expressed a desire to learn more about this part of the CPR's history. Picking up on the theme, the Revelstoke Museum & Archives developed an exhibit interpreting the Chinese community in Revelstoke.

"It's an extraordinary story," says Rodriguez. "If it weren't for the hardworking Chinese immigrants we would not have a railway across Canada, and yet to see the literature and learn about the level of racism towards these workers during this time period, and especially after the work was completed is really eye opening. This is why it was important to celebrate their contribution to the railway this year."

To celebrate the opening of the exhibits, Consul General Yang of the People's Republic of China, attended and delivered a speech at both exhibit openings.

While the project was used as this year's theme for Railway Days, the exhibits will be on display at the Revelstoke Railway Museum and the Revelstoke Museum & Archives for the next two years.

CBT contributed \$8,000 to the project, which follows the story of workers in construction camps, the struggles many faced in gaining citizenship, and their roles in shaping small communities across Canada.

The exhibits include artifacts, photographs, texts, and an audio-visual display. So far, Rodriguez says the exhibit has been embraced by visitors.

"The comment cards have all been great. Visitors are thrilled with the level of sophistication," he says.

CBT Funds Carshare Co-op Expansion Project

Friday, November 14, 2008

John Alton, West Kootenay Eco Society and Meg Langley, Golden resident accept a \$5,000 cheque from Katherine Hamilton, CBT Community Liaison (centre) for the Carshare Co-op Expansion project.

The Carshare Co-op Expansion project will establish three new Carshare branches in Golden, Fernie and Rossland to promote sustainable modes of transportation for Basin residents.

For more information on the West Kootenay Eco Society and the Carshare program, please visit their website at eco.kics.bc.ca.

Meet CBT's Leadership BC Sponsored Candidate

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Leadership BC is a program dedicated to the development and support of future community leaders and their ability to have a positive impact in the community where they live. The program fosters the participants leadership skills and serves also as a networking opportunity with current community leaders who volunteer their time in facilitating various topics and learning days.

This year CBT is proud to be a supporter of this program, hosted by the Cranbrook & District Chamber of Commerce for a third year. CBT's support of \$2,600 to Leadership BC will be used to sponsor one participant in the program for a year, and used towards the sustainability of the program.

This past October CBT learned that Maureen Gordon has been chosen as CBT's sponsored participant, and we are happy to take this opportunity to introduce her to all of our readers.

Maureen is a long-time Cranbrook resident. She works as an advertising consultant for Kootenay Business Magazine and volunteers for Restorative Justice as a facilitator and mentor.

Getting involved in Leadership BC seemed like a terrific idea to Maureen, who has always had a desire to understand and impact the life of her community.

"The benefits I will receive from the experience are numerous," says Maureen. "Beginning with insight into the workings of the community I live in, and using that to complete a project that will enhance the lives of every member of the community, it doesn't get any better than that."

This year's program started in October and will continue to May 2009. In that time Maureen and her fellow participants will get up close and personal with the inner workings of City planning and programming, as well as be given opportunities to discuss alternate solutions to pending community issues.

"I am so excited," says Maureen. "Because of the generosity of the Columbia Basin Trust and the faith of Cranbrook & District Chamber of Commerce, I have been accepted into a very prestigious program. I am a very eager participant and I will treasure all the experiences, one at a time."

For more information on the Leadership BC program, contact the Cranbrook & District Chamber of Commerce at 1.800.222.6174

CBT Supports Selkirk Weavers' and Spinners' Guild

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Earlier this year, Columbia Basin Trust and the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance were proud to provide the Selkirk Weavers Guild with \$2,500 to support the continuing expansion of the guild's services.

The funds have been used to purchase four Carolyn 8 harness table looms, at the cost of \$775 each.

"New looms will invigorate our members and encourage us to broaden our skills and widen the scope of our studies in fiber arts. We extend a big thank you to the Columbia Basin Trust and Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance for the opportunity to help us promote weaving to a broader public," wrote Maddy Harlamovs and Deanna Welsh in the group's President Report upon the approval of the grant.

The Guild is a group of women who meet once a month from September to June at the Doukhobor Discovery Centre's Summer Demonstration Centre, in Castlegar. Together they foster a friendly crafting atmosphere, with a mix of experienced and new weavers.

Beverly Hansen has been a member of the Guild for five years and says it is a great club to join for any age.

"It's a very active group and we have fun," she says. "We have women who have weaved for twenty years, and then we have members who just started and (to) who we mentor and provide beginner's workshops "

Some of the Guild's activities include operating a gift shop at the Doukhobor Discovery Centre's Demonstration Centre during the summer; hosting public demonstrations; participating in fashion shows; participating in Art in the Schools programs; annual Christmas sales; exhibiting at galleries; and participating in the Pass Creek Fall Fair.

"This was the first grant we received and the whole Guild was very happy when we received it," says Hansen. "Being able to purchase four looms at one time was incredible."

This year the Guild is also taking part in an exciting project where all its members are participating in creating 400 mug rugs of 13 x 15 cm each, which will be used as a giveaway in the 2009 Annual Pacific Northwest Handweavers' Guild Conference in Spokane, WA.

For more information on joining the Guild, please contact Sandra Donohue at 1.250.365.7084.

Trail-and-Area Youth Speak Out on Local Politics

Thursday, November 20, 2008

On Wednesday, Nov. 12, Columbia Basin Trust assisted in the coordination of a pre-election Civic Youth Forum for Trail-and-area youth to meet their political candidates.

The Forum, held after school at the Warfield Hall, was a venue for young people to express their concerns to candidates and discuss means to tackle youth-centered issues.

Organizer Rachael Rousin says the idea behind the forum was to help political candidates connect with the issues youth found important.

"The objective is to make the kids feel more involved in municipal decisions," Rousin said in an interview with the Trail Daily Times. "There is a lack of engagement between the two areas."

"It was a very successful event," says Dana Welsh, CBT Youth Liaison, and event facilitator. "We had more than 40 people participate and afterwards two very positive commitments were made. One was to come together for another forum in January, and the other was a commitment by Councillor Robert Cacchioni and Mayor Dieter Bogs to create a youth council."

The idea is to create a youth council that will have decision-making authority and will be mentored by local city counsellors and Regional District representatives. A meeting is being organized for January which will continue the discussions about creating this council.

Welsh adds that holding forums and the creation of committees such as these are important to smaller communities. Youth who feel appreciated in their home towns are more likely to return to that community to raise their families and continue to be involved in their community.

"We have to make sure our youth feel valued," she says. "It comes back to the idea that the young people of today will be the decision makers of tomorrow, and we want them to be active and engaged in that process."

Stay tuned to developments for the January Civic Youth Forum at www.scratchonline.ca or call Dana at 1.800.505.8998.

Increased Fire Protection for Edgewood and Inonoaklin Valley

Thursday, October 30, 2008

Every summer many of us are following the story of a community somewhere in B.C. fighting off a fire from their homes and parks - just one reality of living in a beautifully forested region. Most communities can put their trust in a local fire department to feel safe during the dry, hot months; however, for some communities like Edgewood, this safety net was non-existent until the community decided to take steps to change this.

"Currently there is little to no fire protection in the community, so The Edgewood Community Club initiated a project to change that after the 2007 fire season, when we experienced a serious fire in the valley and it became apparent we had little means to protect ourselves," says Lynda McNutt, Edgewood Community Club member.

The Edgewood Community Club contacted Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) under its Community Development Program with a project to construct two storage buildings for newly acquired fire equipment, and CBT provided \$38,201 for the project, and another \$28,023 through the Community Initiatives Program. Another \$10,000 was contributed by the RDCK, Electoral Area K.

"This project has a tremendous amount of support from members of the community, with all the construction work, the training with equipment, the maintenance of these facilities and equipment, and even the lease of the land for the buildings being donated," says Lynda Lafleur, CBT Community Liaison. "Projects like these that are clearly desired by the community and for which the community eagerly takes responsibility, are ones CBT are always pleased to support."

The project includes the construction of two buildings with one located within the Edgewood town site and the other at the junction of Hwy 6 and the Inonoaklin Valley Road. Training and safety gear will be provided for volunteers.

For more information on the history and current stage of this project, please contact Lynda McNutt at 250.269.0049.

Columbia Basin Trust delivers economic, social, and environmental benefits to the residents of the Columbia Basin. To learn more about CBT programs and initiatives, visit www.cbt.org or call 1.800.505.8998.

Community Futures East Kootenay Celebrates its Entrepreneurs and Business Owners

Thursday, November 20, 2008

On Saturday, Oct. 24, the Cranbrook business and entrepreneurial society came together to celebrate the spirit and accomplishments of individuals working to build a strong and diverse economy for the area.

Hosted by Community Futures East Kootenay (CFEK), this gala event included trade and business displays, the presentation of six awards to outstanding entrepreneurs, and guest speaker Paul Attalla, from Fernie and the only Canadian in the 2007 solo rowing race across the Atlantic Ocean.

"It was a great night," says Rob Gay, CFEK General Manager. "Not only did we honour some outstanding entrepreneurs, we also recognized and celebrated the contributions of small business throughout the region."

Gay went on to say that the importance of entrepreneurs in our economy is sometimes overlooked, and that this evening was about putting the spotlight on this group of business owners.

"The East Kootenay is one of the most entrepreneurial regions in B.C., a fact we should all be proud of," he says.

The event included over 100 representatives from regional business owners, financial and business consulting professionals, economic development organizations, educators, business advocate groups, media and students.

"Entrepreneurs and small business owners fuel the economy of the East Kootenays and I am proud of Community Futures East Kootenay to not only recognize that, but to support and celebrate it," says Jennifer Krotz, CBT Community Liaison, who had the opportunity to congratulate the entrepreneurs at the event in person.

This year's award recipients were:

Young Entrepreneur - Paula Readman, Embrace Day Spa & Salon, Kimberley
Innovation - Matt Thompson and Nathan Troxel, Driven Media Inc., Cranbrook
Tourism - Dan Josephson and Dale McKnight, Chatter Creek Mountain Lodge, Golden
Western Economic Diversification Small Business Loan - Suzanne Thompson, Kootenay Therapy Center, Cranbrook
Service Canada Self-Employment Program - Libby Olson, SmartScape Landscaping, Kimberley
Longevity - Simon Howse, Eeto & Unta Holdings Ltd., Fernie

Community Futures East Kootenay is a non-profit organization that offers entrepreneurs and small businesses loans, training, and other services, and this year celebrated its 20th anniversary. For more information on CFEK visit www.cfek.ca or call 1.800.661.2293.



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Jennifer Krotz, CBT Community Liaison and Wrap-up Speaker



CBT Contributes \$40,000 to Expand Daycare

Friday, November 07, 2008

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and Summit Community Services Society (SCSS) are pleased to announce the official opening of Little Summit Daycare in Cranbrook.

"Summit Community Services Society has been providing much-needed services to Cranbrook families for nearly 15 years, and we are honoured to support them in this move to expand their facilities," says Wally Penner, CBT VP of Community Partnerships. "This project is one way CBT is helping families who strive to balance the need to work and contribute to their community while ensuring their child is receiving quality, affordable care."

CBT's \$40,000 contribution helped SCSS make renovations to the building purchased with a \$290,000 grant from the Ministry of Children and Family Development. New Dawn Development provided labour at cost while the staff and clients of SCSS volunteered their time to help complete the renovations.

"We are thankful for the support from Columbia Basin Trust, New Dawn Development, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and the community at large," says Sally Struthers, Executive Director for Summit Community Services Society. "This new building is a great addition to the family and childcare services currently available in our community and we believe it will become a hub for childcare services in the city. Without the commitment of the Province to make childcare a priority, Summit would not have been able to see this project come to completion. Little Summit Daycare is known as a leader in childcare and it is wonderful to see that tradition of care continue."

The expanded facility replaces the Muriel Baxter location previously used for the Infant/Toddler Young Parent Program, and plans are to include the expansion of Summit's Special Services to Children program and the possibility of another childcare program.

The Infant/Toddler Young Parent program is a unique program in the area, and will provide space for 12 infants aged 0-36 months, with priority space provided to parents who are completing high school. This program allows these young parents a chance to spend time with their child, while also having an opportunity to receive parenting advice from professional childcare workers.

Summit Community Services Society is dedicated to promoting community well-being by providing a continuum of quality, accessible, client-centred support and intervention services in a respectful manner. To learn more about services, visit www.summitfamily.ca.



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Sally Struthers, Executive Director SCSS; Garry Merkel, Chair, CBT Board; Jennifer Krotz, CBT Community Liaison; Bill Bennett, MLA, Minister of Tourism; Angus McKierahan, East Kootenay Community Services Manager, MCFD; Rick Jensen, New Dawn Developments; Chad Jensen, New Dawn Developments; Gillian Snider-Cherpak, SCSS.

SHARE    ...

CBT Supports Partnership in Wetlands Stewardship

Monday, October 06, 2008

Columbia Basin Trust is providing \$60,000 over the next three years to support the Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners, a group that manages the wetlands as a single system, irrespective of ownership or jurisdiction, and takes a proactive stance in dealing with issues as they arise.

"The Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners are protecting and strengthening our wetlands while addressing concerns with a positive, community-based approach," said Wally Penner, CBT's VP of Community Partnerships. "That's why CBT is pleased to support this group of local people who are taking responsibility for a natural landscape they care deeply about while involving the greater community in the discussion of how best to do this."

The partnership of 35 groups and agencies includes all of the federal and provincial agencies concerned with the wetlands, all of the local NGOs with an interest in the river and wetlands, the local First Nations, industry representatives from the tourism and forest sectors, and representatives (councillors, mayors and regional district representatives) from each of the communities along the wetlands.

"CBT's three-year financial commitment creates stability and sustainability, allowing us to expand on our education and stewardship activities for residents in the communities surrounding the wetlands," said Bob Jamieson, Executive Director of the Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners. "The group has taken on a wide range of projects to further the management of the wetlands, as well as ensuring local communities and stakeholders are involved in the process."

"The challenge is to protect the wetlands as the surrounding area experiences huge increases in human traffic, tourism, and recreation," said Klara Trescher, Director for Area G, Regional District of East Kootenay. "CBT's support will assist the group in their efforts to bring a balanced perspective to the management of an extremely valuable natural resource."

The Columbia Wetlands 180 km system is one of the largest wetland complexes in the world stretching from Fairmont in the south, to Donald north of Golden in the north, along the Upper Columbia River, and is recognized as a wetland of international importance by the United Nations' RAMSAR Treaty.