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Issue 14 - February 2008

NEWS RELEASES

February 13, 2009 - CBT Doubles Number of Youth Scholarships: Applications for CBT's Youth Community Service Award now being accepted ... [read more](#)

February 9, 2009 - CKCA and CBT Announce 2009/10 Arts, Culture and Heritage Granting Programs ... [read more](#)

February 6, 2009 - Kimberley Curling Rink Completes Barrier-Free Renovations ... [read more](#)

December 23, 2008 - Columbia Basin Trust Provides \$150,000 for Arches Project ... [read more](#)

KNOW YOUR HISTORY?

QUESTION - Who was the first explorer to chart the entire length of the Columbia River from its headwaters in Canal Flats, BC to its mouth at Astoria, Oregon?

- David Cook
- David Thompson
- David Cassidy
- David Bowie
- David Blaine

VOTE NOW



BASINLink Newsletter



CBT Helps Reduce Regional Carbon Emissions

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) has partnered with the Regional Districts of Central Kootenay, Kootenay Boundary and East Kootenay to develop a Kootenay Carbon Neutral Action Strategy. The Regional Districts of Central Kootenay, East Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary are ... [read more](#)



Childcare Needs Assessment Survey

Columbia Basin Trust is pleased to share the results of a recent childcare needs assessment survey completed in the communities of the Elk Valley by the East Kootenay Infant Development Society - Children First Conducted last September through November, the Kids Care ... [read more](#)



Mirror Theatre Society Lifts Curtain on Opportunities

This May residents of Nakusp are in for some dramatic surprises as its Mirror Theatre Society hosts Theatre B.C.'s Kootenay Zone Festival for the first time. "This is a big thing for Mirror Theatre," said Janet Royko, festival chair. "We are expanding our horizons; taking on the ... [read more](#)



Radium Educating on and Protecting Bighorn Sheep

Nestled between the Rocky Mountain and Purcell Mountain Ranges on the edge of the Columbia River, the Village of Radium Hot Springs offers a beautifully natural tourist escape. Seeing an opportunity to capitalize on their community's natural appeal, the Radium ... [read more](#)

FEATURES

[Two New Faces at CBT](#)

[Kaslo Sign Kiosks Complete](#)

[RFP: Community Pilot Projects](#)



Just released, CBT's [Environmental](#) and [Social](#) Strategic Plans.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

South Slokan's 'Project Help' Making Impact Locally and Abroad

Four years ago Don Warthe, a teacher at South Slokan's Mount Sentinel High, returned from a work experience in Bolivia. His time there touched his spirit, and soon after his return to the West Kootenays, he decided he would like to share similar experiences of international community service with students at Mount Sentinel High. He began approaching students with the idea of heading to Tijuana, Mexico, as a group, to build a house for a deserving family.

As students joined the group, Project Help was created, a group that later branched into the Inspiring Youth For Change (IYC) team.

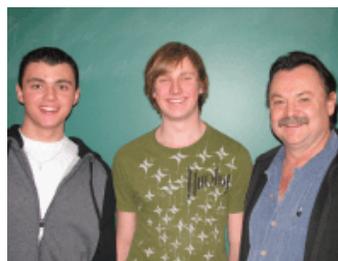
"We've supported Project Help from its beginning," said Dana Welsh, CBT Youth Coordinator. "This really is a great example of a project that has a gifted mentor to

"If residents have a project they think is worthwhile, I encourage them to approach CBT. The expertise of the staff and application process provides the groundwork needed to kick-start just about any successful plan."

Frankie Reekie, The Love

CBT Re-launches Youth-Led SCRATCH Magazine
Get your first look at [SCRATCH](#).

guide and inspire students, but Don also knows how to stand back and let the youth take the lead. It's also a group that keeps coming up with great ideas on how to create opportunities in their community." ... [read more](#)



Of Theatre (LOT)
Committee member and
first time CBT funding
applicant.

HIGHLIGHTS

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- [Groundbreaking Ceremony for Lake View Village](#)
- [CBT Helps Pulpit Rock Society Re-build Hiking Trail](#)
- [Community Initiatives Program Accepting Applications](#)
- [New Women's Housing in Cranbrook](#)
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Columbia Basin Trust supports efforts by the people of the Basin to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being and to achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations.

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1.800.505.8998

CBT Helps Reduce Regional Carbon Emissions

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) has partnered with the Regional Districts of Central Kootenay, Kootenay Boundary and East Kootenay to develop a Kootenay Carbon Neutral Action Strategy.

The Regional Districts of Central Kootenay, East Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary are signatories to the B.C. Climate Action Charter. As signatories, the Regional Districts have committed to, among other initiatives, becoming carbon neutral by 2012.

The Regional Districts have received assistance from CBT and collaboratively all four organizations have prepared the Kootenay Carbon Neutral Action Strategy. The goal of this multi-year strategy is to develop a coordinated regional approach and plan to assist local governments to achieve carbon neutrality and emissions reductions targets.

"For municipalities and regional districts to become carbon neutral by 2012 is an enormous undertaking and many communities simply don't have the capacity to tackle this kind of project on their own," said Kindy Gosal, CBT Director, Water and Environment. "We saw an opportunity for CBT to play a role in supporting a team approach, sharing resources, assisting in gathering scientific data and taking real action on climate change."

The strategy is focused on corporate emissions for Regional Districts, as well as any municipalities and First Nations communities and that choose to participate and take advantage of the support and resources that will be available free of charge.

Corporate emissions include, but are not limited to, building and vehicle fleet emissions. This strategy does not encompass broader personal, community or industrial emissions reductions strategies.

So what does the term carbon neutrality mean?

"Carbon neutral means zero net emissions," explained Gosal. "This can be achieved by either reducing emissions to zero, or reducing emissions and then purchasing or providing carbon offsets for emissions that have not been eliminated. Purchasing carbon offsets means using green project investments that are designed to either act as carbon sinks or that reduce carbon emission from other sources."

An approach to mitigation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, at this level and scale, with an emphasis on rural communities is unique as it covers 29 Kootenay municipalities, five First Nation communities and three Regional Districts. Some communities in the Regional District of Columbia Shuswap (those in the CBT area) and the community of Valemount will be included in this project as well.

CBT is acting as a convener and facilitator in a supportive capacity to the Regional Districts by providing strategic advice, technical expertise and administrative support and funding in the amount \$140,000, directed to the delivery of Year 1 targets.

In addition to this mitigation work, CBT is collaborating with a range of partners on climate change initiatives and is:

- Providing credible, science-based information on expected local changes in temperature and precipitation;
- Helping communities plan for the future through an innovative adaptation initiative; and
- Hosting a Climate Change website with a growing list of resources and information.

Find out more about CBT's work in Climate Change by visiting www.cbt.org/Climate_Change to view various publications, lists of resources, the latest news and developments from projects and for greater details on CBT's adaptation and mitigation commitments.

News Release: Consultants Announced for Joint Climate Change Action Strategy

CBT Supports Childcare Needs Assessment Survey in the Elk Valley

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust is pleased to share the results of a recent childcare needs assessment survey completed in the communities of the Elk Valley by the East Kootenay Infant Development Society - Children First.

Conducted last September through November, the Kids Care Survey polled members in the communities of Elkford, Sparwood, Fernie and Regional District of East Kootenay Area A on their perception of the current and future (5-year outlook) need for childcare centres/providers.

The project goal was to help these communities plan adequately for the future, as well as to provide a credible and current document on the area's needs to government when applying for assistance in creating solutions to this need.

Simultaneously, the results of this project have been made available as a *toolkit* for other communities in the Kootenays on how to conduct a credible assessment and which issues they might need to plan for in the future. This *toolkit* will also be presented at the annual Children First and Success by 6 provincial conferences in March.

Within each community the survey also served to raise general awareness on childcare needs, on community early childhood development and on current childcare projects. For those working within the childcare field, the survey provided insight into how services could be improved, on how to collaborate or partner with one another and what roadblocks existed to increasing services.

CBT funded \$7,000 towards attaining the services of Ipsos-Reid to conduct the survey. The City of Fernie supported the project with \$4,000, as did the District of Elkford and the District of Sparwood. The Regional District of East Kootenay contributed \$2,000.

Access the Community Childcare Needs Assessment Toolkit [here](#).

Nakusp's Mirror Theatre Society Lifts Curtain on New Opportunities

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

This May residents of Nakusp are in for some dramatic surprises as its Mirror Theatre Society hosts Theatre BC's Kootenay Zone Festival for the first time.

"This is a big thing for Mirror Theatre," said Janet Royko, festival chair. "We are expanding our horizons; taking on the opportunity of hosting this festival and taking care of all the people that it will bring into our community is a big deal for us."



[Click to Enlarge](#)
[Prev](#) [Image 1 of 2](#) [Next](#)

The Kootenay Zone Festival is part of an annual provincial theatre festival and contest by Theatre BC

[Photo courtesy of Theatre BC](#)

The purpose of the festival is to create an opportunity for theatre companies across the province to come together to showcase their productions and for those participating to receive input from a Theatre BC adjudicator.

"It's a very worthwhile experience and an opportunity for the actors to grow and develop, both as a company and as individuals," explained Royko, adding that for audiences a festival like this means the opportunity to view a series of high quality plays and get a behind-the-scenes insight into each production.

"After each play there is a critique by the adjudicator, and you can learn a lot from listening to why the production did what they did. These sessions, as well as a reception following the festival, are open to public so they get the chance to meet all the actors and theatre personalities."

At the end of the festival the adjudicator will select one production to compete in the provincial festival, an honour and educational opportunity as it also includes a workshop with the adjudicator.

The Kootenay Zone Festival is open to any company registered with Theatre BC in the West and East Kootenays, and already Royko says they have three companies registered. Others are still welcomed to enter prior to the festival's mid-March registration deadline.

Columbia Basin Trust supports this cultural event and hopes residents of Nakusp and area will take the opportunity to enjoy it May 15-17.

For more details contact Royko at 1.250.269.7384.



Radium Hot Springs, Educating on-and-Protecting our Bighorn Sheep

Tuesday, December 09, 2008

Nestled between the Rocky Mountain and Purcell Mountain Ranges on the edge of the Columbia River, the Village of Radium Hot Springs offers a beautifully natural tourist escape.

Seeing an opportunity to capitalize on their community's natural appeal, the Radium Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Centre devised a plan in 2005 to expand on the Village's tourism presence while nurturing education on one of Canada's most treasured animals - the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep.

With a little help from Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), the Radium Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Centre set in motion the annual *Headbanger Bighorn Sheep Tours*, featuring bussed tours in the months between October and November, taking participants to view and learn about the sheep and their habitat.

These tours also provide a unique opportunity to witness the daring mating rituals, light heartedly referred to as their annual rut or head bangers ritual, where two rams battle it out with their horns for the affection of the ewe of their choice. These rituals mainly occur within the Village limits, on the local golf course and amongst the residents' dwellings and green spaces.

"Each year that we continue the program, it is getting a bigger and stronger response from folks that make this area their home, or who just come to the Radium Hot Springs area, because it is still a little wild," says Kent Kebe, Manager of the Radium Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Centre.

This past November saw over 70 participants in the four tours that were offered, as well as a bonus educational class for 19 participants who there wasn't room for on the last weekend - 95% of these folks were from out of the area, mostly Alberta.

Each tour consisted of a 1¼ hour educational session on the sheep and why they come to the Village of Radium, what is being done to enhance their winter range, their rutting rituals and causes of mortality.

CBT has contributed to this tourism and educational venture from its founding year, and this year supported it with \$1,200.

"CBT believes in both the economic and the educational opportunities this program provides to the community," says Katherine Hamilton, CBT Community Liaison. "We are eager to see the program continuing to grow in awareness throughout B.C. and Alberta."

Find out more about the tours and about the Village of Radium Hot Springs at www.radiumhotsprings.com.

South Slokan's 'Project Help' Making Impact Locally and Abroad

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Four years ago Don Warthe, a teacher at South Slokan's Mount Sentinel High, returned from a work experience in Bolivia. His time there touched his spirit, and soon after his return to the West Kootenays, he decided he would like to share similar experiences of international community service with students at Mount Sentinel High. He began approaching students with the idea of heading to Tijuana, Mexico, as a group, to build a house for a deserving family.

As students joined the group, Project Help was created, a group that later branched into the Inspiring Youth For Change (IYC) team.

"We've supported Project Help from its beginning," said Dana Welsh, CBT Youth Coordinator. "This really is a great example of a project that has a gifted mentor to guide and inspire students, but Don also knows how to stand back and let the youth take the lead. It's also a group that keeps coming up with great ideas on how to create opportunities in their community."

This year Project Help consists of 20 Grade 12 students, along with a junior group of students from grades 9-11 who provide support with local projects. Internationally, 17 members and Warthe will travel to Guatemala in March to work on a community service project; however, it is locally that the group's contributions are being noticed every day.

From building a bus shelter and attracting local artist Ron Mulvey to create murals for the inside, to inviting the elementary school to join them in planting trees alongside the high school's sun-beaten South side to create a natural environmental cooling system, to cleaning-up highway refuse, to creating mountain bike trails in Beasley, to providing free firewood for seniors - Project Help's task list is impressing residents and creating positive change.

"Different people in the community will notice different things, so by doing more things we can reach more people. It feels good to be doing something constructive," explained James King, one of this year's grade 12 Project Help team members.

"There's a tremendous amount of community support," added Jethro Herring, another grade 12 Project Help member. "It's not that people recognize you, but they will ask questions (about things they've seen in the community) and when they realize you were part of that, they'll thank you for it. Some really notice the bike trails, while others really notice the bus shelters. It's been good to have this experience and to inspire others and to be able to create change."

For the first time in the group's history, Project Help is presenting a theatrical production this year, called *The Waiting Room*. Mentored by Lucas Meyers, the play hopes to challenge its audience's perception of global poverty. *The Waiting Room* is showing at Nelson's Capitol Theatre on February 27. The production is set in the waiting room of a border crossing, where the audience is introduced to five different characters that each represents a different global aspect of poverty. Afterwards the audience will be treated to a presentation about IYC and Project Help, and how other youth can create similar projects in their communities.

Find out more about this group at

http://web.mac.com/dwarthe/iWeb/Project_Help/Welcome.html

DID YOU KNOW?

Inspiring Youth For Change is the group that created the Environment, Peace and Social Justice Conference in 2006. This project, funded in part by CBT, saw more than 800 Basin youth gather at the Brilliant Cultural Centre to brainstorm ideas on how to create change towards a healthier world.

Columbia Basin Trust Service Awards Are Making A Difference

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is proud to support students in the Columbia Basin with two scholarship programs, the Youth Community Service Award and the College Community Service Award, both of which are based on volunteer community service rather than academic standing.

This year, CBT increased the Youth Community Service Awards from 20 to 45 awards. Valued at \$2,000 each, the awards help high school students in the Columbia Basin pursue post-secondary education or training.

The deadline to submit an application is April 10, 2009. Applications are available at local high schools and on CBT's website.

CBT's College Community Service Award is also available for those students returning to their second year of college after a hiatus of more than one year from high school. These awards are specifically geared at rewarding mature students and are based on the same recognition of exemplary volunteer or community service as the youth award.

CBT presents these awards in partnership with four participating Colleges and include 22 awards of \$2,000 each, divided amongst students attending Selkirk College, College of Rockies, Valemount Campus of College of New Caledonia, and the Revelstoke Centre of Okanagan College.

The deadline to submit an application for the College Community Service Award is June 30, 2009 and applications are available at www.cbt.org/Funding/?Programs.

CBT often receives updates from recipients of these awards. Here are a few excerpts from their letters.

"Thank you for this opportunity to return to school and follow my dreams of becoming a teacher. It is with great honour that I accept this grant and will put it to good use. I fully intend on teaching children that we live in a very supportive community and that it is possible to follow your dreams here."

Constance Neaga, 2008 Community Service Award winner.



"Besides the financial support afforded by the receipt of the Community Service Award from Columbia Basin Trust, the very timely notification of my being offered this grant played an important part for me; in that it encouraged me to persevere and to obtain a student loan, something I had been reluctant to do in light of my age (as I turned 60 at the time the notice came). The award contributed to my returning to school to obtain further training in media development. My objective is to be able to more effectively contribute to this community by producing educational and informative video. Through the skills I am acquiring in Selkirk College's Digital Film Program I would hope to be able to bring a broader awareness to the challenges which we must collectively meet, both regionally and globally, in order to ensure our continued well being."

Achille LaLonde, 2008 CBT Community Service Award winner.



"I am a 39-year-old student in the Humanities program at Selkirk College, but I also have a family to take care of while maintaining my grades. All of this work means nothing if I cannot pay both the bills and my tuition - and this is where

the CBT award has helped me to bridge the gap. The CBT award is specifically geared for mature students and unfortunately, it is one of the few available for individuals returning to school in this region."

David Mac Main, 2007 CBT Community Service Award recipient.



"I was delighted to receive the Columbia Basin Trust College Community Service Award last year. As a mature student enrolling in Selkirk College's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, my financial needs were significant, and while I qualified for a substantial student loan, the amount did not meet the projected nine-month, full-time budget. Besides the financial reward of the scholarship, I felt honoured to have my volunteer work acknowledged. Our community is full of dedicated, enthusiastic volunteers, and I loved being a part of such a positive micro-community.

Thank you, CBT, for providing financial and moral support to me on my journey."

Kathryn Livingston, 2007 CBT Community Service Award recipient.



"Thanks to this scholarship and my own working over the summers, I have been able to pay for my four year nursing degree without any student loans or line of credit. So thank you. I would like to recognize how refreshing it is to have a scholarship that is based on citizenship and volunteering as opposed to academics. As a nursing student I feel that CBT and the nursing profession have many values in common, they both work together for a collective good of the people it serves and advocates for positive change that impacts the health and well being of its residents."

Aimee Ward, 2004 CBT Youth Community Service Award winner.



Groundbreaking Ceremony for Lake View Village

Friday, December 12, 2008

A groundbreaking ceremony marked the start of construction on Nelson's newest seniors' housing development Thursday.

A joint project of Golden Life Management, Pace Setter Construction and Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), Lake View Village is slated for completion in the fall of 2009, and reservations are currently being accepted through Golden Life Management.

"Golden Life Management is dedicated to providing quality housing that promotes our residents' freedom, privacy and security," says Endre Lillejord, CEO of Golden Life Management. "We are pleased to offer our housing options in the beautiful city of Nelson."

Lake View Village is a \$14-million development that will provide 90 independent living suites to seniors in Nelson at 1010 Seventh Street.

"This is a great investment for Nelson residents and for CBT," says Johnny Strilaeff, CBT Vice President of Investments. "We believe this development will help fill a gap in the need for seniors' housing in the community, and at the same time expand on CBT's positive investment profile in seniors' care facilities in the Basin."

Currently CBT has ownership interest in eight seniors' care facilities in the region, offering a total of 770 living suites to residents. CBT will maintain a 50 per cent interest in Lake View Village.

Lake View Village will provide an excellent living option to those who want to maintain an independent lifestyle, while having the security of various support systems. Housing options include independent living suites and several easily accessible common areas such as an elegant dining room, a comfortable computer lab, a well stocked library, an onsite beauty salon and a spa room. Suites will also offer 24-hour emergency monitoring, 24-hour staff, laundry and housekeeping services, chef-prepared meals, scheduled transportation, organized recreation and social activities, and personalized services available on a short- or long-term basis.

To reserve a space or to learn more about this development, contact Golden Life Management at 250.489.0667 or visit www.goldenlife.ca.

CBT Presents \$51,400 Cheque to Friends of Pulpit Rock Society

Friday, January 30, 2009

CBT's Community Liaison Wayne Lundeberg presented \$51,400 to the Friends of Pulpit Rock Society to support trailhead construction and trail upgrades to the iconic Nelson hiking destination on Elephant Mountain known as Pulpit Rock.

Pictured in photo: left to right, Friends of Pulpit Rock Society: Nancy Selwood (director), Stefan Lehmann (director), Wayne Lundeberg (CBT), Josh Smienk (former Area E director), Nancy Noiles (director), Al Dawson (former Area F director), Bob Dean (director) and Yev Malloff (director).

Learn more about the project at www.savepulpitrock.com.

Community Initiatives and Affect Areas Programs Accepting Applications

Monday, February 02, 2009

The Community Initiatives Program (CIP) is CBT's largest and longest running program, and this year it will be supporting communities with \$3.3 million, a portion of a three-year \$10 million commitment.

A portion of these funds are allocated to areas of the Basin most affected by dam construction under the Columbia River Treaty. These areas are part of the Arrow, Kinbasket, Duncan and Kocanusa Reservoirs.

Remaining funds are allocated throughout the Basin through CBT's delivery partners the Regional Districts of East Kootenay, Central Kootenay, Kootenay Boundary, City of Revelstoke, Town of Golden, Village of Valemount and the Ktunaxa Nation Council.

Funds for this program are allocated on a per capita funding formula and are distributed to the delivery partners once a year. Decision-making on how to disburse funds in this program is community-based.

"To me, the unique characteristic of this program is that it provides a way to help local communities shape their own futures," said Garry Merkel, CBT Board Chair.

Applications for funding through these programs are made directly to the local delivery partner in your area.

Deadlines for submitting project proposals are:

RDEK

4:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 20

Revelstoke and CSRD Electoral Area B

4:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 23

RDCK

4:30 p.m., Thursday, March 19

RDKB

4:00 p.m., Friday, March 27

Valemount

Friday, March 20

Town of Golden

Phil Taylor and Jon Wilsgard

For application forms and more details on how to apply in your area, visit www.cbt.org/Funding/?Programs and click on Community Initiative Program.

CBT Contributes to New Second-Stage Women's Housing in Cranbrook

Monday, January 12, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust, in partnership with the Provincial Government, the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), and the BC Real Estate Foundation, are proud to announce the creation of an 18-unit second-stage women's housing project for women and children who are fleeing abusive relationships.

"Haven Gardens demonstrate the positive collaboration between the provincial government and community partners," said Neil Muth, CBT president and CEO. "We see our involvement in this initiative as a practical strategy to providing affordable, stable housing for those who are forging a new path."

Haven Gardens will be managed and operated by CMHA, and will be a secondary housing unit to the CMHA's existing housing unit for women fleeing troubled and abusive homes. Unlike first-stage housing that supplies a short-term living option, Haven Gardens will provide women and children a safe haven for up to 18 months.

Janice Bradshaw, CMHA-Kootenays Executive Director said this project is about more than offering women a bed at night.

"We believe supportive housing is vital to providing stability and a better quality of life to people living in vulnerable circumstances," said Bradshaw. "This development offers future tenants hope for a personal comeback and a sense of purpose for the future."

The project is funded by \$5.8-million from the provincial government, \$125,000 by the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, and \$100,000 by CBT. The provincial government is also leasing the site to CMHA, with land equity of \$250,000.

Haven Gardens are currently scheduled for completion at the beginning of November this year.

For more information on Haven Garden please visit

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2009HSD0001-000005.htm

CBT Re-launches Youth-Led SCRATCH Magazine

Tuesday, February 03, 2009

Communities across the Basin received copies of CBT's redesigned youth-led SCRATCH Magazine in February when Dana Welsh, CBT Basin Youth Liaison, delivered the latest edition to coffee shops, schools, youth centres and book stores.

"I am amazed by the reception the new SCRATCH Magazine has received so far," said Welsh after returning from her delivery tour. "It is great to see that all the work put into the redesign of this magazine is getting people's attention and providing a medium that CBT and Basin youth can be proud of."

SCRATCH Magazine provides a forum for youth in the Columbia Basin to share their art, ideas and experiences with each other. The magazine is created by and for youth as a way to examine issues in their lives, and propel their creativity forward through sharing.

"During a program evaluation we consulted with groups of youth from across the Basin and discussed how to create a better venue for the art and other submissions we receive from youth," explained Dana Welsh, CBT Basin Youth Liaison. "This year we implemented many changes to support the direction that these focus groups gave us, including printing the magazines on higher quality paper to better showcase the submitted art, but still using paper that is environmentally friendly."

The next edition is already in the works and Basin youth can get involved in three ways:

- submit works of art, poetry, photography and editorials on health, travel, community initiatives and volunteerism via CBT's youth website www.scratchonline.ca;
- get involved with the SCRATCH editorial committee which reviews and selects feature submissions for each edition; and
- share the magazine with friends and let them know about the opportunity to have their work published.

CBT is also looking for community mentors and reporters to take part in SCRATCH.

"We would love to find a youth reporter who could write articles on topics that interest and inspire youth as well as adult mentors who are willing to volunteer their time to assist youth in producing the best possible articles, art or poetry for submission to SCRATCH Magazine," said Welsh. "Anyone interested in getting involved should contact me at 1.800.505.8998 or email dwelsh@cbt.org."

Copies of SCRATCH Magazine can be found at various coffee shops, schools, youth and community centres and book stores. For a list of venues in your community or to subscribe or view the magazine online, visit www.scratchonline.ca.

Two New Faces at CBT

Wednesday, February 04, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust is pleased to welcome two new staff members.

Linda McInnes has joined the office in Nakusp, filling in for the big shoes Merrilla Thorp left empty at the end of last year.

As the new Administrative Assistant in Nakusp, Linda said she's looking forward to getting a more rounded familiarity about the opportunities CBT can create for Basin residents.

"I have lived in Nakusp for 27 years. I am familiar with the Community Initiatives funding, but now I'm really excited to get more in-depth knowledge about the opportunities CBT has for Basin residents and educating them about CBT."

Linda has worked with Arrow Lakes News and Nakusp Outreach Employment Services. These two work experiences provided her with a good bridge in making her move to CBT. Working in the newspaper industry gave her knowledge about CBT current events, and the latter made her more aware of the needs of communities and the issues residents are facing.

When she isn't working, Linda is a proud hockey mom of two.

Heather Mitchell has joined the Golden office as a Program Intern for Water Initiatives.

Heather joins the team with a strong background in environmental education, and holds a science degree from the University of Victoria.

Heather said she is looking forward working with the many groups involved in water conservation in the Basin, and she hopes to be able to assist groups, residents and municipalities in working together.

"I was very excited when this opportunity came along," said Heather. "I have been looking for a job in the environmental field for a while and there were many opportunities outside the Basin, but I really wanted to stay here. The natural surroundings here are unique; it is the best place in the world."

Prior to joining CBT, Heather worked with the New Zealand Department of Conservation.

Heather is originally from Cranbrook and has aspirations of adding a dog to her family soon.

'Welcome to Kaslo' Sign and Timber Frame Kiosks Complete

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Submitted by: Ian Fraser

This January Kaslo's new entranceway sign project was created as a joint initiative of the Kaslo and Area Chamber of Commerce and the Kaslo Trailblazers Society.

An ambitious undertaking, the more than \$20,000 project was funded by Columbia Basin Trust, the Regional District of Central Kootenay and by 16 Chamber of Commerce members.

The new Welcome to Kaslo signs direct visitors downtown to Kaslo's Visitor Information Centre, and highlight Kaslo's cultural and recreational tourism opportunities. One part of the new sign also lists merchants that can be found in Kaslo.

The two pullout areas around the signs (one to the west and one to the south of Kaslo) will eventually have a picnic area with, picnic tables, garbage cans and landscaping improvements. All the entranceway improvements will ensure that visitors to Kaslo have an exceptional first impression of the community.

The signs are all-weather and vandal resistant with an estimated 10-year lifespan and were designed and supplied by Ian Fraser & Associates. Project management was by Val Koenig of the Trailblazers and Geoff Beer of the Chamber.

This project's legacy will be increased tourism and awareness of the strengths of Kaslo and area. Thank you, CBT for your generous legacy contribution to this forward-looking project.

State of the Basin Initiative Looking for Pilot Projects

Friday, February 20, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is issuing a Request for Proposals for Community Planning and the Use of Information as part of the State of the Basin Initiative, a model for monitoring and reporting on social, environmental, economic and cultural indicators and trends in the Columbia Basin region.

Last fall, CBT released the 2008 State of the Basin Report which transformed a sample of information available from public sources into indicators for the Columbia Basin and its local areas.

Now CBT wants to encourage evidence-based planning and is inviting municipalities, regional districts, First Nations, not-for-profit organizations and other groups to submit project proposals related to planning efforts that incorporate information. The pilots will generate learning to inform future planning efforts.

For more information, contact Rina Gresiuk at 1.800.505.8998 or rgresiuk@cbt.org.

RELATED ITEMS

-  [Request for Proposals: Community Planning and Use of Information \(147.54 KB\)](#)
-  [State of the Basin Website](#)
-  [State of the Basin Report \(6.83 MB\)](#)

CBT Doubles Number of Youth Scholarships: Applications for CBT's Youth Community Service Award now being accepted

Friday, February 13, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is increasing the number of youth scholarships from 20 to 45 awards this year.

"We have been looking at various ways to increase our support to students pursuing post-secondary education or training," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "Increasing the number of awards means CBT can help more students achieve their dreams."

Each CBT Youth Community Service Award is valued at \$2,000 and is based on volunteer community service rather than academic standing. Students can use the award for post-secondary education or training.

"We are particularly proud to be able to present these awards to youth who have shown a commitment to volunteering in their communities," continued Muth. "I would encourage their younger peers in grades 8 and 9 to look for volunteer opportunities in their community and to see how they can make a difference with just a few hours a week."

Awards totalling \$90,000 will be distributed to communities in the Columbia Basin based on the number of graduating students. Communities with a graduating class less than 25 will continue to receive one award; those with up to 75 students will receive two awards; and those with more than 75 graduating students will receive three awards.

All Basin students graduating from a Basin high school, alternate school or other institution that grants graduation diplomas recognized by the Ministry of Education, are eligible for the award.

The deadline to submit an application is April 10, 2009. Applications are available at local high schools and online at www.cbt.org.

For more information on the award or application process, contact a CBT Community Liaison at 1.800.505.8998.

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BACKGROUND: 2008 CBT YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Rosalyn Barr, Valemount: Valemount Secondary
- Spela Grasic, Invermere: David Thompson Secondary
- Leah Hilts, Rossland: Rossland Secondary
- Brittany Jones, Golden: Golden Secondary
- Melissa Koftinoff, Nakusp: Nakusp Secondary
- John Lee, Trail: J. Lloyd Crowe Secondary
- Odin Lewis, Crescent Valley: Mount Sentinel
- Erica Maltby, Revelstoke: Revelstoke Secondary
- Peter Mendoza, Elkford: Elkford Secondary
- Laura Metcalfe, Nelson: L.V. Rogers Secondary
- Paul Sopow, New Denver: Lucerne Elementary/Secondary
- Steve Schalk, Cranbrook: Mt. Baker Secondary
- Whitney Shier, Fernie: Fernie Secondary
- Margaret Smith, Kaslo: JV Humphries
- Jamie Sorensen, Fruitvale: Salmo Secondary
- Kourtney Thibeault, Sparwood: Sparwood Secondary
- Kyle Van Delft, Kimberley: Selkirk Secondary
- Alexandra Yule, Castlegar: Stanley Humphries
- Nickolai Zarchukoff, Lister: Prince Charles Secondary

CKCA and CBT Announce 2009/10 Arts, Culture and Heritage Granting Programs

Monday, February 09, 2009

The Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA) is inviting individuals of all artistic disciplines - as well as arts, culture and heritage organizations - to apply for funding provided by Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) under its Arts, Culture and Heritage granting program, which was recently awarded \$500,000 for the 2009/10 fiscal year.

The Arts, Culture and Heritage program streams include: project funding for individuals and groups through community arts councils; minor capital project funding; funding support to touring; arts and heritage mentoring/master classes; organizational development; major project funding; artists in education; major exhibition funding; major heritage capital funding; and funding for new heritage projects. Funding applications are adjudicated once a year by local arts councils and the CKCA Steering Committee.

"The CKCA administers and manages arts, culture and heritage program funding on behalf of CBT," explained Jacquie Hamilton, CKCA Chair. "These programs support projects in all arts disciplines and give artists a chance to broaden their abilities, while also ensuring residents in the Basin have an opportunity to be exposed to great local talent."

"The goal of this program is to support those in the arts and heritage community to build long-term sustainability and to create a greater awareness of the wonderful talent, projects and resources within the Basin," said Lynda Lafleur, CBT Community Liaison.

More information, funding policies and application forms are available online at www.basinculture.com, from local community arts councils, or by phoning the CKCA at 1.250.505.5505 or toll free at 1.877.505.7355.

Applications must be received by March 20 or April 3, 2009, depending on the program.

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Kimberley Curling Rink Completes Barrier-Free Renovations

Friday, February 06, 2009

Kimberley is one step closer to becoming a North American leader in providing quality Paralympic training facilities.

On Thursday, Feb. 5, the Kimberley Curling Club hosted a reception and tour to celebrate the completion of renovations to the Kimberley Curling Rink, a project that is part of the City's vision to transform its sporting venues into world class training and competitive venues for disabled athletes and spectators.

"We are pleased to see the completion of this project, and look forward to seeing Kimberley continue to diversify its economy through the development of Paralympics training venues," said Garry Merkel, CBT's Board Chair. "While CBT contributed to this particular facility, it is the overall goal of inclusiveness, equality and the City's aspiration to take advantage of a potential economic opportunity that we are supporting."

"The Curling Club has been modified to provide barrier-free access for disabled athletes and spectators, and is wheelchair accessible. The facility will be used by Paralympics athletes in conjunction with the Paralympics Training Centre when it has been completed," said Jim Ogilvie, Mayor of Kimberley. "The City of Kimberley would like to take this opportunity to thank Columbia Basin Trust for their assistance in the completion of the Paralympics upgrades at the Kimberley Curling Club."

CBT provided \$57,000 to the \$223,000-renovation of the curling club facility. The City of Kimberley provided \$162,400, as well as many in-kind donations including staff-time and project management.

Gord Jenkins from the Kimberley Curling Club is already seeing the benefits the upgrades to this facility are having in the community.

"What is exciting is that with the help from the City and CBT we have brought this old building to a new status," said Jenkins. "We now have an easy-access facility where anyone can be included and take part, those with disabilities, the able-bodied and those who have injuries. This has allowed us to host the regional playdowns, and now we have been selected to host the mixed-provincials in March where we will see teams from all over the province come to compete in Kimberley."

The curling rink is one of six sports venues to which barrier-free updates are being made in order to create North America's only one-stop training destination for athletes of four Paralympics sporting events - wheelchair curling, sledge hockey, Nordic skiing and Alpine skiing.

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Columbia Basin Trust Provides \$150,000 for Arches Project

Tuesday, December 23, 2008

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) Board Chair Garry Merkel and CBT Community Liaison Jennifer Krotz presented the Cranbrook Arches Committee with \$150,000 on Thursday, Dec. 11, in support of the City Entrance Arches Project.

"The Arches Project is a testament to the work of various sectors of the community coming together to breathe new life into Cranbrook's downtown," said Merkel. "CBT is proud to play a role in making this project a reality, and pleased to support the community's collaborative efforts to improve the city centre's social and economic landscape."

The project will help revitalize the main entrance (9th Avenue) to downtown Cranbrook with the construction of a stone entrance arch, replicating the original 1934 - 1960 arches. Other beautification projects surrounding the arches include improvements to the busy intersection's traffic turning signals and improvements to pedestrian accessibility to downtown attractions such as the Canadian Museum of Rail, Rotary Clock Tower Square, and Rotary Park.

"During the 1960s the #3 Highway was rerouted from going down Baker Street to the Van Horne bypass. Then in 1998 Baker Street was permanently closed off from the #3 Highway and the 9th Avenue entrance was created," explained Fred Hoechsmann, Cranbrook Arches Committee Chairman. "This entrance to our city centre and the Van Horne bypass give the poorest impression of our community. We want to change this perception forever and we are so excited and thankful that CBT shares our vision."

Hoechsmann said the public can help bring this historic landmark to life by purchasing memorial rocks for \$250 and memorial trees for \$400. Donors will be recognized on a bronze plaque inside the arch support towers while donation certificates will be issued for smaller contributions.

The \$816,000 project also received support from CBT's Community Initiatives Program through the City of Cranbrook for \$50,000. Construction is scheduled to start in April 2009.

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