



EVENTS + DEADLINES || BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS || FUNDED PROJECTS || CONTACT

Issue 15 - April 2009

## NEWS RELEASES

April 23, 2009 - CBT Wants your Environmental Project Ideas

April 22, 2009 - Funding Available for Post-Secondary Education

April 1, 2009 - CBT Supports Valhalla Mile Conservation Efforts

March 17, 2009 - CBT Board Member Appointments

March 16, 2009 - CBT Partners with Enterprising Non-Profits

February 27, 2009 - New Partnership Strengthens Rural Community Services

February 18, 2009 - Kootenay Carbon Neutral Action Strategy Implementation Takes Aim at Corporate Emissions

## KNOW YOUR HISTORY?

QUESTION - As the sixth largest river basin in North America, the Columbia River Basin includes both Canada and the United States. Which of the following states is not part of the Columbia River Basin?

- Montana
- Washington
- Idaho
- Oregon
- They are all part of the Columbia River Basin

VOTE NOW

## BASINLink Newsletter



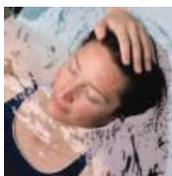
### CBT Youth Forum Connects 90 Youth from Basin

CBT recently hosted its sixth Basin Youth Action Forum: CONNECT, from April 3-5 in Rossland, bringing together approximately 90 youth from across the Basin to create social networks and to create individual action plans on how to initiate become more engaged ... [more](#)



### Getting to know CBT's Water Initiatives Program

Basin residents identified water as a priority during the inception of Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and the creation of CBT's Management Plan. With direction and support from Columbia Basin communities, CBT strives to ensure residents' values and views are incorporated ... [more](#)



### CBT Strengthens Small Business

Yogita Bouchard is a co-owner of Mountain Water Spa in Nelson, and has been a client with CBT's Basin Business Advocates (BBA) on-and-off for four years. Bouchard says BBA has been a guiding hand to her and has influenced the increased success of her business ... [more](#)



### Fruitvale's Mountain Side Village Residents Move In

On January 15, Columbia Basin Trust and Golden Life Management opened the doors of its eighth partnered senior housing facility in the Village of Fruitvale. Mountain Side Village is a 53-suite independent living facility that offers a caring, safe and welcoming atmosphere ... [more](#)

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Crawford Bay Elementary-Secondary opens its doors

This April the Crawford Bay Elementary-Secondary School, East Shore Fitness Place and East Shore Family Place became a testament to how having a vision, dedication and cross-community connectivity can make residents in isolated locations realize they have the ability to create their own legacy.

For the past five years the communities of Boswell, Gray Creek, Pilot Bay, Crawford Bay, Kootenay Bay and Riondell have successfully fundraised and campaigned to have a new school and multi-use facility built in Crawford Bay. The unique aspect of this facility is that from the beginning it was envisioned to also serve as a cross-generational and multi-purpose social hub for neighbouring communities.

Leona Keraiff along with a group of individuals from each

## FEATURES

[Register Now For Voices for Sustainability 2009](#)

[Job Posting: Manager, Planning and Development](#)

[Request for Proposals for New Water Smart Initiative](#)



The Environmental Initiatives Program will be accepting applications soon. Watch our [website](#) for more information!

*"Thanks to this scholarship and working over the summers, I've been able to pay for my nursing degree without student loans or line of credit. I would like to recognize how refreshing it is to have a scholarship based on citizenship as opposed to academics."*



Finance your Future!  
College Community Service  
Awards are available [here](#).

of the six communities formed the East Shore Community Facilities Committee after funding for a new school was announced. The committee set their goal at not only building a new school, but also creating a neighbourhood hub that would fill a void in the area's infrastructure and speak to the residents' needs.  
... more



Aimee Ward, 2004 CBT  
Youth Community Service  
Award winner.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- [CBT Contributes \\$115,000 to Community Greenhouse in Invermere](#)
- [CBT Supports Senior Housing Project In Nakusp](#)
- [Kaslo Celebrates Heritage Week](#)
- [Slocan Valley Increases its Online Presence](#)
- [CBT Supports Cranbrook Rotarians' International District Conference](#)
- [The Switch is On in Castlegar](#)
- [CBT Supports Fernie's 32nd Annual Griz Days Winter Festival](#)
- [New Mentorship And Business Assistance Program Available Through KAST](#)
- [CBT Welcomes Environment Manager](#)

*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.*

1.800.505.8998

Copyright © 2009-2010 Columbia Basin Trust, All Rights Reserved.

## CBT Youth Forum Connects 90 Youth from Across the Basin

Thursday, April 16, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) hosted its sixth Basin Youth Action Forum: CONNECT, from April 3-5 in Rossland, bringing together approximately 90 youth from across the Basin to create social networks and to create individual action plans on how to become more engaged in projects in their own communities.

"This year was amazing because of the dedication of all of the participants," said Dana Welsh, CBT Youth Liaison. "The various ways in which they will be able to implement their learning is so diverse and exciting. Those ideas were coupled with amazing mentors that will really help make things happen."

Garry Merkel, CBT Board Chair, opened the weekend's discussion with a visioning exercise that asked the questions: What is Basin culture? How could one further develop and foster this regional culture? And what are the concerns of youth for this region? Merkel also gave participants advice on how to turn an idea into a reality and further explained his idea of Basin culture.

"Culture is how we live. Basin culture is expressing our lives as residents of the Basin. Through this connection to the Basin we connect to and support each other," explained Merkel to participants. "We, and you as youth, can shape this culture so that CBT - or the concept of an organization such as CBT who works for the greater well-being of a community, will always be in the heart of the people. CBT believes a strong Basin culture and the associated support for each other within the Basin will survive regardless of what happens."

Major concerns raised by youth during this discussion period with Merkel were affordable housing, seasonal homeowners, food security and climate change - concerns that are captured within CBT's recently released [social](#) and [environmental](#) strategic plans.

After asking youth to express their concerns for the region's future, Merkel walked participants through examples of how to turn an idea from concept into action.

"When you have an idea, you need to keep it in your mind and look at it every day until you can take your first step. Once you take your first step you have to build it as you go, because the picture always changes along the way," he explained. "Find out what the community really needs and then find out who else is doing similar things and what they know about the issue that could benefit you in solving the problem, and in following through on making your idea a reality."

Throughout the weekend youth attended workshops to help build their skills in getting started on their community project. Workshop options included writing grant applications, communicating one's message, public engagement, facilitating meetings, promotion of a news story using traditional and non-traditional media, and a session on recognizing what is holding participants back from starting their project and initiating change in their community.

Rachel Dhawan, event co-facilitator and web project manager for *Apathy is Boring*, said she was excited by the opportunity to broaden the participants' understanding of becoming lifelong active and engaged citizens in their community.

"This younger youth demographic isn't always the most engaged so we were excited to facilitate this event," she said. "We wanted to promote arts and technology as tools for youth to use in their own projects and as a way to help them motivate and engage other youth."

During the event Amy Bohigian, a film maker from Nelson, captured feedback from participants in a [five-minute video](#).

The Basin Youth Action Forum is one of many ways CBT aims to engage youth, an important aspect of CBT's overall mandate. CBT's Youth Initiatives Program actively promotes the voice of Basin youth and through its Youth Advisory Committee gives responsibility to members in evaluating and selecting projects for CBT youth grants. This committee also guides the strategic action for CBT Youth Initiatives and often involves its members in community projects, youth engagement 'how to' workshops and it promotes and celebrates youth-led projects throughout the Basin.

For more information on youth involvement in this committee, on youth projects or to learn more about this year's CONNECT youth forum, contact Dana Welsh at 1.800.505.8998 or [dwelsh@cbt.org](mailto:dwelsh@cbt.org).

## Getting to know CBT's Water Initiatives Program

Monday, April 27, 2009

Water is a basic necessity of life on earth for people, plants and animals. The mountains, streams, rivers, glaciers, and lakes of the Columbia River system make up the source of this lifeblood the Columbia River System. Basin residents identified water as a priority during the inception of Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and the creation of CBT's Management Plan.

With direction and support from Columbia Basin communities, CBT strives to ensure residents' values and views are incorporated into major decision-making processes around water in the Basin. How CBT achieves this is outlined in the Water Initiatives Strategy which identifies long-term vision, principles, goals and objectives for the Water Initiative Program. Kindy Gosal, CBT's Director of Water and Environment added that CBT is on-the-ground with residents, connecting with residents and getting continual feedback along the way.

"We are committed to educating and increasing residents' awareness about the Basin's water as a whole. We are doing this by regularly hosting community workshops, attending events and giving presentations, bringing organizations together with similar interests, such as our Watershed groups and through a great online presence," said Gosal. "We are always interested in sharing our knowledge about water, but we also want to hear from residents, what is important to them in terms of our water resources, so that we can ensure we are representing the common concerns of Basin residents. "

CBT's work in the area of water is varied and complex and in order to undertake the activities identified in CBT's Water Initiatives Strategy, CBT understands that it will need to draw upon the skills and knowledge of a variety of people and organizations in a collaborative and mutually beneficial manner. This is why CBT works with a dedicated group of esteemed volunteers who sit on the Water Initiatives Advisory Panel.

"The panel is consistent with CBT's desire to collaborate with experts and to include outside advice on all of our initiatives," explained Gosal. "It is part of our commitment to residents that we will not only supply them with solid, scientific advice, but that we will also act and make choices based on that same level of expertise."

CBT's Water Initiatives Advisory Panel is made up of ten highly respected and internationally renowned individuals who provide advice, complete field work in the Basin and help guide CBT's actions.

Tim Newton, an expert on the Columbia River Treaty and current member of the Columbia River Permanent Engineering Board has been with the panel since its inception in 2003 and has a 40-year-history on the region's water management. Newton said it is equally as important for residents of the Basin to take an active role in understanding and responding to water resource management.

"Become knowledgeable, become involved in deciding the future of the Basin," he said. "There are potential benefits to managing the Columbia River and its Basin as a single eco-system and shared resource and these benefits will only be identified and secured by residents expressing their hopes for the future, but also listening to the hopes of others and thinking about ways to reach win-win solutions."

Dr. Hans Schreier retired Professor Emeritus from the University of British Columbia and well-known watershed management expert was invited to join the panel at its inception and has been publically involved in water resource management issues globally for many years.

"Water and energy are the two most important issues facing humanity and I was intrigued by the challenges facing the Columbia Basin," he explained. "Can we be wise enough to use resources in a sustainable way so as to find a balance between human use and the environment?"

Schreier said joining the panel presented him the opportunity to discuss these and other water-related issues with an eclectic group of people who would work together in anticipating potential future problems and to find solutions, conservation and adaptation strategies to prevent these from becoming a crisis.

"It is a real pleasure, as well as a challenge, to work with a panel of such wise and highly qualified people. All participants volunteer their time because they are concerned about the future and they are genuinely interested in providing knowledge that might help in making

wise decisions to assure a sustainable future.”

Other members of the panel include Dr. Nigel Bankes, University of Calgary, Dr. Chad Day, Simon Fraser University, Dr. Richard Kyle Paisley, University of British Columbia, Dr. Adele Hurley, University of Toronto, Ken Peterson, resource economist, Dr. Ken Hall, University of British Columbia, Josh Smienk, former CBT Board Director and Marvin Wodinsky, former Canadian consulate general.

These volunteer advisory members and other active and diverse partnerships CBT has with Basin residents, non-profit, all levels of government, regulatory agencies, industry and the science community help CBT fulfill the goals of the Water Initiatives Program.

To learn more about CBT's Water Initiatives Program and the five focus areas CBT is working on visit [www.cbt.org/Initiatives/Water](http://www.cbt.org/Initiatives/Water).

## CBT Strengthens Small Business

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

For entrepreneurs, running a small business often feels like a 24 hour a day, seven day a week job. From managing employees to finding and retaining customers, from developing marketing strategies and working with either an increased or a decreased demand on their product or service - entrepreneurs are always thinking about the next move towards business security.

Yogita Bouchard and Claudia Kavcic are co-owners of Mountain Water Spa in Nelson, a full service wellness spa. Bouchard has been a client with CBT's Basin Business Advocates (BBA) on-and-off for four years, participating in the program for various aspects of her business. Bouchard says BBA has been a guiding hand to her and has influenced the increased success of her business.

"I found BBA through word of mouth when I first started my business," she says. "I didn't really have business experience. I was a therapist, so I was looking for ways to educate myself on things like marketing, cash flow and the law surrounding contract employees. In a small town you don't always have the ability to take business courses that you might have in a larger city, so it was a big bonus to have BBA right here in my own community."

Since 2000 Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) has been strengthening small businesses in the Columbia Basin through the BBA program. With many communities facing economic challenges today, CBT hopes entrepreneurs will access the program to assist with their stability and growth.

"Our Basin Business Advocates Program is a way for entrepreneurs to add to their suite of business skills or expand their knowledge on their business operations," says Aimee Ambrosone, CBT Manager of Planning and Development. "We hope that business owners will use this program and realize the potential this unique program offers to Basin companies."

BBA provides free one-to-one business counselling on a range of business issues including marketing, sales, financial management, human resource management, succession planning, business expansion, inventory control and exporting. The business involvement in the program ranges from one or two meetings with the Business Advocate to an in-depth analysis of the business. The program also provides a contribution to the cost of specialized consulting services, should that be needed to move the business forward.

Bouchard says she also used BBA for guidance on spa management, analyzing the spa industry and with contracting consultants for work on restructuring her business and reviewing her business figures to provide direction.

"It is such a benefit to have someone that can provide an outside perspective, because in the day-to-day our own perspectives narrow. Also, we all have areas of weakness that BBA can help educate us on and help us be proactive in improving. For me, every project with BBA has made an impact on my business. I've gone from working all the time, not paying myself and only have contract employees, to paying myself and having permanent staff and the business keeps growing."

This year, CBT has allocated \$240,000 towards this program and has provided more than \$2.6 million since the program began in 2000. To date, the program has helped 827 businesses.

To participate in the program, businesses can contact Steele O'Neil and Associates at 1.877.894.5939 or visit <http://steeleoneil.com>. The Business Advocate for the East Kootenay is Will Nixon, and he can be reached at 1.250.427.2783. The Business Advocate for the West Kootenay is Deanne Monroe and she can be reached at 1.250.825.4171.

More information is also available by calling CBT at 1.800.505.8998 or visiting [www.cbt.org/Programs](http://www.cbt.org/Programs). CBT delivers economic, social and environmental benefits to the residents of the Columbia Basin.

## Fruitvale's Mountain Side Village Residents Move In

Thursday, January 15, 2009

On January 15, Columbia Basin Trust and Golden Life Management opened the doors of its eighth partnered senior housing facility in the Village of Fruitvale.

Mountain Side Village is a 53-suite independent living facility that offers a caring, safe and welcoming atmosphere for seniors and their families.

"With the amount of interest in Mountain Side Village it is obvious that there is a need for it in this area and we're proud to be able to offer our services to local seniors," said Celeste Mullin from Golden Life Management.

While residents started moving in on a scheduled calendar since January, an open house for the general public was held on February 14. This opportunity was welcomed by many of the families and friends of the new residents to Mountain Side Village, as well as by future hopeful residents said Mullin.

"After more than a year of planning, design and construction we were thrilled to open the doors to the community," Mullin said. "We welcomed between three and four hundred people, whose positive comments and notable excitement turned the day into a fantastic event. There is amazing community spirit here and we are happy to be a part of it."

Similar to sister projects, Mountain Side Village offers terrific amenities and services to its residents such as a chef-prepared meals, social activities and entertainment, 24 hour emergency monitoring, housekeeping, transportation, fitness classes, library, games room, hair salon and computer lab.

"We were very pleased to hear about the way this facility is being received by the community and residents," said Johnny Strilaeff, CBT Vice President of Investments. "We invest in these properties not only because they provide positive, long-term value to CBT's investment portfolio, but we also realize that excellent senior's care and housing is a growing concern for Basin communities and we believe this is a way CBT can make a tangible impact for many families."

CBT also has ownership interest in seven other seniors' care facilities in the region, offering a total of 770 living suites with a range of services depending on the needs of residents. Last fall, construction began on Lake View Village in Nelson which upon completion will add an additional 90 units.

For more information on Golden Life Management and any of the facilities they manage visit [www.goldenlifemanagement.ca](http://www.goldenlifemanagement.ca) or for more information on how CBT invests in these facilities visit [www.cbt.org/Investments](http://www.cbt.org/Investments).

## Crawford Bay Elementary-Secondary opens its doors

Friday, April 17, 2009

It is easy for small communities, especially those disconnected from the larger centres by geographical barriers, to feel overlooked in their struggles. However, this April the Crawford Bay Elementary-Secondary School, East Shore Fitness Place and East Shore Family Place became a testament to how having a vision, dedication and cross-community connectivity can make residents in isolated locations realize they have the ability to create their own legacy.

For the past five years the communities of Boswell, Gray Creek, Pilot Bay, Crawford Bay, Kootenay Bay and Riondell have successfully fundraised and campaigned to have a new school and multi-use facility built in Crawford Bay. The unique aspect of this facility is that from the beginning it was envisioned to also serve as a cross-generational and multi-purpose social hub for neighbouring communities.

Leona Keraiff along with a group of individuals from each of the six communities formed the East Shore Community Facilities Committee after funding for a new school was announced. The committee set their goal at not only building a new school, but also creating a neighbourhood hub that would fill a void in the area's infrastructure and speak to the residents' needs.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to receive funding for a new school in the community, and when the opportunity came around we wanted to take full advantage of it. We knew we wanted to make it much more than a school and envisioned something the whole community could share and participate in and use," explained Keraiff.

The group organized community forums and held fundraising drives and with the help and support of local families and businesses, corporate donations, in-kind contributions from contractors and suppliers, the Nelson and District Credit Union, the Regional District of Central Kootenay, School District 8 Kootenay Lake and Columbia Basin Trust the group raised \$870,000. In total, with the Province of B.C.'s contribution of \$12.7 million the whole facility houses kindergarten to Grade 12, a two-storey fitness and multi-purpose centre and a childcare and family resource centre.

"This project was about partnerships," said Keraiff. "A community starts with its foundation, the people. This project made us realize that we can look after ourselves and create the facilities to suit our communities' unique needs so that we don't have to go to larger centres such as Cranbrook or Creston. Being acknowledged by CBT in its funding support validated our efforts for this project and it made us realize that even though it is easy to feel forgotten, we are recognized and we can make a difference for our communities."

In addition, this school is also the first of its kind in the province to meet a gold level in LEED standards for environmental stewardship.

CBT supported the project with \$200,000 towards the two-storey fitness and multi-purpose room facility. At the ribbon-cutting on April 7th, Garry Merkel, CBT Board Chair and Jennifer Krotz, CBT Community Liaison spoke to an enthusiastic crowd of students and community members.

"The true measure of the success of this project lies with the people of the community," said Merkel. "It wasn't without a lot of hard work on the part of many, so many people and the East Shore Community Facilities Committee has done a terrific job in spearheading this community project."

The East Shore Fitness Place and East Shore Family Place will be used for extra-curricular education, cultural and artistic classes, social gatherings and fitness classes. This space will be open to everyone in the community and will aim to connect multiple generations and residents from the various communities.

"By seeing each of the individual needs, a school, child care facilities, fitness facilities and multi-purpose uses, as part of a much bigger picture of shared community amenities, all of the partners working together were able to achieve a greater vision. It is projects like these that bring meaning to community capacity building," said Merkel. "And that's why CBT is so pleased to be part of this project."

"This multi-use facility and community school will truly be a landmark that will foster growth, learning, pride and above all a sense of accomplishment for the whole community for many years to come," said Jennifer Krotz, CBT Community Liaison. "It truly is a legacy and we are so proud to have been a small part in helping make this amazing project a

reality.”

## Register Now For Voices for Sustainability 2009

Wednesday, April 01, 2009

Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network (CBEEN), Wildsight and Parks Canada are pleased to present Voices for Sustainability 2009 (VFS), the Columbia Basin's second professional development retreat for educators being held April 24-26 at Blue Lake Camp near Canal Flats.

The idea behind Voices for Sustainability is to form a bioregional learning community of Basin residents who are involved in sustainability education and to provide a forum where these educators can network while they share ideas, resources and inspiration.

The cost to attend this two-day event is \$125, which includes all activities, meals and accommodation. There is a discount for youth participants (those under age 30) courtesy of a \$2,400 grant from Columbia Basin Trust. The organizers are hoping for broader participation in the event with the discounted event fee.

The format for the gathering is open space, with workshops or conversations arising out of the needs and questions of the participants as well as their passions or areas of expertise.

"Using this format every member of the symposium is an integral part of the process," says Eli Baker. "This 'freestyle' format is designed with the intention of allowing participants to take ownership over the facilitation and direction of sessions and to maintain responsibility for their own learning while it also helps to identify like-minded peers and mentors with whom to begin building dialogue and foster collaborative partnerships."

The Voices for Sustainability retreat has seven goals:

- 1) Bring Columbia Basin teachers, student teachers, informal educators and resource people together to share questions, challenges, ideas and solutions related to teaching about sustainability;
- 2) Empower educators to deal with environmental issues and sustainable solutions in their classrooms and communities by using real-life, relevant examples, case studies and local resources;
- 3) Showcase available curriculum resources, including publications and on-line references as well as local organizations and initiatives;
- 4) Share best practices to promote the greening of classrooms, schools and communities;
- 5) Promote a holistic, community-based model of environmental/sustainability education;
- 6) Foster a culture of hope through mutual support and self-sustaining practices;
- 7) Support intergenerational learning and provide mentorship opportunities by encouraging equal participation by both youth (new and student educators) and older, more experienced educators.

Help make this a great event by sharing your knowledge and experience. Register today by contacting Eli Baker at [info@cbeen.org](mailto:info@cbeen.org) or visit <http://cbeen.org>.

## Job Posting: Manager, Planning and Development

Friday, April 17, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust is looking for a Manager, Planning and Development to provide advice on, development and implementation of plans, policies, programs and initiatives to help strategically deliver CBT's Delivery of Benefits mandate.

Prior experience in community economic development is an asset.

Deadline: May 13, 2009, 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time. Electronic submission is preferred.

**Applications are no longer being accepted for this position.**

### Contact:

Debra Stewart

Columbia Basin Trust

Suite 300, 445 - 13th Avenue

Castlegar, BC V1N 1G1

Email: [dstewart@cbt.org](mailto:dstewart@cbt.org)

Phone: 1.250.304.1634

Fax: 1.250.365.6670

---

### RELATED ITEMS

 [Job Posting: Manager, Planning and Development \(17.65 KB\)](#)

## Request for Proposals for New Water Smart Initiative

Wednesday, April 08, 2009

In a 2004 survey, Basin residents acknowledged water consumption in the Basin is high and that there is a need for water conservation measures. Residents requested information and education on the quantity of water in the Basin, the costs of potable water and information on the economic and environmental benefits of conserving water.

CBT is responding to these requests and will be working with local governments to create a Columbia Basin Water Smart Initiative that will address Basin-wide water conservation. The goal of the initiative is to develop a coordinated regional approach and community specific action plans to assist local governments in achieving an appropriate reduction target that contributes to a 20% Basin-wide reduction in domestic water consumption by 2015.

The first step of the Columbia Basin Water Smart Initiative is to hire a team of consultants to manage and coordinate the overall initiative. CBT is currently advertising a Request for Proposals from qualified consultants. An FAQ document has also been prepared. **RFP's have now closed.**

Despite the apparent wealth of fresh water in the Columbia Basin, increasing human activities, population growth and climate change are placing pressure on our water systems.

Water is the foundation of the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Columbia River Basin. Water is a fundamental requirement for all life and supports the proper functioning of ecosystems, and water conservation is necessary in the Columbia Basin to ensure a healthy and sustainable water supply.

In the coming months, the Columbia Basin Water Smart Initiative will provide local governments with access to technical experts in the water conservation field and the opportunity to create a community specific Water Conservation Action Plan.

In addition, CBT will create a web-based water conservation tool kit to provide resources, tips and support for Basin communities interested in implementing water conservation measures.

For more information on this initiative, contact Heather Mitchell at 1.800.505.8998 or email [hmitchell@cbt.org](mailto:hmitchell@cbt.org).

---

### RELATED ITEMS

 [Columbia Basin Water Smart Initiative RFP \(247.10 KB\)](#)

## CBT Contributes \$115,000 to Community Greenhouse in Invermere

Monday, March 09, 2009

Plant one seed and you might grow a tree to provide your family with fresh peaches this summer. Plant 10 seeds and you might grow an apple tree, a peach tree, a few tomato plants, and a handful of lettuce heads that will provide you and your neighbours with fresh fruit and veggies for the summer. But what if you brought together your community to plant a few thousand seeds and everyone reaps the benefits of fresh produce throughout the entire year? Sounds like a big task, but that didn't intimidate the Columbia Valley Botanical Gardens and Centre for Sustainable Living Community Greenhouse (CVBG/CSL).

With the support of a \$115,000 grant from CBT the Community Greenhouse hopes to become a showcase of how to produce food locally and economically. This project will also showcase how a community food supply initiative can benefit the environment and residents. As an educational greenhouse, the facility will host horticulture, climate change and environment, energy conservation, water conservation, resources conservation and food security courses for residents.

"This project is an example of residents addressing the needs of their community in a sustainable and innovative way, and of finding ways to create partnerships that will strengthen their project in the future," said Katherine Hamilton, CBT Community Liaison. "It is wonderful to see this project already receiving tremendous acclaim for its efforts, and we are looking forward to watching it grow into even greater success."

Lin Steedman, Community Greenhouse Educator and Coordinator, said they are hoping for the interior of the Community Greenhouse to be completed and ready for seeding in March, saying they have a growing list of ideas for the greenhouse's use to the community.

"It's an educational greenhouse foremost, and while it has a great link to students in the high school, we're also looking at how it will serve the wider community so we can begin to discuss food security and sustainability with everyone," Steedman said.

Housed on the grounds of Invermere's David Thompson Secondary School, the greenhouse has partnered with the Chef Training Program where students will be involved 'from the ground up' in the production of healthy food choices. The produce from the greenhouse will be served to all students at the high school as healthy lunch options created by the chefs in training.

Steedman said a key lesson she hopes students will take away from the course is the value of local agricultural producers in the region and the need.

"The average age of our retiring farmers is 56-years-old. We have an aging population in Canada, and the younger generations aren't going into farming so we are experiencing a huge disconnect between our agricultural demands and the supply," explained Steedman. "So if we can start educating kids now on agriculture, perhaps they'll see the value and they'll continue on with it, because the question is, who is going to provide us with food in the future?"

The project already received acclaim from various sources, including Food Secure Canada National Assembly; Grant McEwen College in Edmonton which is incorporating the greenhouse in a course on renewable energy innovations; Canadian Solar Industries Conference and Natural Resources Canada; and CBC media.

CBT Community Liaison, Katherine Hamilton, presented a cheque to the CVBG/CSL committee on February 21. Funding will support the completion of this project's second phase, and the initiation of the third phase. This entails the interior completion, funds towards a living roof, solar thermal heating, a business plan, an education coordinator, program support, an advisory committee and operations and maintenance.

## CBT Supports Senior Housing Project In Nakusp

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

Attainable and affordable housing has become a concern across the region and seniors housing is no exception.

In response, CBT is working to assist Basin communities to enhance their ability to effectively address affordable housing, as outlined in its three-year [Social Strategic plan](#). In addition, CBT continues to work with Golden Life Management in creating senior care facilities and together have invested in eight facilities, providing 803 suites for Basin residents.

This spring, Wally Penner, CBT Vice President, Community Partnerships and Lynda Lafleur, CBT Community Liaison, met with the Arrowtarian Senior Citizens Society, an independent society that is making a big impact in Nakusp with its seniors' housing development.

"The Arrowtarian Senior Citizens Society has done a terrific job with looking at the needs of their constituents and then creating a solution," said Penner. "This Rotary Villa housing project has taken a lot of effort in fundraising and community outreach and we are proud to support them. We wish them luck in continuing their fundraising efforts."

CBT provided \$100,000 towards the construction of the fourth phase of the project, which will provide 14 additional rental units targeted for seniors. Currently Rotary Villa has 29 occupied units.

"Everything is coming along really well," said Hazel Rossman of the Society. "We're the only senior's complex in the area so the need is there; we have over thirty people on the list for the new units."

The Rotary Villa was created after an extensive needs survey in the community. This latest phase was designed because of a growing waiting list, and the results of another survey that found a need for creating units targeted for easier-living for wheelchair-bound residents. The new phase also includes two-bedroom housing that will allow residents to have a live-in caretaker if needed.

The project is slated for occupancy toward the end of 2009, with fundraising continuing throughout the construction period. The society's end goal is to raise \$2.1 million.

"We were able to secure a loan from the credit union, but with that loan the rent will be higher than we wanted. So we want to continue raising money to make the units more affordable," continued Rossman.

Along with CBT, major sponsors of the project include The Village of Nakusp, BC Real Estate Foundation and Thousand Dollar Club.

## Kaslo Celebrates Heritage Week

Sunday, February 22, 2009

On February 22nd the community of Kaslo came together to celebrate Heritage Week 2009.

The week began with a social function held at the Kaslo City Hall as the Conservation Committee hosted its Heritage Tea for a second year.

"It was great," said Carol Hughes, Conservation Committee. "The community was very supportive and we were full all day long with people who came to enjoy a social visit and have lunch. We even had a couple of people come from out of town."

The event was free for anyone to attend, although donations were being accepted to help with the costs of lunches and deserts. During the event a local musician played music. The event also provided a venue for local non-profit organizations to set up information tables so they could interact with community residents and explain how they serve the residents or how others could become involved.

Hughes said she believes this event will become an annual addition to Heritage Week celebrations in Kaslo, and thanks those who showed their support.

Columbia Basin Trust sponsored the event with \$400.

## Slocan Valley Increases its Online Presence

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

The Slocan District Chamber of Commerce is creating an online photo gallery for the area, a project that will support Slocan Lake's tourism industry.

"Our goal is to showcase some of our local tourism businesses, attractions and scenery," explained Jeff Bustard, Manager of Slocan District Chamber of Commerce. "Visitors often look at photos to help make their decisions about where to travel and we hope by providing appealing images of local attractions and businesses, more people will decide to include Slocan Valley in their travel plans."

CBT contributed \$2,500 to the project which will use submissions from local photographers as well as submissions from local businesses and citizens to complete the gallery. This new photo gallery will be housed at the existing [slocanlake.com](http://slocanlake.com) website which currently averages about 1,000 hits per month.

"Our website was built as a basic structure to deliver information to potential visitors," said Bustard. "The only feedback we've had is the lack of photographic content. Our challenge is to find the right technology for showcasing our photo gallery."

Bustard said they're looking at existing examples such as Google Earth or PictureBC, but that they will aim to find a way to personalize the site's content with local faces and personality.

Check out the site's progress and find information on beautiful Slocan at [www.slocanlake.com](http://www.slocanlake.com).

## Columbia Basin Trust Supports Cranbrook Rotarians' International District Conference

Monday, March 30, 2009

Rotary members from the two Cranbrook Rotary Clubs are making plans for their annual district conference to be held at the Cranbrook RecPlex, May 28-31.

Cranbrook is the home of District 5080 Governor Alan Davis who will host up to 400 visiting Rotarians from the Kootenays, North Idaho and Eastern Washington.

Rotarians will participate in workshops and socialize throughout the four day conference. Workshops will focus on the conference theme, We're All About Teamwork. Keynote speaker, Greg Horvath will speak to the topic of teamwork: There Are No Unimportant Players. Columbia Basin Trust is supporting the conference by \$1,500, which will be used towards bringing in some of the program guests. Bob Sandford, natural historian and author of The Weekender Effect, from Canmore Alberta is one such special program guest. Bob will be speaking on Teamwork Opportunities and Western Water Resources.

Rotary International is a service organization with over 1.2 million members in over 140 countries. Rotarians welcome men and women members who want to support community and international projects.

## The Switch is On in Castlegar

Saturday, February 21, 2009

Castlegar-and-area residents exchanged their used light bulbs for more energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs, courtesy of the City of Castlegar, Columbia Basin Trust, Regional District of Central Kootenay, Columbia Power Corporation, Fortis BC and Waste Management.

More than 1,000 compact fluorescent bulbs were given away at the Switch is On event which took place at the Castlegar and District Aquatic Community Complex. This translates to \$55,200 in energy savings over the life of the bulbs. According to TCP's [Spring Light](#) website, a site dedicated to information on the brand of TCP's compact fluorescent light bulbs. These energy savings also equate to taking 5.64 cars off the road; or 227 new trees planted; or 667,000 lbs of Co2 emissions saved.

It was also an opportunity for those in attendance to learn more green initiatives and rebate programs available to them through various Castlegar agencies when making environmentally-friendly changes to their homes.

CBT sponsored \$1,500 towards the purchase of the new bulbs that were given away.

## CBT Supports Fernie's 32nd Annual Griz Days Winter Festival

Monday, March 09, 2009

Submitted by Lynn Flokstra

The Griz came through with beautiful weekend weather for the 32nd Annual Griz Days Winter Festival in Fernie this past weekend. With the festival barely over, the Griz Days Festival Team is already busy planning for next year's festival.

Griz Days is a community festival that brings people together in a celebration of winter, and is integral to maintaining a sense of community, especially during challenging times. The three-day festival held March 6 to 8, featured events and activities for all ages, from the adorable Baby Griz race to the more rugged Extreme Griz competition; from the scavenger hunt, craft fair, pool party and snow sculpture challenge, to the snowmobile races, hockey tournaments and dummy downhill race, a good time was had by all who participated.

"A community celebration means that people get out of it what they put into it, and this year Fernie's tremendous community spirit was reflected throughout the weekend, as adults and children lined the parade route proudly sporting their Griz costumes, and the parade entries themselves, many of which reflected hours of preparation, creativity and originality. It does one's heart good to see people putting in that little extra effort. Both residents and visitors alike took the time to add their own flavor to the celebration," commented Festival Coordinator Lynn Flokstra. "Fernie Griz Days is an authentic community celebration and an opportunity for Fernieites to show the rest of the world how to truly embrace winter."

The festival also serves as an opportunity to honour our community elders, and each year honorary parade marshals are chosen to lead the Griz Days Parade. This year Fernie honoured Doug and Wilda Quail as the 2009 Parade Marshals. The Quails are the 2008 recipients of the George Majic Spiritus Award for their lifelong contribution to their community.

The volunteers are the back bone of the festival, generously contributing their time and energy to the success of Griz Days. Sponsors of the event included Columbia Basin Trust, BC Hydro, Canadian Tire and the Nohels group. CBT's \$1,200-support was used to help with promotional materials, marketing, the parade and a family scavenger hunt for the community.

With the ongoing community support and spirit witnessed during the festival, Griz Days will continue to grow and improve. Stay tuned for 2010 Griz Day and the Extreme Griz Survivor Challenge.

## New Mentorship And Business Assistance Program Available Through KAST

Monday, March 30, 2009

Submitted by Kelvin Saldern, Executive Director Kootenay Association for Science & Technology (KAST).

The Kootenay Association of Science and Technology (KAST) has launched a new suite of business support services for innovative or technical companies in the West Kootenay region.

The KAST Mentorship and Business Assistance (MBA) services program is designed to help build the economies of our communities by developing networking opportunities and providing access to expertise that supports the growth of local innovative companies.

The MBA programs include free mentorship, subsidized business coaching and consultation for local businesses.

Through mentoring relationships, facilitated by KAST's MBA program coordinator, companies receive unbiased, knowledgeable support from an individual with diverse industry expertise. Mentors are available with skill sets including marketing, sales, venture capital, technology, business leadership and more. Specialized consultation and business coaching is also available on a cost sharing basis.

Companies based in the West Kootenay region embracing technology or innovation in either process, products or services are eligible. Industries can include retail, services, manufacturing, multi media and more - any businesses creating value through innovation can qualify for the program.

Companies interested in participating can get more information during upcoming information sessions or for one-to-one discussions, contact program coordinator Amber Hayes at [mentor@kast.com](mailto:mentor@kast.com) or call 1.509.396.6878.

For full listings of the various workshops and events hosted by KAST visit [www.kast.com](http://www.kast.com).

This program is supported by Western Economic Diversification Canada, Kootenay Association for Science and Technology and Columbia Basin Trust, which provided \$10,000 to the program.

## CBT Welcomes Environment Manager

Monday, March 02, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust welcomed Rick 'Rocky' Allen to the team on March 2 as Program Manager, Environment.

Rick is located in the Cranbrook office, a city in which he's been a resident on-and-off for 40 years. With a history as a hockey player, coach and scout he says he's learned the importance of having everyone working together towards a common result and appreciating every individual's contribution within the greater picture.

Rick says he hopes residents will see him as one more resource at CBT and will feel comfortable to connect with him on environmental endeavours.

"I really like the premise of CBT and how it is focussed on helping people. I believe people in smaller communities, like the ones we have in the Basin, want to take ownership of their collective well-being and want to be involved because of their connection with the environment," says Allen. "I encourage anyone with questions to stop by the Cranbrook office or give me a call to discuss CBT's environmental programs."

Anyone interested in welcoming Rick or those interested in discussing the environmental program may contact him by calling 1.800.505.8998 or by email at [rallen@cbt.org](mailto:rallen@cbt.org).

## CBT Wants your Environmental Project Ideas

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is now accepting community-initiated and community-supported project applications for its Environmental Initiatives Program (EIP).

This program has provided nearly \$3 million in funding over the past five years for environmental conservation, restoration, stewardship and education projects across the Basin. This year, CBT has increased program funding by \$100,000 to \$450,000 and is looking to residents and groups in the Columbia Basin for innovative projects that will help to maintain or enhance the environmental condition in and around their communities.

CBT is moving forward on implementing recommendations from a 2008 evaluation of the program by streamlining the process to create a single point of contact for all project applicants to ensure proponents are getting the support they need.

"This program has been very successful over the past few years and we want to continue to see the projects it supports making a difference in Basin communities," said Rick Allen, CBT Environment Program Manager. "This year we've implemented a few enhancements to streamline the program and to make it easier for some of the smaller groups, whether they are hunting and fishing, recreational or environmental education groups, to submit applications."

Allen joined CBT in March and will be focusing primarily on the EIP, in addition to implementing CBT's Environmental Strategic Plan which was released in February.

"We want to help residents become involved in environmental projects that they have identified as important to their community. We also want to help connect them with other groups and create partnerships for those with similar ideas on issues that are identified as either a biological or educational priority by them and by CBT," continued Allen.

The EIP program includes a small grants stream, geared at projects under \$5,000 and a large grants stream for projects up to \$20,000.

CBT also understands that some community groups may need technical assistance in the development of their project ideas. In order to provide this support CBT is continuing its partnership with the Canadian Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission, The Land Conservancy of BC, and the Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network. These partners provide stewardship advisors who provide technical support and assistance in application development. Applicants may be referred to the appropriate stewardship advisor based on either their location or project focus.

CBT will be hosting information sessions on the EIP on the following dates:

- May 12, 2009, 4-8 pm PDT at the CBT office in Castlegar (300, 445 - 13th Avenue)
- May 13, 2009, 4-8 pm MDT at the CBT office in Cranbrook (828D Baker Street)

The EIP application form and guidelines are available at [www.cbt.org/Programs](http://www.cbt.org/Programs). For more information contact Rick Allen at [rallen@cbt.org](mailto:rallen@cbt.org) or 1.800.505.8998.

Deadline for submitting an application is May 25, 2009 3:30 PDT, delivered to any CBT office. Applications should clearly be labelled, "EIP Program".

CBT 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](http://www.cbt.org) or call 1.800.505.8998.

## Funding Available for Post-Secondary Education

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is now accepting applications for its College Community Service Awards program.

CBT presents these awards in partnership with four Basin-based Colleges and includes 22 awards of \$2,000 each divided amongst students attending Selkirk College (10), College of the Rockies (10), Valemount Campus of College of New Caledonia (1) and the Revelstoke Centre of Okanagan College (1).

These awards are available for those students who have taken a hiatus of at least one year after completing high school and are actively volunteering in their community.

"It's not uncommon for students to put their post-secondary education on hold after high school - for travel, work, family or any number of reasons," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "When they do decide to return to school, students find a shortage of scholarship options and that's where CBT's award program comes in. Based on volunteer community service rather than academic standing, these awards provide an opportunity for those residents who are already proving to be valuable assets in their communities to further their education."

Volunteer service refers to a significant contribution of time, energy and/or talent that fosters social, environmental or economic well-being without resulting in a financial benefit to the applicant. The adjudication process will give added weight to volunteer activities which are focused on providing benefit to Basin communities, but other volunteer activities will be considered.

Academic achievement will be considered only in the context that a solid academic performance ensures the applicant's ability to successfully complete his or her chosen post-secondary program, not as a key determining factor.

Detailed award eligibility criteria are available with the application forms. The deadline to submit an application for the College Community Service Award is June 30, 2009 and applications are available at [www.cbt.org/Programs](http://www.cbt.org/Programs). Applications are also available at all of the participating colleges' websites or at any of the four CBT offices.

CBT has another scholarship program targeting graduating high school students. This year CBT increased the number of Youth Community Service Awards from 20 to 45. The deadline for these awards closed on April 10, 2009.

CBT 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](http://www.cbt.org) or call 1.800.505.8998.

CBT often receives updates from recipients of these awards. See their comments in the [story here](#).

## CBT Supports Valhalla Mile Conservation Efforts

Wednesday, April 01, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is proud to announce a \$250,000 commitment to the acquisition of the Valhalla Mile, a 155-acre (63 ha) private property adjacent to Valhalla Provincial Park. Once purchased, the land will be added to the Park, protecting the scenic, ecological, cultural and recreational values of the area.

"We're pleased to support a project that has received such tremendous support from the community, local governments and the public, as evidenced by the individual contributions totalling \$200,000," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "Acquiring this section of land will ensure that residents and visitors alike can enjoy the natural beauty of this region for generations to come."

CBT's Land Conservation Initiative ensures that important pieces of land are preserved to provide social, environmental and economic significance to Basin residents. CBT partners with the East Kootenay Conservation Program to identify such parcels of land. Over the last ten years, CBT has contributed \$2.25 million to land conservation efforts in the Columbia Basin.

"Since August 2008, The Land Conservancy and the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology & Social Justice have been working to raise the \$1.5 million needed to protect Valhalla Mile, and the support has been overwhelming. We are pleased to see this piece of land protected for its environmental and recreational significance. Every person, foundation, business, community group and government entity deserves a huge thank you," said Bill Turner, TLC Executive Director.

The addition of the Valhalla Mile into the Park is a critical step in protecting the area's unique Cedar Hemlock forest and a well-established movement corridor for grizzly bears.

"This is a perfect example of two charitable organizations, The Land Conservancy and the Valhalla Foundation, government via BC Parks, organizations like Columbia Basin Trust, the regional district, and private citizens working together to acquire environmentally significant land," said volunteer campaign coordinator Lorna Visser of the Valhalla Foundation. "We are delighted to see this piece of land added to Valhalla Provincial Park, expanding and helping to complete the park and most importantly, protecting a whole mile of pristine shore line."

TLC will retain an interest in the property and will work with the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology & Social Justice to ensure management of the property will protect habitat values. The management plan for the property will be undertaken by BC Parks and will be executed in conjunction with the Valhalla Park Master Plan. Valued at \$1.5 million, this project has also received support from BC Parks, BC Trust for Public Lands, Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program and TD Bank Friends of the Environment Foundation.

CBT 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](http://www.cbt.org) or call 1.800.505.8998.

### BACKGROUNDER

TLC The Land Conservancy of BC is a registered charity and land trust protecting natural areas, historic sites, farms and ranches, and places of recreational importance. Since 1997, TLC has protected over 125,000 acres of sensitive and threatened lands around the province, involving more than 300 projects. With offices in Victoria, Burnaby, Penticton, Kimberley and Prince George, TLC has grown to include over 7,100 members, and is now part of an international network of National Trusts with over 7.5 million members. [www.conservancy.bc.ca](http://www.conservancy.bc.ca)

The Valhalla Foundation for Ecology & Social Justice is a parallel organization to the Valhalla Wilderness Society which has been instrumental in securing protection of approximately 1.25 million acres of parkland in BC during the past 30 years. The Valhalla Foundation's mandate is to protect private land for conservation. The campaign for the Valhalla Mile was spearheaded by Wayne McCrory, internationally respected expert on bear conservation, and his wife, Lorna Visser. Wayne was a key player in the creation of Valhalla Provincial Park, along with his sister, Colleen McCrory, who passed away in the summer of 2007. With help from The Land Conservancy and B.C. Parks, the Valhalla Foundation is working to honour her memory by securing this property. [www.vws.org](http://www.vws.org)

## CBT Partners with Enterprising Non-Profits

Monday, March 16, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is proud to announce a new three-year partnership with Enterprising Non-Profits (enp), a granting program that seeks to assist non-profit organizations operating a social enterprise.

"In preparing our recently released Social Strategic Plan, non-profits told us they needed a variety of tools and resources to help them become more sustainable," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "enp understands the unique issues and challenges facing this sector, and will help us support Basin non-profits in getting the technical assistance and advise they need to be successful. From businesses that employ youth at risk to thrift shops that raise funds for charitable causes, many non-profits in our region are running or considering running a social enterprise."

enp provides grants of up to \$10,000 to non-profit organizations in BC that are interested in starting or expanding a social enterprise business. CBT will support this program with \$285,000 over the next three years.

"This program has already helped several non-profits in the Columbia Basin, and with CBT's partnership and support we'll be able to do that much more," said David LePage, Program Manager, enp. "There are a growing number of non-profits who are looking at social enterprise as a business model that helps them better fulfill their mission and support their financial sustainability and we know that when non-profits adhere to business principles they can be successful and sustainable."

Social enterprise refers to business ventures operated by non-profits, whether they are societies, charities or co-operatives. These businesses sell goods or provide services in the market for the purpose of creating a blended return on investment, both financial and social. Their profits are returned to the business or to a social purpose, rather than maximizing profits to shareholders.

enp is hosting two workshops in the Basin: one in Revelstoke on March 24 and one in Cranbrook on April 29. These workshops are open to anyone eager to learn more about this program and how enp can help start or expand a social enterprise. Attendance at this workshop is mandatory for eligibility for an enp grant. For more information on the workshops or on enp, visit [www.enterprisingnonprofits.ca](http://www.enterprisingnonprofits.ca).

enp is a partnership of nine funders including: CBT, Coast Capital Savings, United Way of the Lower Mainland, Vancity Community Foundation, Vancity Credit Union, Vancouver Foundation, Western Economic Diversification Canada, North Development Initiative Trust and one anonymous funder.

For more information on CBT's Social Strategic Plan visit [www.cbt.org/social](http://www.cbt.org/social).

CBT 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](http://www.cbt.org) or call 1.800.505.8998.

## New Partnership Strengthens Rural Community Services

Friday, February 27, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is partnering with the Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative (Co-op) to strengthen community service agencies in the West Kootenay.

"This partnership is good news for rural communities and service agencies," says Andrew Jarrett, Executive Coordinator of the Co-op. "It's another step for the Co-op in ensuring that small communities have agencies that can provide the best possible social service resources."

The Co-op was formed in 2003, and has 11 non-profit organizations as members from the West Kootenay area. These organizations work together to plan and deliver services that are regional in nature, to develop new ideas through projects, and to support each other to maintain and improve the quality of services they provide.

In the fall, and based on consultation with Columbia Basin residents, CBT developed a three-year strategic plan that guides its activities in the social sector. Partnering with the Co-op is part of how CBT will achieve a key priority in the plan to strengthen local organizations working to address social issues.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to create stronger local community service agencies," says Neil Muth, CBT's President and CEO. "We hope this partnership is a model that we can use to address other issues in other areas of the Columbia Basin, where CBT is able to bring its strengths to partner with an organization already doing valuable work in communities."

The partnership between CBT and the Co-op will help build the long term capacity of community service agencies by providing training for the board and staff of agencies, developing innovative service models for rural areas, implementing standards that help agencies meet accreditation requirements and taking on regional projects where there are current gaps in services.

CBT's support for this partnership will include funding of \$200,000 per year for the next three years. For more information on CBT's Social Strategic Plan, please visit [www.cbt.org/social](http://www.cbt.org/social) and for more information on the Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative, please visit [www.thekoop.ca](http://www.thekoop.ca).

CBT 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](http://www.cbt.org) or call 1.800.505.8998.



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

CBT Board Director, Mike Berg, announced the 3-year, \$600,000 partnership between CBT and the Co-op on March 3, 2009.



## Kootenay Carbon Neutral Action Strategy Implementation Takes Aim at Corporate Emissions

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

The Regional Districts of Central Kootenay, East Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary, in partnership with Columbia Basin Trust, have taken their first steps toward being carbon neutral in their operations by 2012.

The Sheltair Group, in partnership with the Community Energy Association, has been hired to compile corporate greenhouse gas emissions inventories for all of the municipalities, five First Nation communities and three Regional Districts in the Kootenay region and the portion of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District within the Columbia Basin; develop Carbon Neutral Action Plans for the Regional Districts and action plan templates for the municipalities and First Nations; and provide education for the elected officials and staff.

"The Regional District of Central Kootenay is proud to participate in the innovation and leadership shown by the three Regional Districts in their efforts for mitigation and adaptation to climate change in our region," says Regional District of Central Kootenay Board Chair Gary Wright.

The Action Plans will provide a strategy for achieving carbon neutrality within local government operations. This will be achieved by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from things like municipal vehicles, offices, and recreational facilities under the framework of the BC Climate Action Charter. The Sheltair team will also investigate opportunities for establishing a regional carbon offset investment program in the Kootenays.

"The Regional District of Kootenay Boundary is excited and proud to be working with our neighbours and friends in Central Kootenay, East Kootenay and Columbia Basin Trust on this very important project", says Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Board Chair Marguerite Rotvold. "It is imperative that our communities take the lead in beginning to manage our impact on the environment."

The next step in the process will be the formation of a local government steering committee to oversee and provide direction to the consultant team before beginning the data collection for the corporate greenhouse gas inventories.

"The RDEK is very pleased to be moving forward with its commitments under the BC Climate Action Charter and we are excited about continuing to grow strong regional partnerships with CBT and the rest of the Kootenays on the climate change issue," adds Regional District of East Kootenay Board Chair Norm Walter.

Sheltair/CEA has been hired to complete year one of the four-year Kootenay Carbon Neutral Action Strategy.

"An approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions at this level and scale, which includes rural communities, is unique and will allow local governments and First Nation communities within the Kootenay to benefit from shared resources, expertise and learning to take tangible action on climate change and reduce their corporate emissions," says Columbia Basin Trust President and CEO Neil Muth.

"CBT is pleased to support these efforts and applauds the regional districts for leading the way with this initiative."

Sheltair is a planning and resource management firm based in Vancouver that has worked with many local governments across BC to develop corporate greenhouse gas inventories, community energy and greenhouse gas management plans. The Community Energy Association is a non-profit BC organization helping local governments address energy sustainability and greenhouse gas reduction.

## CBT Board Member Appointments

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) welcomes one new member to its board this year and would like to recognize the reappointment of five current members.

Richard (Kim) Deane's two-year appointment to the board is effective March 31, 2009.

"We are fortunate to have someone of Kim's calibre and experience join our Board," said Garry Merkel, CBT Board Chair. "Kim is actively involved in his community and his strong history in energy and power will be an asset."

Deane is a Professional Engineer and has worked in Canada and abroad in utilities and on new mining projects. He also served as Energy Manager for Cominco Ltd. in Trail, overseeing their hydro operations and sales of surplus power, and was directly involved in several sales of power assets. Following retirement from Cominco he served on the BC Utilities Commission as an energy consultant, as a Director of FortisBC and as a volunteer director for Community Futures in Trail.

As a long time Basin resident, Deane holds a thorough understanding of the region's assets as well as the concerns it is facing. Deane said he looks forward to helping more residents connect with CBT.

"CBT is special - very few regions have anything like it," said Deane. "CBT's mission to create a legacy of well-being is a unique opportunity for Basin residents and communities - beyond anything provided by government. I look forward to helping CBT deliver on its mandate throughout the Columbia Basin region."

The reappointed Board members include:

- Mike Berg from Nelson, is reappointed for a two-year term;
- Jim Miller from Creston, is reappointed for a two-year term;
- Gregory Deck from Radium Hot Springs, is reappointed for a two-year term;
- Paul Peterson from Burton, nominated by the Regional District of Central Kootenay, is reappointed for a two-year term; and
- William Trehwella from Warfield, nominated by the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, is reappointed for a one-year term.

Existing members include Denise Birdstone from Grasmere, Evelyn Cutts from Fernie, Garry Merkel from Kimberley, Ron Miles from Cranbrook, Loni Parker from Revelstoke and Jeannette Townsend from Valemount.

CBT's 12-member board consists of an appointee from each regional government in the Basin (five regional districts and Ktunaxa Nation Council), and six recommended by the Province. All directors must be residents of the Columbia Basin.

The board meets six times a year in communities around the Basin and minutes from these meetings are available online at [www.cbt.org/About\\_Us](http://www.cbt.org/About_Us).

CBT 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](http://www.cbt.org) or call 1.800.505.8998.