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CBT Supports Senior Housing in Nakusp

Attainable 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 this issue.... [more](#)



Eye on Investments: CBT's Private Placements

The private placements category makes up 13 per cent of CBT's investment portfolio, the majority of which is in real estate. In addition, a percentage of private placement investments are selectively made in local businesses. ... [more](#)



A Creston Riding Program with Heart

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Trilobite Treasures in the Basin

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CBT's 2008/09 Annual Report, including CBT's Consolidated Financial



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Basin is a fossil hunter's dream.

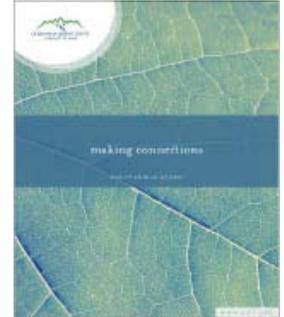
"There are lots of fossils to be found in our local area, and not a lot of people are aware of this. I wanted to share my discoveries and what I have learned with young people in hopes of educating and perhaps inspiring a future paleontologist," said Jenkins. "I've found forty to fifty new trilobite species.".... more



Statements for the year ended March 31, 2009, will be available at www.cbt.org/publications in July. Check back to read it online, or pick up a copy at any of CBT's four offices.

HIGHLIGHTS

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- [Burton celebrates its volunteers during National Volunteer Week, April 19-25](#)
- ['Water and our way of Life' - Report on CBT's Beaver Valley water workshops](#)
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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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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.

Eye on Investments: A closer look at one of CBT's Private Placement investments

Thursday, June 18, 2009

CBT's Investment Program currently invests in power projects, private placements and market securities to generate a predictable, sustainable and appreciating income stream to support CBT's programs and initiatives.

The private placements category makes up 13 per cent of CBT's overall investment portfolio, the majority of which is in real estate.

By investing in Basin-based businesses by way of direct ownership (equity) or business lending (loans), CBT is delivering a benefit in addition to generating income.

Currently, CBT has an ownership interest in eight seniors' care facilities in the region, offering a total of 803 living suites. All eight facilities are leased to Golden Life Management, a Cranbrook based seniors' care provider.

In addition, a percentage of private placement investments are selectively made in local private businesses.

These investments are made based on a thorough examination by CBT to ensure it meets the organization's expectations in being able to generate sound financial returns over an extended timeline.

Lemon Creek Lodge, owned and managed by Barry and Judy Derco for the past 15 years, is one such investment.

Located in the Slocan Valley, this 10-acre property includes a lodge, two cabins and a campground. The lodge also runs a year-round restaurant.

A home away from home, Lemon Creek Lodge has built a particularly strong base of return-customers, and has carved a special niche in the extended stay accommodation market. Lemon Creek Lodge has successfully made a name for itself as a place to be reserved for corporate meetings, for large family reunions looking to reconnect for a week, and for special occasion celebrations like weddings, where the entire property can be rented for the wedding party and guests for an extended stay.

"We've met people who came here before they were married. Then we would see them again after they were married, and then they'd come back and they would have a baby. And again, they'd come back and the baby would be a teenager," said Barry Derco. "It's just been amazing."

Looking towards their future, the Dercos plan to sub-divide the land into three properties for future sale. CBT's loan has helped finance the planning work required for such a subdivision, as well as assist with renovations and upgrades to the lodge.

For more information about their property, visit www.lemoncreeklodge.com. For more information on CBT's investment program, visit www.cbt.org/investments.



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Judy and Barry Derco, owners of Lemon Creek Lodge - one of CBT's Private Placement investments.



A Riding Program with Heart

Thursday, June 18, 2009

It is life's simple tasks and accomplishments that foster personal growth and self-esteem, and in Creston horses are proving that they too can be part of developing self-confidence, motivation and independence for persons with disabilities through therapeutic riding.

Therapeutic riding is a unique approach to therapy, rehabilitation and recreation. The Creston and District Society for Community Living (CDSCL) Therapeutic Riding Program offers therapeutic and recreational opportunities for people of all ages with all forms of disabilities including developmental, behavioural, emotional, physical, mental or social. The people with disabilities in the program have a variety of conditions including autism, cerebral palsy, ADHD, learning disabilities, Down syndrome and multiple sclerosis.

Creston's program offers riding lessons in the spring, summer and fall and employs six horses, some of which are owned by the program and some of which are volunteered to the program by their owners. The program provides a safe environment that introduces participants to the benefits and joys of the healing powers of the horse. Lessons are open to people of all ages with the only requirements being that participants wear safety equipment that fits and their physician has signed a form indicating that they do not have any condition that is contra-indicative for therapeutic riding.

The program is run thanks to the dedicated work of Michelle Whiteaway, program director, and Christine Ross, head instructor, as well as approximately 27 dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers who provide support to the riding lessons twice a week.

"These horses are amazing and the volunteers are amazing; it's just a happy place," said Whiteaway. "This program could not run without the many volunteers we have and the dedication of our head instructor Christine."

Therapy horses are being used across North America, and have proven to be successful in creating a friendship between the horse and rider in individuals that often have difficulty doing so with other animals or people. Riding also improves muscle tone, balance, coordination, patience, concentration and the rider's ability to follow instructions.

Whiteaway added that a big part of the program's benefit to the rider is increased self-esteem.

"It is very powerful for the riders to feel that they can control this big animal. Horses are big animals, but they are willing to work with people. They want to interact. And that is why this program works."

Thanks to the hard work of Sarah Schmidt, the program had its start in 2005 at Canyon Park just outside of Creston. Initially all the horses being used for the program were borrowed and transported to the park for the riding lessons. Shortly after the start of the program, the Kootenay Region Association of Community Living (KRACL) offered a part of its own land for a riding arena and home for the horses. The land preparation was done in by volunteers in the spring of 2006, and this is where the program has been ever since.

"The Kootenay Region Association for Community Living has been a great supporter of the program [and] CDSCL is a great partner," commented Whiteaway. "Now, thanks to the funding from people in the community, Columbia Basin Trust, the province of BC's Direct Access Gaming Grants, the Creston Valley Gleaners, the Creston Kootenay Foundation, local service clubs, businesses, individuals - the list is long - the program is becoming more self-sustaining as the years go by."

This program is a full member centre of the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association (CanTRA), a registered charity that promotes challenge, achievement and empowerment for children and adults with disabilities through the use of the horse. CanTRA also supports local programs, such as this one in Creston, by providing certification and/or training to volunteers and instructors.

This program has been supported through the Community Initiatives Program, CBT's longest-running program, with \$3,405 since 2005.

Setting out to map the BC/Alberta Social Economy

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Talking about the economy comes easy these days, but what if the conversation started with, "I wonder what's happening with not-for-profit and co-operatives in the Basin?" These organizations make up what is referred to as the social economy.

While the social economy is believed to be a significant component of the Basin's overall economy, there is very little information available on the subject and even less on how the social economy is being affected by the current downturn, an aging labour force, or on how to support it, and its importance to Basin residents.

George Penfold, Regional Innovation Chair at Selkirk College, is part of national team working diligently to find these answers. Penfold is part of the BC-Alberta Social Economy Research Alliance (BALTA), a regional research collaboration amongst universities, colleges and community-based organizations in Alberta and BC. The group includes researchers from nine Alberta and BC universities and colleges, and almost 20 social economy stakeholder organizations.

"This part of our economy provides a wide range of services to communities such as economic development, tourism, housing, social services, and environmental and public safety services. Secondly, it provides jobs; it is estimated to employ approximately as many people as the manufacturing sector in British Columbia, but because the social economy is not measured by standard economic indicators, there isn't a good understanding of its scale."

To help gain a better understanding of the social economy, BALTA is trying to 'map' the social economy in BC and Alberta with the use of a confidential on-line survey. This survey will be used to capture the geographical scale, size, scope and characteristics of the social economy.

"Especially in the Kootenays, a lot of community development and community support services are delivered by these organizations, but in our own thinking about the economy and what is going on with it, and how our communities will be affected, we usually only think about the provincial or federal government services and programs or private businesses," says Penfold. "We need to create awareness about the social economy. We want to know how the social economy is being affected and what we need to do to support it and keep it healthy."

Penfold has been working on connecting with all not-for-profit and co-operative organizations in the Basin to encourage them to take the online survey.

He says he is still short of a minimum of 100 candidates before being able to submit any results for BC Alberta regional compilation.

To take part in the survey, visit www.socialeconomy-bcalberta.ca/mapping.html and add your contribution. The survey takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

For help in answering the survey, Penfold says he is also available, and he can be contacted at gpenfold@selkirk.ca or 1.250.365.1434.

For more information about this project and on the social economy, visit www.socialeconomy-bcalberta.ca.

CBT provided Selkirk College with \$200,000 to support George Penfold's work as Regional Innovation Chair.

Trilobite Treasures in the Basin

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Who didn't grow up playing in the dirt and, after reading about dinosaurs and buried treasures, lead a few exhilarating expeditions in the back yard -shovel in hand - ready to discover a piece of history?

These are the fun games that many adults leave behind as briefcases and laptops replace shovels and picks as the necessary requirements in the workforce; however, there are the passionate few in the Basin who can still be found on these dirt-digging expeditions long after they've left their childhood. And that's a good thing, because as Chris Jenkins knows, the Basin is a fossil hunter's dream.

"There are lots of fossils to be found in our local area, and not a lot of people are aware of this. I wanted to share my discoveries and what I have learned with young people in hopes of educating and perhaps inspiring a future palaeontologist," said Jenkins. "I've found forty to fifty new trilobite species."

For the past two years Jenkins, Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and Kootenay Rockies Innovation Council (KRIC) partnered in an interactive education program in schools that was not only educational, but introduced the possibilities of palaeontology and fossil hunting. This year the Community School Trilobite Exploration program took place in four communities in School District #6; Kimberley, Invermere, Windermere, Radium and Golden. Students were introduced to fossil exploration research, and given hands-on exhibits of some of the oldest fossils in the world - Trilobites.

"Now that students have been introduced to these fossils, I would encourage them to go and explore while hiking or camping because they might just make a new discovery."

CBT's partnership with KRIC provided the one-time presentations with the goal that teachers would be able to see how these presentations could be incorporated into their curriculum in future years.

"KRIC was delivering this program with the matching support of CBT. Our mission is to foster a vibrant, diverse and resilient economy in the East Kootenay through science and technology. By supporting our youth in understanding the natural scientific wonders in our own backyard and the possible careers which means they can stay in the East Kootenays is natural fit for our organization."

After a presentation at Windermere Elementary School, Jill Jensen, Principal, said she felt it had been a wonderful learning experience for her students.

"This was an important opportunity for students to experience hands-on science with a real scientist," said Jensen. "Students thoroughly enjoyed the presentation. They were engaged, had lots of questions and were excited about taking a trilobite home with them."

"CBT was happy about being able to support this program once again, this time bringing it to School District #6. It's a well-appreciated program by the teachers and those in the field of palaeontology, and it holds so much value for our youth," commented Katherine Hamilton, CBT Community Liaison. "Presentations like these open the minds of students to the array of career opportunities in earth sciences and it is wonderful to see their fascination with the history of our area, and perhaps, to instil an ongoing interest in appreciating the natural world and all its mysteries."

Principal Jensen added Jenkins' delivery of the presentation was also important beyond its academic scope.

"Children need to know that they can make a career out of what they love to do. Students appreciated Chris' willingness to share his trilobite discoveries, his stories, and his knowledge - and encourage students to do the same."

Celebrating Aboriginal Culture and Achievements

Monday, June 22, 2009

On June 21, Canadians across the country celebrated National Aboriginal Day in order to honour contributions, achievements, history and culture of Inuit, Metis and First Nation people.

Many great events were held throughout the Columbia Basin - four of which were supported by CBT.

Jennifer Krotz, CBT Community Liaison, said she believed in the importance of these celebrations for what they mean to the hosting Nation or Band, as well as what it means for the community at large.

"We are all part of this wonderful region, the Columbia Basin, and part of what makes this a beautiful place to call home is the way various cultures can come together and share in a spirit of friendship and understanding. National Aboriginal Day celebrates a culture that has been part of this Basin for thousands of years. Celebrating their culture on this day gives residents an increased understanding, and deeper education about how we can continue to work together to ensure a sustainable and embracing future for our Basin," said Krotz

Typically celebrations include traditional sporting events, dances, food and crafts as well as opportunities to receive information on the hosting Band or Nation. This past weekend, participants at the Tobacco Plains Indian Band celebrations were treated to workshops on making a dreamcatcher, a chance to shoot a traditional bow and arrow and lessons on traditional dancing.

"This is a day for everybody to get together and interact, to build friendships and become educated on who we are as First Nations," said Caroline Basil, Office Assistant and Events Manager, Tobacco Plains Indian Band.

In Nelson, Stephanie Fischer, Executive Director, Kootenay Kids Society spearheaded the City's second annual celebration event - with Diane Madland, the outreach worker for the Aboriginal Early Intervention program (a program supported by the Ktunaxa/Kinbasket) - along with partners that included members from the Blackfoot First Nation, the Mikisew Cree First Nation and many others.

This year the celebrations included a tepee raising, workshops around traditional dancing, story telling, music and a traditional potluck for families to enjoy.

"With this celebration, we are setting up the framework to continue to raise awareness and respect of Aboriginal traditions and teachings," said Fisher. "Celebrating National Aboriginal Day honours the Aboriginal people of this area and build bridges between the Aboriginal and non-aboriginal people in our community."

Other events supported by CBT were held in Castlegar by the Lower Columbia All First Nations and at Aq'am by the St. Mary's Indian Band.

Celebrating a Community's Volunteers

Monday, April 27, 2009

Submitted by Alice Watson

On Saturday, April 25th the communities of Burton and Arrow Park came together in an evening banquet event that celebrated the contributions of community volunteers during National Volunteer Week.

With a grant provided by Columbia Basin Trust, the Burton Hall Board and other community members planned and setup the dinner celebration. Anne Volanski from Edgewood catered the delicious meal and Matt McKee from Nakusp did a wonderful job at providing music throughout the evening.

The hall was decorated with posters displaying of up to 50 different volunteer activities that have taken place in the past, all which have made a strong impact on the communities' success. A slide show also showcased more volunteer activities and created a moment of reflection for all of those who were involved, as well as a chance to appreciate the amount of work done by neighbours and friends.

Large projects such as the Historical Park Campground, the United Church, the Burton Hall addition, fire equipment building and the Burton School gym have added permanent structures to the community. While smaller projects such as the monthly community potlucks, exercise and singing groups, playground equipment and park facilities have added opportunities for residents to explore and grow together.

CBT Community Liaison, Lynda Lafleur attended the event and commented on the impact volunteers make in communities.

"This is a wonderful way that a community can celebrate the work volunteers do in their community," she said. "We recognize that volunteers contribute to the well-being and self-sustainability of their community; one of CBT's visions for the Basin. It was a lot of fun to partake in this evening that displayed these contributions beautifully and simply in a way for everyone to recognize."

Ian Golds and his crew who delivered tremendous work in renovating the fire equipment building over the last year were honoured with a plaque that will be displayed in this hall. The plaque also recognized other supporters including Mel and Gordy Matchett, Sterling Simpson and Rick Dyck, CBT and the Regional District of Central Kootenays.

Report on the Water and Our Way of Life in the Beaver Valley Workshop

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

CBT, in partnership with the Villages of Montrose and Fruitvale, and the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, held a water presentation and discussion in Montrose on May 20th.

The presentation, Water and Our Way of Life in the Beaver Valley, was well attended with more than 30 residents from Rossland, Fruitvale and Montrose.

Kindy Gosal, Director of Water and Environment and Heather Mitchell, Water Initiatives Program Manager delivered presentations on the Columbia River Treaty and the importance of water and water conservation in the Columbia Basin region.

"CBT is committed to improving the overall understanding and awareness of water related issues in the Basin," said Gosal. "The workshop was an opportunity for residents to learn more about the issues we face in this area and to provide a venue for open discussion by residents on the issues they feel are important."

Residents at this presentation wanted to discuss and know more about water infrastructure, water conservation, CBT's involvement in the Columbia River Treaty, independent power projects and general questions about CBT operations.

During the evening Mitchell also introduced attendees to CBT's new *Water Smart Initiative*. Working in partnership with local governments the goal of this initiative is to develop a coordinated regional approach, using community specific action plans to reduce Basin-wide water consumption by 20 per cent by 2015.

"Recent studies estimate that almost every sector of the economy can cost-effectively reduce water use by 20 to 50 per cent or more," explained Mitchell. "Other communities such as Kelowna have already implemented water conservation programs and have achieved significant results. Given that the province has also committed to make BC 33 per cent more water efficient by 2020 - we want Basin communities to be part of this movement towards greater sustainability and we'll do our best to support them."

In the coming months, the initiative will provide local governments with access to water conservation experts and the opportunity to create a community specific Water Conservation Action Plan. In addition, CBT will create a water conservation tool kit to provide resources, tips and support for Basin communities interested in implementing water conservation measures.

"I encourage other communities to contact me if they are interested in having a CBT staff member or water expert come to their community to do a workshop on water-related issues affecting their community," said Mitchell.

Contact Columbia Basin Trust at 1.800.505.8998, or Heather Mitchell can be reached at hmitchell@cbt.org. More information on CBT's involvement in water projects and education in the Basin can also be found at www.cbt.org/water.

Sneak Peak at your Report to Residents 2009 stories: CBT partners with Enterprising Non Profits

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

CBT entered into a new partnership this year with Enterprising Non-Profits (enp), a program that assists non-profit organizations planning for or operating a social enterprise.

"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 facing this sector, and will help Basin nonprofits get the assistance and advice they need to be successful."

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.

"There are a growing number of non-profits who are looking at social enterprise as a business model and we know that when non-profits adhere to business principles they can be successful and sustainable," said David LePage, Program Manager, enp.

Rona Park, Executive Director for Nelson CARES Society, said her non-profit organization profited immensely from the guidance and support of enp.

"enp can help people explore the idea of social enterprise. As a non-profit you don't have money sitting in the bank where you can say, 'let's just try this out and see what happens.' enp gives you the option to explore and to see if your organization is ready for social enterprise or how to get ready," explained Park.

"I believe social enterprise presents an exciting future alternative for non-profits - we have to be more entrepreneurial," continued Park. "Creating a social enterprise can give an organization the flexibility and revenue to be able to respond to a broader range of community's needs."

Katherine Hough, Vice Chair of Community Council of the BC SPCA East Kootenay Branch attended an enp workshop in Cranbrook intrigued by the program's "blended return" message (an investment return of financial and social value) and a need for her organization to look at social enterprise to support their projects.

"I was impressed," she said. "They made it easy to understand how vital every step of the process is and they're here to assist with every step along the way."

enp workshops also define the realm of social enterprise, referring to business ventures operated by non-profits that sell goods or provide services in the market for the purpose of creating a blended return. Workshops take place across the Basin and also include a mix of speakers and possible investors, providing an instant network for non-profits.

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, Northern Development Initiative Trust and one anonymous funder.

This story was taken from Report to Residents 2009, for more stories just like this, keep an eye out for this 16-page newspaper in your mailbox at the end of June.

Sneak Peak at your Report to Residents 2009 stories: CBT Supports Ktunaxa Nation Council in Planning for its Nation's Future

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

The Ktunaxa Nation Council is planning for its economic and social future by taking steps to ensure its people will be ready to leverage the opportunities presented by self-governance.

Supported by CBT, the Council is in the process of undertaking an extensive First Nations socioeconomic study in the Basin, surveying status and non-status Ktunaxa citizens.

The study will obtain baseline socio-economic data, which will be used in strategic planning aimed at building the human capital of the Nation. It will also assist with developing more inclusive and informed social programming, as well as help create more economic opportunities.

Rosemary Phillips, Education & Workforce Strategic Initiatives Coordinator for the Ktunaxa Nation Council, explained that the idea for this study had been discussed at Council for some time, and the time seemed right to move it forward.

"We are moving forward as a Nation and we want to make sure our people are ready for the possibilities that lie ahead. This means we need to start putting resources into the areas our people need to help them prepare, but we don't have a reliable source of data that encompasses all of our people - we have pieces. This study will give us the information we need to create the most appropriate programming."

The project involves the design of a survey tool to be used in the data collection stage; the development of a promotional power point presentation which will inform the citizens of the Nation as to the purpose of the survey; training of the team in administering the survey; developing the data capture tool; analyzing the data; and preparing a summary report of the data.

In the short term, the data will be used in developing a capacity building strategy. It will also be available for use by the various agencies in their planning and programming, both internally and externally, for the benefit of Ktunaxa Nation citizens.

The survey will be administered in June, with the enormous challenge of reaching as many Ktunaxa Nation people as possible.

This story was taken from Report to Residents 2009, for more stories just like this, keep an eye out for this 16-page newspaper in your mailbox at the end of June.

Columbia Basin Watershed Network Hires New Coordinator

Wednesday, June 03, 2009

The Columbia Basin Watershed Network (CBWN) recently hired Karen Nickurak of Invermere a new coordinator to help guide the work of this Basin-wide initiative.

Karen brings expertise in project management, social marketing and communications in the environmental management field. She is experienced in working with different levels of government, academia, the private sector, volunteers and non-profit organizations.

Karen will work with the Watershed Network's steering committee to achieve a number of priorities to the further growth and development of the Columbia Basin Watershed Network. In the short-term Karen will work to:

- expand and diversify the membership base and the steering committee;
- further develop the website to provide essential watershed information and education resources;
- organize a fall symposium;
- develop plans to communicate with local watershed groups; and
- work with local watershed groups to develop a needs assessment.

The CBWN is an important networking and information sharing organization that can support local watershed groups.

CBT is committed to working with Basin residents to improve their understanding of and involvement in water issues. The Columbia Basin Watershed Network is one of several water stewardship projects funded and delivered by CBT. In addition to water stewardship, CBT's is delivering work related to water quality, water quantity, water governance and trans-boundary water issues. 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 or call 1-800-505-8998.

Golden's Women's Show Proves A Success

Monday, April 27, 2009

Submitted by: Ruth Kowalski, Manager of Kicking Horse Country Chamber of Commerce

Winter was over and spring is the time for new beginnings, growth and celebration.

With that in mind, this year Grow Your Business was chosen as the theme at the Golden Women's Show, held at the Golden Civic Centre, Sunday, April 26.

"The show was a sell out! Thirty businesses signed up to display everything from clothing and jewelry, to health and cosmetic products, to food vendors, and personal development," said Ruth Kowalski, Manager of Kicking Horse Country Chamber of Commerce. "The Golden's Women's Show showcased the many local businesses Golden has and proved to be an event not to be missed in the future."

Over 200 people came through over the course of the day and all received a reusable cloth shopping bag sponsored by Kicking Horse Embroidery, packed full of samples and coupons for the vendors. Attendees and exhibitors alike agreed the event was a success.

"The women's show was invaluable for networking opportunities, I met so many nice people that live and work in Golden (that) I know I am making a great move," said Barb Shurmer from LifeLine Technique , who is relocating to Golden.

"The response I have had from the Golden Women's Show attendees was incredible," added Bruce Klock from Nerds On Site. "I booked four appointments on the day of the show and I have had numerous calls since. The benefit to my business was far beyond the price of attending."

Prior to opening the doors on Sunday, exhibitors received the benefit of an informal dialogue session facilitated by Lindsey Cox of Cox & Company. The topic of discussion was the importance of networking and mentoring.

"This session encouraged, guided and inspired many of the exhibitors to boldly promote their businesses throughout the show, not only to the attendees, but also business to business," said Kowalski.

"The sponsorship from Columbia Basin Trust helped with the promotion of the event and in keeping the exhibitors cost affordable for many of the home-based businesses," she added. "The sponsorship helped us establish the Golden Women's Show in the community and move it towards becoming an annual event."

The event was sponsored in partnership with Columbia Basin Trust and Kicking Horse Country Chamber of Commerce.

Introducing Go Wild Summer Adventures

Jun 11, 2009

Wildsight offers two summer backpacking adventures for youth—sign up today

Columbia Basin — Columbia Basin youth have a new opportunity to find adventure, camaraderie and confidence this summer. They can take part in Wildsight's new Go Wild Summer Adventure program. Registration is open and youths aged 14 to 19 can sign up.

"A Go Wild Summer Adventure is a week-long, guided backpacking expedition into the Purcell Mountains," said Liz Hardwick, program coordinator and adventure guide. "It gives young people the chance to connect with wild places during a life-changing journey. And it inspires the next generation of environmental leaders."

Two expeditions are planned: one for early July and one for late August. "An eight-day hike is scheduled for July 2 to 9 at a cost of \$420," Hardwick said. "A shorter, six-day hike is scheduled for August 23 to 28 at a cost of \$350."

Food is included in the price of the expedition, and all camping equipment is supplied by Wildsight. Participants supply their own outdoor-appropriate clothing. "No previous camping experience is required," Hardwick said, "just enthusiasm and a willingness to learn!"

Help is available to those who find the cost of the expedition prohibitive. Potential participants can contact the Wildsight office at (250) 427-9325 for information about subsidies.

Wildsight has offered award-winning environmental education programs in the Columbia Basin for eight years, and gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Columbia Basin Trust.

"We are proud to support the Go Wild Summer Adventure trips," said Dana Welsh, Columbia Basin Trust Youth Liaison. "Not only will it allow youth to connect with the outdoors, but the skills they will be learning in how to work together on challenges or how to support one another during the week, those will enable them to grow and will help them learn how to become better stewards of not only the environment, but of each other and the people they may work with in the future."

Hardwick, who has led expeditions in wilderness areas as far away as Baffin Island and Brazil, said, "A week in the backcountry is an intense experience and young people learn a lot about themselves. They gain confidence in their abilities, learn to function as part of a team, and get to know the mountains. They develop a sense of responsibility for the place they live in."

For more info or to register, visit www.Wildsight.ca/SummerAdventure or call 1 (250) 427-9325.

—30— [Additional contact information below]

About Wildsight

Wildsight works locally, regionally and globally to protect biodiversity and encourage sustainable communities in Canada's Columbia and Southern Rocky Mountain region. This area is internationally recognized as a keystone to conservation in western North America.

www.wildsight.ca.

Contact:

Liz Hardwick, Go Wild program manager

Wildsight • 1-250-427-9325

liz@wildsight.ca • www.wildsight.ca/SummerAdventure

Attachment	Size
WS_Go_Wild_SUMMER_PR.pdf	308.71 KB



Winners Announced in CBT's Show Us Your Basin Photo Contest.

Congratulations to George Hopkins from Revelstoke in being selected by Basin residents as the winner of CBT's Show Us Your Basin photo contest.

The runner-up photo was submitted by Rob Wyatt from Montrose, with his image of a pair of Painted Turtles taken at Champion Lake, near Trail. Both Hopkins and Wyatt received Basin bags filled with products and services from around the Basin. Rounding out the top five were Sanne van der Ros from Golden, Douglas Noblet from Nelson and Gail Spittler from Johnson's Landing.

CBT launched the Show Us Your Basin photo contest in June this year, asking Basin residents to capture images of the things that depicts the beauty and uniqueness of this region. Hundreds of images were submitted to CBT with many residents including thoughtful answers to the question: What does the Basin mean to you? These images were narrowed down to ten finalists and then opened to the public for voting, which closed on Friday, November 20, 2009. View the five winning images below. See more images and descriptions of the Basin at www.cbt.org/mybasin.



Grand Prize Winner: George Hopkins
Steam train on Columbia River bridge at Revelstoke

George Hopkins from Revelstoke said, "The Columbia Basin means home sweet home to me. I want to live here for the rest of my life."



Runner-Up: Rob Wyatt
Champion Lake painted turtles

Rob Wyatt from Montrose said, "The Columbia Basin is the best place on EARTH!"



Third: Sanne van der Ros
Canoe on the shore of the Columbia River at camp

Sanne van der Ros from Golden said, "The Columbia Basin is not only the most beautiful place to live in the world, with its majestic mountains, lush vegetation, pristine mountain streams, wonderful wildlife and the Columbia River wetlands, but the people of the Basin's communities are absolutely amazing! A wonderful place to call home."

Fourth: Douglas Noblet
Mt. Prestley, Valhalla Lake

Douglas Noblet from Nelson said, "The Columbia Basin means beautiful wilderness!"



Fifth: Gail Spitler
Meadow Creek, north of Kaslo

Gail Spitler from Johnson's Landing said, "I am always impressed with the ecological diversity of the Columbia Basin from grassland to interior rainforest to wetlands. From alpine peak to river bottom, there is much to value, protect and preserve."

Free Tele-Learning Workshops for Youth

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

CBT is hosting free tele-learning workshops for all Basin youth. These workshops are a continuation from the CONNECT09 Basin Youth Forum, and will allow for additional mentorship on how youth can create a successful community project. The first workshop is scheduled for July 28 with the topic of project development and work plan development.

"We are excited to be continuing our learning in an environmentally sustainable way and will be teleconferencing as a group. We will be getting together and learning as a group on the telephone," said Dana Welsh, CBT Youth Liaison. "There will be six different sessions, on various topics that grew out of an activity at the forum where all the participants wrote themselves a note with a commitment to action. We will be sharing skills to facilitate those activities."

The tele-learning workshops will be happening on the last Thursday of every other month, beginning July 28, 2009 from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. PT, and are available for those who preregister via email to cbtyouth@cbt.org. The workshops are available to anyone interested, to a maximum of 40 participants.

Workshops will be focused on the following:

1. Project development and work plan development
2. Budget development and planning
3. Using art in your initiative
4. Media relations
5. How to handle your packed schedule
6. Fundraising

For more information on these workshops, contact CBT Youth Initiatives at cbtyouth@cbt.org.

Deadline Extended: Youth Advisory Committee Application

Wednesday, June 03, 2009

CBT's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is a group of involved, inspired, creative youth from around the Columbia Basin who are interested in making a difference in their communities. This committee is currently accepting applications for new members; closing date for applying is July 17, 2009.

YAC members are involved in any number of projects, from cultural events and youth forums, to special projects and website moderating. The YAC evaluates all Columbia Basin Youth Grants applications and provides members with ongoing skill-building opportunities.

"The Youth Advisory Committee is an important part of CBT's desire to engage all Basin residents," said Dana Welsh, CBT Youth Liaison. "Basin youth have great ideas and strong feelings in respect to their communities and to the Basin, and the committee is one way that CBT wants to make sure those voices are given a platform. Not only do our members decide on which projects to support under the Youth Grants program, but they also guide our Youth Initiatives strategic plan."

YAC consists of 12 members, 15-29-years-old, who meets in various communities one weekend every other month. These meetings provide an opportunity to review grant applications, discuss priorities, and participate in professional and personal-development workshops. Candidates are asked to commit to a one-year position, which is reviewed annually.

For more information on the application process or on the YAC, phone 1.800.505.8998 or email cbtyouth@cbt.org. Youth can find the application at www.scratchonline.ca.

CBT Selects Projects for State of the Basin Initiative

Monday, June 22, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is pleased to announce three community pilot projects that will receive financial support 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.

Earlier this year, CBT invited municipalities, regional districts, First Nations, not-for-profit organizations and other groups to submit project proposals related to planning efforts that incorporate information.

"CBT launched our State of the Basin Initiative late last year in response to a demand for accurate, meaningful, Basin-specific information that would allow for evidence-based strategic planning and decision-making toward issues that affect the sustainability and legacy of our communities," said Sabrina Curtis, Director, Planning and Development, CBT. "We are very happy to now extend the Initiative by supporting three projects that will use credible information to address issues representative of many Basin communities. CBT hopes that what is learned through the efforts of these projects will be helpful for others doing similar projects in the future."

CBT is developing networking ideas for other interested communities and groups to connect with the selected projects, share their experiences and learn from each other.

The Rossland Strategic Sustainability Commission will develop and put to use a comprehensive indicator-based monitoring program to support ongoing planning in Rossland and track progress towards local sustainability.

"CBT's State of the Basin invitation for community proposals was incredibly well-timed for Rossland," said Jennifer Ellis, Project Coordinator, Rossland Strategic Sustainability Commission. "The Sustainability Commission was scheduled to develop a monitoring and reporting process this year and CBT's State of the Basin website had already been identified as a starting point. We will be developing a set of indicators for Rossland that builds on similar ones developed by CBT; we look forward to the opportunity to work more closely with CBT in aligning these programs."

The East Kootenay Integrated Lake Management Partnership will work toward sustainable foreshore land use decisions on Columbia Lake that will account for cumulative impacts to sensitive habitats and engage the public in the process. The project will complete foreshore inventories using a combination of mapping tools.

"Our vision is for productive and healthy lake ecosystems in the East Kootenay region, with balanced land and water uses that support and sustain traditional, environmental, community, recreational and aesthetic values," said Heather Leschied, Chair, East Kootenay Integrated Lake Management Partnership. "The information collected will help develop Shoreline Management Guidelines for official community plans and other zoning processes."

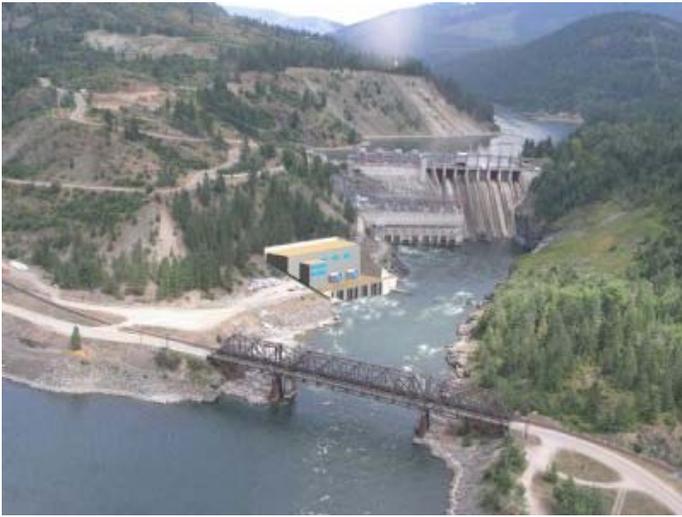
The Kaslo and District Community Forest Society's project will create a long-term strategy for the stewardship of the resources surrounding Kaslo by using multiple-scenario planning and incorporating public input and community values.

"Our goal is to have a long-term strategic plan for the Community Forest written by next spring," said Steve Anderson, Chair of the Long-term Planning Committee for the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society. "With the support from CBT we'll be able to create the best possible plan, one that will take into account the environmental, social and economic constraints, as well as the values residents share around this community asset."

CBT continues to encourage public feedback on the Initiative through the State of the Basin website, which will assist CBT in improving the tools offered by this Initiative. Visit www.cbt.org/stateofthebasin to access all of the resources and learn more about the Initiative.

WANETA EXPANSION PROJECT PREFERRED PROPONENT ANNOUNCED

Thursday, May 21, 2009



Castlegar – The Waneta Expansion Power Corporation, a subsidiary of Columbia Power Corporation and Columbia Basin Trust, is pleased to announce that it has passed another key milestone in the pre-development of the Waneta Expansion Project. SNC-Lavalin Inc. is the initial preferred Proponent for design and construction of the Waneta Expansion Project. This project involves the design and construction of a second powerhouse at the Waneta Dam on the Pend d'Oreille River, south of Trail, BC.

Proposals received in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) were evaluated following the guidelines and process established in the RFP. Commencement of negotiations towards contract finalization with the preferred Proponent is the next step in the RFP process, which may take several months to complete.

While the announcement of a preferred design-build proponent is a crucial step, planning to determine whether the project will ultimately move ahead is ongoing. Work with respect to project financing and commercial arrangements towards a power purchase agreement continue, and in accordance with the RFP the viability of the project will be re-assessed upon completion of that work and contract finalization with the preferred proponent.

Project commencement is subject to Board and Provincial approvals and, depending on the outcome, construction of the project could begin as early as fall 2009.

For more information on the Waneta Expansion Project or Columbia Power Corporation, visit the Columbia Power website at www.columbiapower.org. For information on Columbia Basin Trust, visit www.cbt.org.

-30-

Audrey Repin
Director, Communications and Community Relations
Columbia Power Corporation
Ph. 250-304-6044 or Cell 250-365-9502

More Affordable Student Housing in Golden

Friday, May 15, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is providing \$80,000 toward developing three housing units for students attending college in Golden.

In partnership with the Golden campus of the College of the Rockies (COTR) and the Town of Golden, CBT is supporting phase two of COTR House, which is the region's first small-scale student residence.

"Affordable housing is a concern that communities across the Basin are facing and CBT is committed to evaluating and funding housing initiatives, including innovative approaches to addressing these issues," said Katherine Hamilton, CBT Community Liaison. "This project with the Town of Golden and the College is an excellent example of a community coming together and developing a creative solution to specific community need."

The COTR House Project was created to address the need for affordable housing in Golden, and specifically to address the shortage of units for students who are hoping to relocate to this campus for their education. Phase one of the project was completed in December 2008 and created three new living spaces for students by refurbishing a former caretaker house. Phase two will now see the development of this building's basement which will create an additional three affordable student housing units.

"Our joint solution to address the College's need to house a growing student body and do something with our own under-utilized facility turned out to make perfect sense," said Phil Taylor, CAO for the Town of Golden. "With a bit of vision, dedication, and whole lot of building transformation, we were able to house three students beginning last fall. With CBT's support we now have a solid tripartite relationship that will create living space for three more, completing the business case to make certain that COTR House is here to stay".

The Golden campus is the second largest of all COTR campuses in the region based on full-time student enrolment with the majority of these students coming from out of town. Rental rates in Golden range from \$300-\$800 and in a survey the College and Town determined 88.8 per cent of renters responded that it was difficult to find appropriate living spaces.

"This is a great community partnership between the College, the Town and Columbia Basin Trust," said Karen Cathcart, Manager of the College's Golden Campus. "Affordable and attainable housing is critical for our students at COTR and providing our full-time students with a residence facility makes for a more seamless transition into formal education in rural BC."

Three students are already living in the COTR House said Cathcart and all three new units for phase two, which is expected to be completed in August, have been filled as well.

To learn more about CBT's commitment to addressing affordable housing in the Columbia Basin, read the 2009-2011 Social Strategic Plan at 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 or call 1.800.505.8998.

CBT Doubles Commitment to Literacy

Monday, May 11, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is doubling its support for Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) activities to \$1.2 million over the next three years.

"CBT is proud to be able to increase its support and provide certainty and stability to CBAL, allowing them to build effective and quality programs and networks," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "Literacy skills are vital to the health and well-being of our communities and CBAL creates a range of opportunities for residents to embrace language and learning through literature, socialization and education. We hope this renewed partnership will support CBAL's continued efforts in achieving greater literacy in this region."

CBT has been partnering with CBAL since its inception in 2000. Starting with five literacy programs, CBAL now operates 115 successful literacy programs in 16 Basin communities providing residents with access to programs in reading, writing, early language learning, English as a second language support and computer literacy. Through partnerships and collaboration with community groups, including schools, colleges, and libraries, CBAL offers programs designed to best meet the specific needs of individual communities.

"CBAL is very fortunate to have had the support of CBT in order to build a strong and sustainable literacy framework for communities in the Columbia Basin," said Ali Wassing, Executive Director CBAL. "Our coordinators have established strong networks and partnerships to provide the programs and events that educate people about the importance of literacy and support community actions related to literacy. Working together we have been able to help people of all ages realize the impact that even a small increase in literacy can have in their lives."

This commitment translates into \$400,000 each year in support of CBAL's activities throughout the Columbia Basin region, including Castlegar, Cranbrook, Creston, Elk Valley, Golden, Grand Forks, Kaslo, Kimberley, Nakusp, Nelson, Revelstoke, Salmo, Slokan Valley, Trail, Valemount and Windermere Valley. To learn more about CBAL and their programs, visit www.cbal.org.

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 or call 1.800.505.8998.

Expansion at Castle Wood Village

Monday, May 11, 2009

A joint project of Golden Life Management, Pace Setter Construction and Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), Castle Wood Village will see an expansion of 33 suites later this month, bringing the total to 110 units in the Castlegar facility.

"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. "This expansion provides a greater number of local seniors with the opportunity to enjoy our excellent service, outstanding hospitality and the independent lifestyle that Castle Wood Village has become known for."

"This is great news for families in the area," says Johnny Strilaeff, CBT Vice President of Investments. "With this expansion, Castle Wood Village will become the largest independent living community in the West Kootenay and CBT is proud to play a part in helping to meet the needs of Basin families by increasing the availability of this type of seniors' housing."

CBT has ownership interest in seven other seniors' care facilities in the region, offering a total of 803 living suites with a range of services depending on the needs of residents.

This past January, Mountain Side Village in Fruitvale opened its doors, creating 53 independent living suite options for seniors in the area. Through a partnership with BC Housing, 13 studios at the Village are reserved for low income seniors. Seniors meeting the income requirements will pay 70 per cent of their after tax income towards rent with the remainder being subsidized by BC Housing.

In Nelson, construction on Lake View Village continues and upon completion later this year, will add an additional 90 units to the region.

All the facilities offer outstanding housing, services and amenities such as 24 hour emergency monitoring, 24 hour staffing, delicious meals, snacks and refreshments, weekly housekeeping, transportation, and social and recreational programs.

To reserve a space or to learn more about any of these facilities, contact Golden Life Management at 1.250.489.0667 or visit www.goldenlifemanagement.ca.

Golden Life Management

Golden Life Management enables seniors of all ages and abilities to live independently with dignity and pride by providing affordable and accessible housing, meaningful amenities and personal services. We offer life lease villas, independent and assisted living residences, residential care suites, home care services, adult day programs, meals on wheels, and income supplement programs for low income seniors. Our partnerships with Interior Health Authority, BC Housing, Columbia Basin Trust and non-profit societies enable hundreds of seniors to access innovative seniors housing, services and resources. For more information, see www.goldenlifemanagement.ca.

Pace Setter Construction

Pace Setter Construction was formed to develop and build seniors housing and residential care facilities for Golden Life Management. As Golden Life Management's development partner, Pace Setter Construction is highly specialized in the construction of seniors' housing and health campus environments. Through common ownership with Golden Life Management, Pace Setter Construction is in a unique position to identify specific seniors housing requirements, improve upon existing standards and, by seeing first-hand how existing buildings evolve and support the people who live in them, anticipate future needs. Both companies share a similar client-centered approach to business and enjoy solid reputations for delivering quality design, development, construction and operations throughout the Kootenays. For more information, see www.pacesetterconstruction.ca.

Columbia Basin Trust

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) 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. For more information, see www.cbt.org.