



EVENTS +
DEADLINES

BOARD MEETING
HIGHLIGHTS

FUNDED
PROJECTS

CONTACT

Issue 17 - September 2009

NEWS RELEASES

[CBT's New Water Forum to Inspire, Engage Basin Youth](#)

[CBT Announces Support to 44 Environmental Projects](#)

[CBT Releases 2008/09 Annual Report](#)

[2009/10 Arts, Culture and Heritage Projects Announced](#)

WHAT ARE YOU
READING?

QUESTION - On September 8, we celebrated Literacy Day. What leisure reading are you most likely to squeeze into your busy schedule?

- Newspaper
- Non-fiction book
- Fiction book
- Online research/blogs/newsletter
- A children's story

VOTE NOW

BASINLink Newsletter

FEATURES

[Welcome New Staff!](#)

[Working together on Community Services](#)

[Career Opportunities with CBT](#)



Come meet the CBT Board of Directors and key CBT staff members at our Annual General Meeting on Friday, Sept. 18 in Golden. See [here](#) for more information.



Climate Change Phase 1 Wrap

Columbia Basin Trust's (CBT) leading-edge initiative, Communities Adapting to Climate Change, is wrapping up Phase 1 with two communities in the Columbia Basin now equipped with action plans on how to adapt to impacts of climate change at a local level. ...more



A look at the Environmental Initiatives Program

CBT announced 44 new projects under its Environmental Initiatives Program (EIP) this past summer, a \$450,000-funding program dedicated to supporting local and regional ecosystems. ...more



New CBT Youth Water Forum

Columbia Basin Trust Youth Water Forum 2009 is taking place September 25-27 at Kicking Horse River Lodge in Golden, and will be a free event for Basin youth ages 15-29. ...more



One Month Left in CBT's Photo Contest

Quick - start going through those summer photos you've been saving or grab your camera and take some new photos! Less than a month remains in CBT's Show Us Your Basin photo contest. ...more



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Raising the Question on Nelson's Community Vitality

Change, innovation, education, passion and collaboration - these are some of the elements that foster a vibrant community.

In Nelson, the Centre for Innovative and Entrepreneurial Leadership (CIEL) recognized an opportunity to create public discussions on what community vitality means for Nelson residents through a series of conversation cafes called, 100 Mile Ideas Diet.

Organized by Anna Planedin, Communications Coordinator for CIEL, the 100 Mile Ideas Diet series was a unique evening event where locals

"When an organization such as CBT supports an event, it gives it credibility in the community -"

Register for September 21 Telelearning event!

In July CBT launched its youth Telelearning series, the next event will take place Sept. 21. Find out more.

openly discussed affordable housing, business vitality, the arts and economic development, the idea of localization and sustainability in a comfortable, relaxed coffee house setting. All sessions began with a presentation from engaging speakers on their respective topic.
...more



creating something the community supports each year as spectators, competitors, volunteers and sponsors." Brenda Birrell, Bootleg Sled Dog Society.

HIGHLIGHTS

- [New Members on the Youth Advisory Committee](#)
- [Studying Slocan Valley's Prehistoric History](#)
- [Connecting with Basin Culture](#)
- [Your Chance to Get Published!](#)
- [Moyie High House Museum Completes Expansion](#)
- [Creston Gleaners Completes Renovations](#)
- [CBT Hosts Workshop on Climate Change for Local Government](#)
- [Free Workshop About Watersheds in the Basin](#)
- [Free Workshop: Charitable Status](#)



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 Concludes Phase 1 of Climate Change Initiative

Tuesday, September 08, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust's (CBT) leading-edge initiative, Communities Adapting to Climate Change, is wrapping up Phase 1 with two communities in the Columbia Basin now equipped with action plans on how to adapt to impacts of climate change at a local level.

"After months of community and scientific input, the first two communities to participate in CBT's Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative have completed climate change adaptation strategies," said Kindy Gosal, CBT Director, Water and Environment. "This planning process has increased their ability to prepare for and adapt to changes in temperature and precipitation patterns, which will increase the community's resilience to expected climate change impacts."

Science-based analysis and modelling, done by the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium, provided the communities with local information on changing temperatures, precipitation patterns, glacial recession, and changing stream and river flows.

"Climate change is real. How it is occurring is not the issue," said Jim Ogilvie, Mayor of Kimberley. "The effects need to be looked at and addressed."

Residents in both the City of Kimberley and the District of Elkford confirmed the climate change science with their own observed changes such as warmer summers, longer growing seasons, changes in local water levels, and new bird species that were not seen locally until recently.

"If you are aware of the changes happening already and that will continue into the future, you can adapt to them. If you anticipate, for example, that wildfires or flooding may occur, you can take steps now to address them," said Gosal.

In Kimberley, a community-based process that started in May 2008 identified three priorities for climate change adaptation planning: 1) water and forests, 2) municipal infrastructure, and 3) tourism. Specific actions were developed to address a range of vulnerabilities for each priority. For example, recommendations to protect local water supplies in the case of fire or drought were developed. Recommendations were also developed to protect homes and municipal infrastructure from the risk of floods. Kimberley's elected officials are currently reviewing recommendations for action.

"Many of the recommendations will help inform Kimberley's Official Community Plan review and renewal," said Ingrid Liepa, Local Coordinator.

In the District of Elkford, community members, stakeholders and elected officials went through a similar process that increased awareness about local climate change impacts, identified vulnerabilities, and set priorities.

"We used the best available science and combined it with community input and focused on three priority areas: wildfire, flooding and water supply," said Dean McKerracher, Mayor of Elkford. "These are the areas where Elkford is most vulnerable to local climate change impacts and that are of the most concern to community members in terms of community safety and wellness."

Kimberley City council will receive a full presentation on their report, Adapting to Climate Change in Kimberley, BC. A climate change adaptation strategy has also been delivered to the District of Elkford and will be integrated into a new Official Community Plan (OCP) expected this fall. This will make Elkford the first community in BC to integrate climate change adaptation planning into an OCP.

Now that successful pilot adaptation planning processes have been completed with two communities, CBT is moving forward with Phase 2 with the communities of Rossland, Castlegar, and Kaslo in partnership with RDCK. Local governments across the Basin are invited to participate in a free climate change adaptation workshop hosted by CBT in Nelson on October 14, 2009 (www.cbt.org/workshop).

"The Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative is a great example of how CBT works with local communities across the Columbia Basin to help them address their priority issues," said Gosal. "It's also one of several ways in which CBT is taking action on climate change."

In addition to this initiative, CBT is taking the lead and working with a range of partners to:

- * increase Basin residents awareness of local climate change impacts;
- * provide credible, science-based information on expected local changes in temperature

and precipitation; and

* support local governments, municipalities and First Nations to reduce their emissions through a multi-year mitigation effort.

Find out more about CBT's climate change work at www.cbt.org/climatechange.

RELATED ITEMS

-  District of Elkford Climate Change Adaptation Plan (3.67 MB)
-  City of Kimberley Climate Change Adaptation Plan (9.15 MB)
-  Communities Adapting to Climate Change: A Tale of Two Communities
-  Fact Sheet: Planning for Climate Change (477.66 KB)
-  Fact Sheet: Adaptation Initiative (250.93 KB)

Yaqaan Nuki Wetlands Restoration and Kokanee Salmon School - Two of CBT's Environmental Initiatives Projects for 2009

Wednesday, September 09, 2009

CBT announced 44 new projects under its Environmental Initiatives Program (EIP) this past summer, a \$450,000-funding program dedicated to supporting local and regional ecosystems.

An example of CBT's large stream grants, the Yaqaan Nuki Wetlands

The Yaqaan Nuki Wetlands Friendship Society from Creston received CBT funding for the first time this year. This group of dedicated volunteers have been working on rehabilitating and preserving the Yaqaan Nuki Wetland complex - a stretch of Kootenay River wetlands located on the Lower Kootenay Band reserve lands 6 km east of Creston. This complex forms a vital link between the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area and the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge (located in the US).

Spearheaded by Art Tremblay, the group has been actively working at restoring the complex since 2003 with the endorsement of the Lower Kootenay Band.

"In 2002 these wetlands were so neglected that there was almost no fauna and flora left," said Tremblay. "These wetlands are traditionally a breeding, resting and a migration stopover for many species, and we need to make sure that we can bring the ecosystem back to its original state. But we are starting to see muskrat again, and more deer as well as some bird species that are returning."

Other species showing a return include Tundra and Trumpeter Swans, Greater White-fronted Geese, Canada Geese, the Great Blue Heron, Black Tern and the Sandhill Crane.

"We made some changes this year to the program that allowed us to spend time and assist all of the groups applying for funding. It was important for us to spend time to work with applicants to assist them in submitting the best possible application," said Rick Allen, CBT Program Manager, Environment. "It worked out well for many groups, including the Yaqaan Nuki group, and for CBT as we were able to support a lot of valuable first time projects."

The Yaqaan Nuki Wetlands Reclamation Project is an ongoing venture by the volunteer group to restore, maintain and operate a pumping system that transfers water between the five wetland compartments in the complex. This transfer of water helps maintain water levels throughout the wetlands and also allows for flooding areas that have become overgrown with plant life, such as cattails, that take space away from the habitats needed by certain species.

"This is a proactive project," said Tremblay. "Mother Nature needs a little help now and then, and we've taken so much from her, now it's time we give something back."

Tremblay said the group is interested in expanding its circle of volunteers and having youth included in the process, anyone interested in more details about the project or how to get involved can call Tremblay at 1.250.428.6130.

An example of CBT's small stream grants, the Kokanee Salmon School Program

One successful applicant through the EIP small grants stream, which funds projects that are less than \$5,000, was the Kokanee Salmon School Program through EcoSense Interpretive Services Ltd.

Organized by Nancie Dohan, this school-based program brings youth and community members to the Kokanee Creek spawning channel, 19 km east of Nelson, to educate and inform them about Kokanee healthy habitat requirements and life cycles and human improvements to the Kokanee salmon habitats.

"In today's electronic, indoor focussed environment, this type of program is essential to connecting people, communities, and educating about decision-making based on sustainable practices," said Dohan. "The Kokanee Salmon School Program helps make learning new concepts fun because it provides a personal experience with a local naturalist that is passionate about stewardship."

The program is offered to all elementary and secondary schools in the Columbia Basin during September. The program involves a 90-minute introduction in a theatre, a visit to a Kokanee salmon spawning channel, a dissection of a spawned-out Kokanee and fish counting and surveying.

Anyone interested in making a reservation for the program, can call 1.250.825.4723 or contact Dohan at nanced@shaw.ca.

CBT has provided nearly \$3 million in funding over the past five years for environmental conservation, restoration, stewardship and education projects across the Basin. To learn more about CBT's environmental priorities, visit www.cbt.org/environment.

Final Day to Register: CBT's New Youth Water Forum

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

CURRENTS: Columbia Basin Trust Youth Water Forum 2009 is taking place September 25-27 at Kicking Horse River Lodge in Golden, and will be a free event for Basin youth ages 15-29.

"CBT is excited to host a forum for youth focused on water issues in the Columbia Basin," said Heather Mitchell, Program Manager, Water Initiatives. "Basin youth are the future leaders in our communities and will be instrumental in future water-related decisions. We want youth to come, get inspired and get involved in water stewardship to improve and protect water in the Basin for many years to come."

During the forum, youth will have the opportunity to learn about water issues in the Basin by participating in field-based sessions on topics of water quality, conservation, aquatic wildlife habits, water rights and the Columbia River Treaty. Through this experiential learning, youth will also acquire new skills, network with professionals working in water and learn more about water resources and how they can get involved to improve and protect water values in the Basin.

"We know youth are ready to connect with us on significant issues, and that they have the ability to impact decisions in their communities. That's why it's important for us to work with and engage young people in local water issues," said Mitchell. "This forum is an opportunity for youth to become informed champions for water issues in the Basin through fun, interactive sessions."

Not all work, participants can expect lots of interactive games and everyone will also be treated to an adventure in canoeing with the experienced guides from North Woods Canoes.

The forum will include lodging and meals for approximately 40 participants free of charge. Register online until September 16 at www.cbt.org/currents.

For more information on CURRENTS contact Heather Mitchell, Program Manager, Water Initiatives at 1.800.505.8998 or hmittell@cbt.org.

Submission Deadline Approaching Fast for CBT's Photo Contest!

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

Quick - start going through those summer photos you've been saving or grab your camera and take some new photos! Less than a month remains in CBT's Show Us Your Basin photo contest - closing on October 1.

Launched in June, the Show Us Your Basin photo contest was created as a way for residents to showcase what the Basin means to them. Is it the beauty of the mountains and rivers? Is it family camp-outs or outdoor activities? You have one month left to show CBT your Basin!

"The Columbia Basin is as unique as its geography, its history, its people and its future," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "With its diversity of people and enterprise, staggering natural beauty, abundant resources, the Basin is a special place and we are looking forward to seeing this distinctiveness captured in the photos residents send in."

The contest is open to any Basin resident and CBT will accept images that depict people, nature, the four seasons, arts, culture and heritage, activity or industry of our region.

Submitting is easy, simply visit www.cbt.org/photocontest for full contest rules and details and then upload your favourite photos. Multiple submissions are allowed, but all photos have had to be taken within one calendar-year of October 1, 2009 and will need to be submitted in JPG format.

CBT's Photo Selection Committee will select 10 entries to be the finalists after the closing date of October 1, 2009. The ten finalist photos will be displayed at CBT's website and residents will vote for their favourite photo.

The following prizes will be awarded:

- 1 Grand prize - Basin Basket (made up of items/services from around the Basin) valued at \$500
- 1 Runner-up prize - Basin Basket (made up of items/services from around the Basin) valued at \$250
- 3 Honourable mention prizes - CBT fleece jackets valued at \$50 each

For more information on the Show Us Your Basin photo contest, please contact Bree Seabrook at 1.800.505.8998.

Nelson's 100 Mile Ideas Diet

Wednesday, September 09, 2009

Change, innovation, education, passion and collaboration - these are some of the elements that foster a vibrant community.

In Nelson, the Centre for Innovative and Entrepreneurial Leadership (CIEL) recognized an opportunity to create public discussions on what community vitality means for Nelson residents through a series of conversation cafes called, 100 Mile Ideas Diet.

Organized by Anna Planedin, Communications Coordinator for CIEL, the 100 Mile Ideas Diet series was a unique evening event where locals openly discussed affordable housing, business vitality, the arts and economic development, the idea of localization and sustainability in a comfortable, relaxed coffee house setting. All sessions began with a presentation from engaging speakers on their respective topic.

"The idea behind the 100 Mile Ideas Diet was to bring the community together and allow them to meet each other and be inspired by one another. We wanted to highlight all the knowledgeable resources we have in our own community," explained Planedin. "It's important for people to be connected when revitalizing, we want people to realize that Nelson has everything it needs to be vital."

Wayne Lundeberg, CBT Community Liaison, said this series was a good example of how CBT supports projects around creating community.

"CBT aims to promote sustainable activities," said Lundeberg. "This project encouraged Nelson residents to discuss the idea of community vitality and to listen to each other on what their community might do to achieve that vitality and build on their own strengths. CBT provides support to communities with that same goal in mind - supporting the people of this region to strengthen their own capacity."

Part of this series also included engaging youth in the discussion of community vitality, so Planedin visited elementary and high schools in the Nelson area to speak about and gather students' input on Nelson's community vitality. Often times facilitating conversations between students and teachers, the experience highlighted the interest youth had in the future of their community.

"Students' opinions sometimes differed from teachers, so the conversations were interesting and often controversial," said Planedin. "With the exchange of ideas, teachers could see that their students could apply community development concepts to Nelson."

Planedin also held an art contest for youth ages 8-15 that asked youth to capture their answer to, 'What does community vitality mean to me?' Winners were selected and received awards from CBT, Otter Books and the Nelson and District Credit Union. Anyone interested in viewing the prize-winning artwork can stop by CIEL's office on 604 B Ward St. during business hours.

All speaker series sessions were recorded, including the discussions that ensued after the presentations, and were played on Kootenay Co-op Radio. This series remains available to the public [here](#).

For more information on CIEL, visit www.theCIEL.com.

New Members on the Youth Advisory Committee

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

CBT is welcoming seven new members to its Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) this fall, a big change with a lot of potential for fresh insight on Basin youth issues.

"The Youth Advisory Committee is an important part of CBT's desire to engage all Basin residents," said Dana Welsh, CBT Basin 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. We are excited by this big turnover of members this year, even though we will miss some of the long-standing members we are losing. We wish them all luck in their new adventures. I know our new members are all eager to make equally great contributions."

YAC members are selected to volunteer on the committee after an application process. The youth, all within the ages of 15-29, make a commitment to serve on the YAC for a minimum one-year term. This commitment involves a two-day meeting every two months and participating in the review of all [Columbia Basin Youth Grant](#) applications. This decision-making ability is a task unique to this CBT advisory committee and was specifically given to the group to further promote the active engagement of youth in regional decision-making processes.

YAC members are also often asked to become involved in a number of projects, from cultural events and youth forums, to special projects and website moderating.

New members include, Neil Johson (Kaslo), Jody Colford (Revelstoke), Laura Archer (Golden), Jennifer Ternoway (Cranbrook), Emily Dumaresq (Fernie), Clara Foulds (Nelson) and Amanda Boegel (Ymir).

Returning members are: Kamilah Carter (Crawford Bay), Adam Ferch (Castlegar), Lauren Fox (Fernie) and Melissa Koftinoff (Nakusp).

Find out more about YAC at www.scratchonline.ca, by emailing cbyouth@cbt.org or by calling 1.800.505.8998.

Studying Slocan Valley's Prehistoric History

Thursday, September 03, 2009

During the month of July, Slocan Valley residents were invited to learn more about prehistoric mysteries being uncovered by the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society (SVHTS) when a group of archaeologists opened up their expedition grounds to some of Canada's largest pit houses.

Lead by Dr. Nathan Goodale from Hamilton College, a private liberal arts college in the State of New York, SVHTS hosted Goodale and students in this continuing field-study of a series of pit houses, prehistoric dwellings (homes), that were unearthed in 2000.

While Goodale and his students were busy for most of the summer detecting details on the ecological, social and cultural structures of prehistoric communities, the public were treated to an open house at the site.

Lynda Lafleur, CBT Community Liaison, attended the open house: "It was fantastic to see everyone who has been working on this project share it with the public," said Lafleur. "CBT believes in enhancing Basin heritage and culture and this project certainly provides insight into the early history of the Slocan Valley and Upper Columbia region. Providing credible science-based research helps create awareness of the richness of the Basin's history."

Goodale said he believed open house opportunities such as this created a venue for the understanding between archaeologists and the public on the value of such sites.

"The archaeological record belongs to all of us - it's the people's history," explained Goodale. "It's nice to have opportunities to share our work with the public and to foster a respect for that archaeological record."

A focus of this summer's field study was to obtain organic material suitable for Accelerated Mass Spectrometry (AMS) radiocarbon dating from several pit houses. With these latest samples, Goodale and his students will be able to obtain a more detailed understanding of human occupation in the area.

"This site is very unique, and while there are older pit houses, there are none as big," said Goodale. "The radiocarbon dating will help us determine which houses were occupied at which time. This will show us how large villages were during each time period."

A highlight of this field study was the discovery of a potential storage pit in one of the dwellings that provided an unusually large amount of artifacts for Goodale's team to document, including a period-specific arrowhead.

"We know these sites were occupied 2,800-3,000 years ago and then again 800-300 years ago based on data from the 2000 study, but these artifacts may fill in the gap of the occupation periods," said Goodale.

Goodale was happy to announce that he would be bringing a group of 10 students back to this region for further studies on a bi-annual basis for the next ten years, hoping to salvage as much of its archaeological history as possible. There are 18 pit houses on the site that Goodale hopes to carbon date with his teams, and another 50 in the area that have yet to be explored.

Connecting with Basin Culture

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

On August 15, CBT and its delivery partner the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA) hosted the first Columbia Basin Culture Tour.

A regional one-day event, the culture tour invited residents to explore, browse and connect with the many local artisans, writers, craftspeople and historians that contribute to the arts, heritage and culture of the region.

The Columbia Basin Culture Tour was a self-guided tour that encouraged residents to visit artists' studios, museums, art galleries, cultural centers and heritage sites at no charge. Residents were given a colourful guide map of locations throughout the region of those participating in the tour. All of these locations also provided the chance for visitors to meet and exchange ideas with the artists, historians and curators.

"We have received very positive feedback from participants and from the touring public, as well as some great suggestions for next year," said Krista Patterson from the CKCA. "By far, the most frequent comment we have heard is a request for the tour to last two days to enable people to tour one area, stay overnight, then go further afield the second day, which is also great for local tourism. We will be looking at all of the feedback to further improve the event for next year. "

One participating artist, Sandra Barrett from the Fernie Forge, commented about her experience.

"We were delighted with the response," Barrett said. "There is no way we would have had an open house without being under this larger event umbrella. It gave us credibility and confidence."

Lynda Lafleur, CBT Community Liaison, attended the event and said it provided a great way for people to connect with and learn more about the cultural talents we have in this region: "Because of the geographical obstacles of both the region's size and the terrain, a lot of people don't realize the scope of talents that work amongst us. Hopefully this event has opened all of our eyes to the beauty of these artisans' work, and to the beauty of our region, and the regional culture and heritage our communities share."

For more information on the CBCT, visit www.cbculturetour.com. For more information on the CKCA visit www.basinculture.com.

Your Chance to Get Published!

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

Interested in getting an article, a piece of art or your photography published? CBT offers youth, ages 15-29, the opportunity to get published in a sophisticated, widely distributed, regional magazine.

SCRATCH magazine is a CBT initiative that was created as a forum where youth could share their talents, in various artistic genres, with one-another as well as the general public.

Submissions to SCRATCH magazine are welcomed all year long through CBT's youth focused website www.scratchonline.ca and are selected for each edition through a peer selection committee. The deadline to submit material for the next edition is October 7.

"SCRATCH magazine is created for youth, by youth," said Dana Welsh, CBT Basin Youth Liaison. "So we really involve youth in every aspect of the process. From the design and concept of the magazine, to the editorial team deciding which content should be featured to all of the content being from youth."

Content for SCRATCH magazine is always evolving so youth can submit creative, fact-based or editorial pieces of writing, art or photography. Do you have something to share with the rest of Basin residents? Take the opportunity to submit your works of art or writing to SCRATCH Magazine.

The content selection committee is also always looking for new youth to help select submissions. If you are interested in joining the next selection committee, contact Megan Catalano at 1.800.505.8998 or mcatalano@cbt.org.

Deadline to submit for the next edition is October 7, with the next edition hitting shelves in November. Submit at: www.scratchonline.ca.

Moyie High House Completes Expansion

Monday, July 06, 2009

This past July the Moyie Community Association, along with residents of Moyie, celebrated the completion of renovations to the Moyie High House Museum.

A two-phase project by the Moyie Community Association, the last phase of renovations expanded the museum's display areas, and extended and beautified the outside grounds with a new walkway and sitting areas for visitors. These renovations were also necessary to expand on the museum's ability to house the many donated artifacts, which were not previously displayed.

CBT provided \$9,000 towards the second phase of the renovation project through the Community Development Program.

"CBT welcomed the opportunity to support this project because we value a community's history and understand the importance of history to families and residents," said Jennifer Krotz, CBT Community Liaison. "Moyie residents can take pride in the Moyie High House Museum for many years to come."

"The community was impressed with the renovations to the museum," said Wayne Stone from the Moyie Community Association. "This phase had been in the planning stages for more than two years, and the opening celebration was welcomed by the community, with (approximately) 90 people attending the event."

The Moyie High House Museum originally opened in July 2005 and quickly became a treasured part of the community. So much so, that the museum has been able to operate through volunteers and from the commitment of the community who supports it financially from sales of the Moyie History Book Committee's *Moyie Reflections - Recollections of a Kootenay Mining Town* historical book.

For more information on the Moyie High House Museum, call 1.250.829.0500 or 250.829.0700. Summer hours are in effect until September 7, when the museum will be open Sundays 1-3 p.m. or by appointment.

The Creston Valley Gleaner Society completes their renovations

Thursday, July 23, 2009

The Creston Valley Gleaners Society has been operating in the Creston Valley since 1985, with the purpose of providing food, clothing, household items, toys and books available to those in need or distress.

Over the past 24 years, the Gleaners have expanded their services to include donating pet supplies to the animal shelter, supplying food to daycares and elementary schools, providing counselling and recreation programs, and funding early childhood enrichment, teenage sexual health education and school bursaries. In order to keep up with the needs of the community the Gleaners required more space and some renovations to their existing building.

On Thursday, June 26, the Society held a grand opening to celebrate the completion of its renovated and expanded building.

"The Gleaners Society supports their entire community," said Jennifer Krotz, CBT Community Liaison. "This new space will improve the working conditions for the volunteers, but it will also make it more comfortable for those who use the services and will ultimately enable the Gleaners to provide more support to people and groups in Creston."

CBT supported the project with just over \$62,000, with funds enabling renovations to the existing basement and inside and outside sorting areas, and paving a new parking area.

"Columbia Basin Trust has been a great help to us, we couldn't have done all these renovations all at the same time without these funds," said Beth Terrif, Chair of Disbursements for the Gleaners.

In full the renovation/expansion project included purchasing an adjoining property to the Gleaners current location, renovating the warehouse, yard and clothing storage station, redevelopment of donation sorting areas and paving.

The renovation project has also allowed the Gleaners to expand the food bank reception area and they no longer need to rent space elsewhere for storage.

Terrif said being able to complete all major renovations at once, meant the Society only had to close its doors for one week. Since the completion of this project, Terrif said they've already noticed an increase in their budget, an improved working space for the volunteers and an improved ability to serve those using the food bank.

For more information on the society, please visit www.crestonbc.com/gleaners.

CBT Hosts Workshop on Climate Change for Local Government

Thursday, September 03, 2009

On October 14, CBT will host a free one-day session aimed at providing local governments with the latest information on scientific projections, local impacts, and examples of how communities can start preparing for opportunities and risks associated with climate change. Register now!

The workshop will take place at the Prestige Lakeside Resort in Nelson, and will kick off with a drop-in breakfast cafe (displays and resource people available) from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The workshop will start at 10 a.m. and run until 5 p.m. Climate change technical experts and resource people will be available throughout the day for discussion and consultation. The workshop is a forum for communities to exchange ideas and learn more about climate change adaptation planning.

CBT is committed to taking action on climate change and actively engaging with the people living in the Columbia Basin. CBT will continue to act as a convener and facilitator and support existing and emerging climate change initiatives as part of its long-term commitment to support people in the Columbia Basin to achieve social, economic and environmental well-being and self-sufficiency for present and future generations. This workshop is one opportunity for residents and communities to provide CBT with input on how best to provide support in the future.

Visit CBT's Climate Change webpage for more information on the various climate change initiatives CBT is currently working on. For more information on the workshop, contact [cibtadaptation@gmail.com](mailto:cbtadaptation@gmail.com).

Free Workshop About Watersheds in the Basin

Wednesday, September 02, 2009

This October the Columbia Basin Watershed Network (CBWN) is hosting two regional workshops titled, *A Celebration of Columbia Basin Watersheds*.

CBWN would like to extend an invitation to all Basin residents to attend and to learn more about the Network and about Columbia Basin watersheds. The workshops are free and will be held in Invermere, Saturday, October 3 and in Nakusp, Saturday, October 17.

"These workshops will engage individuals, groups and organizations on the issues and opportunities that affect the watersheds within the Columbia Basin," said Karen Nickurak, CBWN Coordinator. "The workshops will encourage networking between people currently working in watershed management and those who would like to get more involved in watershed management. We hope to expand our network and encourage anyone interested to come to the workshops."

CBWN is an important networking and information sharing organization that is supporting local watershed groups. Currently the network has 23 watershed groups, agencies and individuals working on water stewardship in the Canadian portion of the Columbia Basin. The network is an opportunity for those working in watershed management to share experiences and resources, and build knowledge and expertise.

CBT supports the network by acting as a facilitator and convener that is helping each watershed group achieve their own goals, and helping all 23 groups to work cooperatively around water issues in the Basin. CBT also provides direct funding support to the Network and its volunteer steering committee.

For more information on the CBWN and how you can become a member or to register online, please visit www.cbwn.ca.

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 is working towards increasing Basin residents' understanding about 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.

For more information on the workshops or on CBWN, contact Karen Nickurak at 1.800.505.8998 or by email at cbwatersheds@gmail.com.

Free Workshop on Charitable Status

Wednesday, September 02, 2009

The Greater Trail Skills Centre and the BC Centre for Social Enterprise are hosting a one-day, free interactive workshop around Charitable Status in Trail on October 27.

Topics will include financial management, governance principles and approaches, fundraising activities and social enterprise.

Participants are asked to register prior to the session by contacting the Greater Trail Skills Centre toll-free at 1.866.368.6360. The sessions will be hosted at the Skills Centre located at 123, 1290 Esplanade Street, Trail.

CBT's New Water Forum to Inspire, Engage Basin Youth

Friday, August 28, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) invites Basin youth ages 15-29 to sign up now for CURRENTS: Columbia Basin Trust Youth Water Forum 2009, being held in Golden, September 25-27 at the Kicking Horse River Lodge.

"CBT is excited to host a forum for youth focusing on water issues in the Columbia Basin," said Heather Mitchell, CBT Program Manager, Water Initiatives. "Basin youth are the future leaders in our communities and will be instrumental in future water-related decisions. We want youth to come, get inspired and get involved in water stewardship to improve and protect water in the Basin for many years to come."

As an experiential field-based weekend, participants will take to the river and learn about water quality, water conservation, and aquatic wildlife habitats, and will have the opportunity to start a project on one of these topics in their community. Participants will also have a chance to learn interactively about the Columbia River Treaty, an international agreement that is at the heart of CBT's creation and one that impacts the entire Columbia Basin.

"We know youth are ready to connect with us on significant issues, and that they have the ability to impact decisions in their communities. That's why it's important for us to work with and engage young people in local water issues," said Mitchell. "It's the youth of today that will be our voice on major issues like the potential renegotiation or termination of the Columbia River Treaty in 2014. This forum is an opportunity for youth to become informed champions for water issues in the Basin through fun, interactive sessions."

Participants will also partake in a canoeing adventure with North Woods Canoe where everyone will learn about Columbia River history, geology and wildlife of the area. Canoes are wheelchair accessible.

Approximately 40 youth aged 15-29 will be accepted to participate in the forum, which includes lodging, meals and all activities free of charge. Register online until September 16 at www.cbt.org/currents.

For more information on the CURRENTS Youth Water Forum, contact Heather Mitchell, Program Manager, Water Initiatives at 1.800.505.8998 or hmitchell@cbt.org.

CBT Announces Support to 44 Environmental Projects

Monday, August 10, 2009

(Columbia Basin) Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) has awarded \$450,000 to support 44 community-based environmental projects across the Basin through its Environmental Initiatives Program (EIP).

"This year CBT increased funding by \$100,000 to support more aquatic, terrestrial, educational and sustainability projects that residents have identified as important to their community," said Rick Allen, CBT Program Manager, Environment. "There were many impressive projects brought forward this year by residents and groups who are helping to maintain or enhance the environmental condition in and around their communities."

Allen joined CBT in March and acts as the single point of contact for all project applicants. This change in program implementation was a recommendation from a 2008 evaluation of the EIP and is designed to streamline the application process to ensure proponents are getting the support they need.

"We've made a few changes to the program this year to make it easier for some of the smaller groups, whether they are hunting and fishing, recreational or environmental education groups, to submit applications," said Allen. "Our stewardship advisors are an important resource for project applicants, and CBT is looking to extend that support to help build capacity across the Basin, specifically in those smaller groups that are keen, but lack the organizational structure to get involved in the EIP."

The EIP provides support to community-initiated and supported projects that aim to reduce human impacts on the local and regional ecosystems and includes a small grants stream, geared at projects under \$5,000 and a large grants stream for projects up to \$20,000. The small grants comprised over 30 per cent of the successful projects funded this year and the large grants represent projects from Revelstoke to Fernie, Invermere to Roseland and all points in between. See the attached list of projects funded.

CBT has provided nearly \$3 million in funding over the past five years for environmental conservation, restoration, stewardship and education projects across the Basin. To learn more about CBT's environmental priorities, visit www.cbt.org/environment.

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.

RELATED ITEMS

 [2009/10 Environmental Initiatives Projects Funded List \(98.49 KB\)](#)

CBT Releases 2008/09 Annual Report

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is pleased to announce its 2008/09 Annual Report and audited financial statements are now available to the public.

"CBT had a good year, maintaining solid financial results," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "We increased direct funding benefits to Basin residents and communities by 70 per cent over the previous year, disbursing \$9 million through a range of programs and initiatives and supporting hundreds of community-based projects."

CBT is committing \$12 million for its Delivery of Benefits programs and initiatives in 2009/10 and 2010/11 fiscal years, increasing to \$15 million in 2011/12.

"These commitments are possible thanks to the strong financial performance of our investment portfolio with revenues totalling \$24.1 million, an increase of 24.7 per cent from forecast," continued Muth.

CBT works with people, groups, communities and governments in the region in a variety of ways to deliver on its broad mandate, to connect people and communities to a common vision, and to leave a lasting legacy in the Basin.

"CBT is predicting steady growth over the next decade, and as we move forward, we recognize that our efforts must continue to reflect the views and values of residents," said Garry Merkel, CBT Board Chair. "We continue to engage with residents and communities in an ongoing dialogue to understand Basin priorities. This will help guide us in meeting our collective needs and being responsive to opportunities, while creating a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being and self-sustainability for this region."

The Annual Report reflects the performance of CBT for the 2008/09 year, ending March 31. It details the financial investments and spending of CBT, its mandate, vision and organizational governance and function, as well as feature articles on some of the projects CBT has provided support to in the past year.

Informative and reader-friendly, the report is available to all residents online or by calling 1.800.505.8998.

RELATED ITEMS

 [Annual Report 2008 - 2009 \(4.00 MB\)](#)

2009/10 Arts, Culture and Heritage Projects Announced

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

The Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA) has received \$500,000 in funding support from Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) for arts, culture and heritage projects throughout the Canadian Columbia Basin for the 2009/10 funding year, including support for the Columbia Basin Culture Tour.

"The CKCA congratulates the project funding recipients! We encourage people to check our website to see what wonderful projects are happening in their community and we invite everyone to attend the Columbia Basin Culture Tour on Saturday, August 15," says Jacquie Hamilton, CKCA Chair.

The CKCA administers and manages arts, culture and heritage program funding on behalf of CBT. Funding assists in the further development and awareness of Basin arts, culture and history by supporting heritage projects as well as projects in all arts disciplines, including: visual art, theatre, music, dance, media, literary and inter-arts. Arts, culture and heritage project funding support is available to individuals, as well as to arts, culture, and heritage organizations. Funding applications were adjudicated in May by the CKCA Steering Committee, with input from community arts councils.

"CBT is committed to supporting arts, culture and heritage because these projects help build long-term sustainability for communities and create a greater awareness of the talent and creativity of Basin residents," said Lynda Lafleur, CBT Community Liaison.

The 2009/10 arts, culture and heritage programs include: project funding for individuals and groups through community arts councils; minor capital project funding; funding support to touring; arts and heritage mentoring/master classes; organizational development; major project funding; artists in education; major exhibition funding; major heritage capital funding; and funding for new heritage projects.

For more information about arts, culture and heritage funding from CBT through CKCA, please contact CKCA at 1-877-505-7355 or 1-250-505-5505 or visit www.basinculture.com.

RELATED ITEMS

 [2009/10 Arts, Culture and Heritage Projects Funded List \(95.07 KB\)](#)

Welcome New Staff!

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust is pleased to welcome three new staff members, Lisa Erven, Michelle d'Entremont and Viv Thoss.

Lisa Erven

Lisa has joined CBT in the Castlegar office in a new position as Manager, Planning and Development with a focus on the economic area of CBT's mandate.

"I'm really looking forward to getting out into Basin communities and meeting with residents to talk to them about economic related issues in their community and how to overcome current challenges the region's economy faces," said Lisa.

One of Lisa's first priorities will be to finalize and begin implementing an Economic Strategic Plan, which will define strategic roles for CBT in supporting Basin communities in their efforts to maintain economic sustainability.

Lisa's professional background includes extensive community economic development project management, work with municipalities and not-for-profit organizations and most recently as the assistant general manager of Community Futures Central Kootenay.

Michelle d'Entremont

Michelle joined the Castlegar office, as a Basin Youth Liaison. Michelle's focus will be managing the Columbia Basin Youth Grants and the Youth Media programs.

"I'm really excited about my position," said Michelle. "I'm very impressed with the engagement component that CBT has initiated. It's inspiring to see communities and individuals get involved with topics they are passionate about and get the support they need to take action."

Michelle has had many years of experience working in various communications roles such as marketing and promotions and as a volunteer with the Rossland Radio Cooperative. Michelle has also worked as the Executive Director of United Way in Trail. Most recently Michelle was working with the Kootenay Association for Science and Technology.

Viv Thoss

In Golden, Viv Thoss joined CBT's team as an Administrative Assistant. Viv brings a wealth of administrative experience to her position having managed two lodges at the Kicking Horse Mountain Resort and as a confidential secretary to the municipality.

"Working with the Golden team is a lot of fun," she said. "I've learned a lot of new things about the Environmental Initiatives Program, and I'm very grateful for the help I've been receiving from my coworkers. After learning about CBT and all the great things CBT does for the Basin, I knew it would be a wonderful place to work."

All three new staff are avid outdoor sports enthusiasts - guess that's why they're in the Basin. Welcome to the team!

Working Together on Community Services

Wednesday, September 02, 2009

Basins residents are invited to attend the Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative (KBCSC) Annual General Meeting on September 24 from 5 to 7 p.m. being held at the Columbia Basin Trust building in downtown Castlegar, located at 445 -13 Avenue.

The KBCSC is a unique group that includes 11 non-profit organizations from across 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.

The AGM promises to be an interesting and informative way for residents to learn more about projects and initiatives of the co-operative and to learn more about how the KBCSC is strengthening social services in the West Kootenays.

Any resident or non-profit organization is encouraged to attend, but are asked to reserve attendance as a light meal will be served. Attendance can be confirmed at info@thekoop.ca or by calling Helen Lutz at 250.357.2100.

In early 2009, CBT entered a three-year partnership with KBCSC. This commitment was made as part of CBT's direction from its *Social Strategic Plan* to strengthen local organizations that are working to address social issues. Together, CBT and the KBCSC will create professional development opportunities for board and staff locally, develop rural models for service delivery, and promote the value of community social service agencies.

Current members of the co-op include: Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services (in Nakusp), Boundary Family & Individual Services (in Grand Forks) , Castlegar & District Community Services, Kootenay Family Place (in Castlegar), Kootenay Kids (in Nelson) , nelson CARES society , Nelson Community Services, North Kootenay Lake Community Services (in Kaslo), Salmo Community Services, Smum lem (in Castlegar) and Trail Family and Individual Resources.