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Survey – Give us your feedback and win a CBT Desktop Calendar. To complete the survey [click here](#).

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

QUESTION - How does your place of business carry out internal communications?

- Electronic i.e. email, website, newsletters, intranet
- Print i.e. brochures, memos, handouts
- Face-to-face i.e. team briefings, meetings
- Workspace i.e. notice boards
- Other
- All of the Above

VOTE NOW

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CURRENTS: A Report On The Columbia Basin Trust Youth Water Forum

Columbia Basin Trust held its first Youth Water Forum [CURRENTS](#) from September 25-27 in Golden, bringing together over 40 youth from around the Basin to learn about water issues in communities and to learn how to take action to improve and protect water values in the Basin.

"The goal of CURRENTS was to identify water issues and topics that are of interest to youth and raise awareness about the importance of water amongst youth," said Heather Mitchell, CBT Program Manager, Water Initiatives. "The event definitely fulfilled both of these goals with youth having the opportunity to network with peers, meet water experts and add to their skills and knowledge through hand-on activities. I believe they will be



CBT asked Basin residents: What does the Columbia Basin mean to

We've made some improvements!

Check out CBT's updated [Climate Change webpage](#) and the new [Columbia Basin Watershed Network website](#).

able to use this experience to further their actions on water issues in their communities."

Read about the event and find out about four new youth-lead grants that CBT Water Initiatives will be funding this year, as a direct outcome of this forum. ...more



you? Lisa from Invermere submitted this photo and answered:
*"The Basin to me is all that is peaceful.
It is all that is wild and pristine.
It is the epitome of tranquility."*

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- [Golden's Lady Grey Elementary Celebrates 100 Years](#)
- [Quest for Community – A report by the Youth Advisory Committee](#)
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- [Golden Staff Creates a lasting mural legacy](#)

Columbia Basin Trust supports efforts by the people of the Basin to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being and to achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations.

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1.800.505.8998

CBT Supports Selkirk College Housing Project

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

On Monday, November 9, CBT Board member Mike Berg participated in an announcement with Selkirk College, the federal and provincial governments and the City of Nelson for the renovation project of the Selkirk College's Tenth Street Campus' residential housing unit.

CBT committed \$100,000 to this project to aid in the planning process as well as the successful construction.

At the event, Berg said CBT was pleased to partner with the College and the City of Nelson on this project, particularly as it is an innovative approach to addressing affordable housing issues.

This \$7-million project will include:

- the reconfiguration of the facility into two and three bedroom units which include kitchenette and bath-toilet services;
- a renovated facility which will provide accommodation for approximately 100 residents;
- rehabilitation of the structure to current building standards and beyond with the goal of achieving Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification (examples of features to be considered include solar and micro hydro, geothermal exchange and increased thermal efficiency;
- and the planning, construction and the completed facility will offer experiential learning opportunities for Selkirk students.

"This project is a great example of a community tackling a lack of affordable rental housing by making use of an existing, but underutilized community asset," said Berg. "Undertaking housing projects is a tricky process for any community, one that requires tremendous planning, financial analysis, community engagement, and in the final stages, the construction. Congratulations to Selkirk College and the City of Nelson for your commitment to addressing the need for affordable housing, for thinking outside the box, and for your perseverance and belief that this project was worth pursuing."

Additional funding was provided through the Western Economic Diversification's Community Adjustment Fund, with the federal and provincial governments each supporting the project with \$3.45 million and the City of Nelson, which contributed \$5,000 as well as the use of the building and land.

See part of the remarks from the event, courtesy of the Nelson Star [here](#).

New Kootenay Child Health and Development Centre Gearing Up

Monday, November 16, 2009

After years of families with children needing to travel outside of the Basin for specialized care needs, the East Kootenay Infant Development Society and the Community Connections Society of Southeast BC in Cranbrook are on their way to creating better access to children's development and health services.

This past year the two groups have joined forces, along with many local supporters, and created an action plan for the development of a Kootenay Child Health and Development Centre (KCHDC). This centre, which will be centrally located in downtown Cranbrook, will be a hub for bringing together pediatricians, a children's physical therapist, a children's occupational therapist, Children First, Interior Health Children's Network and the Infant Development Program, all under one roof.

CBT supported the first phase of this project with \$50,000, which was dedicated to the interior renovations of the building.

"Supporting this project was a natural fit with our mission to support residents to create a legacy of economic, environmental and social well-being and create greater self-sufficiency for communities. This centre will be well utilized by many families in our region, and will be a truly valuable asset for many years to come," said Jennifer Krotz, CBT Community Liaison.

"Our goal is to improve the full continuum of services and improve access to those services and information, so that families who are already dealing with sick children won't have to travel elsewhere," said Gwen Noble, Executive Director, Community Connections Society Southeast BC. "This centre will be a one-stop shop for families needing to access health and development services in our region."

Already under construction, the Kootenay Child Health and Development Centre is aiming to open its doors in early spring, 2010. Noble said they are still in need of donations to help meet the expected project costs of \$1.83 million.

In order to help the Kootenay Child Health and Development Centre Noble is encouraging residents to show their support by voting for the project in the Aviva Community Fund competition. Visit www.avivacommunityfund.org/ideas/acf3051 to register and to cast your vote.

For more information on how to get involved, contact Noble at 1.250.426.2976.

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.

Revitalizing A Village - Valemount Completes Major Works on its Downtown

Friday, November 13, 2009

For the Village of Valemount it has been a busy and dusty summer that has resulted in a transformation of the downtown core and improved tourism opportunities.

"The Village had this project planned for a very long time, with the objective of creating the right conditions to attract new business and residents; to strengthen our downtown core and our marketing image," said Silvio Gislimberti, Economic Development Officer Village of Valemount.



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

[Valemount's downtown before the project.](#)

A \$1.151-million task, the Village's revitalization project encompassed major road work, electrical work, water works, pedestrian traffic redirection and beautification along its main street, Fifth Avenue, between Cedar and Dogwood Street.

"We know we have good traffic numbers on the highway, and we know that if we can even make 1-2 per cent of that traffic stop in our downtown and spend an hour, that will have a big impact on our local economy," he explains.

Katherine Hamilton, CBT Community Liaison said she is excited about the completion of this project for the Village: "CBT supports strategic projects that can assist with strengthening a community's sustainability and diversify its economy. The Village of Valemount has been working diligently on this revitalization project with those goals in mind. It's taken years of planning and research, and we are happy to be able to contribute to their success."

CBT has supported the project in total with \$251,000 over three years through the locally delivered Community Initiatives Program.

"CBT played a big role in making this project happen, and the Village of Valemount realizes how important this support has been," said Gislimbarti, adding that he felt without the funding support from CBT, the government funding might not have happened and this project would have been impossible.

Initial plans for the revitalization project began in 1999, but many more years of research and planning studies preceded the Village's ability to take action. Gislimbarti said this period in the 90s was often referred to as the "study years" by the Village, when it seemed all funding was being given to planning.

"When the federal government announced its Federal Mountain Pine Beetle Funding and the Community Diversification Initiative in 2007 it seemed there was finally dollars for the real concrete, brick and mortar. That's what we needed," said Gislimbarti.

In addition to CBT funds, the project received support from federal and provincial government grants and the Northern Development Initiative Trust.

With the revitalization project complete, the Village hopes to change its industrial image to a mountain resort community with a mixed and diversified economy.

For more information on the Village of Valemount visit their [website](#).

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The John Fenger Memorial Trail Gets a Facelift

Thursday, November 12, 2009

For those who are hikers, skiers and outdoor enthusiasts the Columbia Basin offers some wonderful opportunities to be surrounded by ancient forests and natural elements - the John Fenger Memorial Trail being a great example of this.

This past summer local groups in the Lardeau River Valley have been working hard to restore and improve the trail so that more people are able to explore the unique values the area and Goat Range Provincial Park have to offer.

The John Fenger Memorial Trail is named after a forester from the area that initiated the protection of two hectares of an old growth Cedar forest.

The trail is a comfortable 30-minute hike and is located in the Goat Range Provincial Park area, between Slocan and Kootenay lakes at the south end and between Arrow Lakes and Duncan Lake at the north end.

"This is a unique forest with trees as old as 1,000 years that have survived development and logging," said Grant Trower, Friends of Lardeau River Society. "And it compliments many other sites in the area like the Lardeau Valley Museum, Meadow Creek spawning channel, the Duncan dam lookout, Glayco beach and spawning grounds of the Kokanee, the Gerrard rainbow trout, bull trout and mountain white fish that we want to bring to people's attention."

The Friends of the Lardeau River, Lardeau River Historical Society, the Valhalla Society in collaboration with the Ministry of Parks and Protected Areas and supported by CBT with \$5,320 have completed work that includes trail restoration, trail clean-up and the replacement of two bridges on the trail.

"The beautiful natural environment that surrounds us is part of the legacy we can leave our children and future generations," said Lynda Lafleur, CBT Community Liaison. "CBT is proud to support a project that is taking care of the Basin's natural assets and I hope more people will set-out and discover trails like this one and support groups that are maintaining the integrity of these valuable resources."

Currently the trail is being well used by school groups for educational hikes and by local tourism providers who are known to take tourists on hikes for the opportunity to see grizzly bears, elk, mountain goats and woodland caribou.

In addition to the old growth Cedar forest, the Lardeau River is highly valued by those in fisheries, as it is the only known spawning grounds of the Gerrard trout and the largest spawning channel in the world for Kokanee salmon.

With increased use of the trail, the various groups involved in this project hope to raise awareness of the significance of this area, while also increasing awareness about the collective sight-seeing possibilities of the Lardeau Valley.



[Click to Enlarge](#)

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[An example of the beauty found while exploring the John Fenger Memorial Trail.](#)

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CURRENTS: A Report On The Columbia Basin Trust Youth Water Forum

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust held its first Youth Water Forum CURRENTS from September 25-27 in Golden, bringing together over 40 youth from around the Basin to learn about water issues and to learn how to take action to improve and protect water values in the Basin.

"The goal of CURRENTS was to identify water issues and topics that are of interest to youth and raise awareness about the importance of water amongst youth," said Heather Mitchell, CBT Program Manager, Water Initiatives. "The event definitely fulfilled both of these goals with youth having the opportunity to network with peers, meet water experts and add to their skills and knowledge through hand-on activities. I believe they will be able to use this experience to further their actions on water issues in their communities."

CURRENTS focused on experiential learning as youth spent two-days learning, connecting and networking with local water experts.

Participants were introduced to factors affecting water quality thanks to Jim and Laura Duncan of the Kootenay River Network who helped the youth gather and analyze invertebrate samples from Hospital Creek. Invertebrates are indicators of water health as are local topography, geomorphology and land use which participants learned from Dr. Brown and Dr. Roa of the University of British Columbia.

At Cedar Lake, Heather Leschied and Kalista Pruden discussed lake monitoring and youth had the chance to use the Secchi device, which measures lake clarity and the Van Dorn Bottle which collects water at various depths in the water column.

In a field session exploring aquatic invasive plants, Elaine Armagost from the East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council demonstrated identification techniques for invasive aquatic and terrestrial plants. She also discussed the factors contributing to invasive plant spread and methods for control.

Afterwards, Rachel Darvill of Wildsight's Upper Columbia Program took participants to Edelweiss Slough where they did rake sampling for aquatic plants in the slough and determined which plant species were present.

During an evening session Kindy Gosal, Director, CBT Water and Environment presented on the Columbia River Treaty as a way to bring awareness and understanding of the history, impacts, effects and future of the Columbia River Treaty.

Part of the event included a presentation from Dana Welsh, CBT Youth Liaison, on action planning. This presentation introduced youth to various tools and examples of how they could successfully implement a project in their community.

"It was amazing to see such a focussed group of individuals, who all wanted to know how to make their projects work and how they could have an impact in their community," said Welsh. "The projects that were selected will be a great experience for the youth and will have a positive impact on their community," said Welsh.

Participants at CURRENTS, had the opportunity to submit an application for a youth-led water project in their home community. As a result, four water projects are being initiated by youth:

- 1) In Castlegar, two youth will be completing an inventory and GIS mapping project to identify aquatic invasive plant populations in the Meldiana wetland and riparian areas and to determine appropriate control methods. This area is known to have a growing problem with invasive plants and without outside intervention these species threaten to dominate the vegetation of the area, which would place a stress on the valuable ecosystem.
- 2) In Creston, one youth will undertake a community restoration project of planting appropriate native plant species along the Goat River to reduce erosion and encourage a healthy riparian area. The project aims to increase awareness around water issues by involving local groups and high schools in the project.
- 3) In Nelson, a group of youth will create and produce a music video focusing on water issues in the Basin to create greater awareness amongst peers on the issue. The video will include various musical instruments, singing and spoken word, and will be distributed to schools in the region.
- 4) In Revelstoke, one youth will organize and facilitate a community invasive plant pull and awareness campaign. The project aims to increase the community's understanding of invasive species, and the continued spread of these species along waterways and riparian ecosystems can be detrimental to the native plant species, the birds, bugs, and animals.

Keep an eye out for the next issue of **SCRATCH** Magazine, which will include a feature story from one of this year's **CURRENTS** participants.

The next Youth Water Forum will take place in 2010. Join CBT's youth Facebook group to get involved and learn more about CBT's Youth Initiatives.

CBT Hosts Affordable Housing Forums in West and East Kootenays

Monday, November 09, 2009

CBT has identified the issue of affordable housing as a priority in its Social Strategic Plan and this past month has hosted, in partnership with the Fraser Basin Council, two Regional Housing Forums aimed at sharing information with local governments, First Nations and their partners around this issue.

The first of two forums was hosted in Castlegar on October 28, and the second in Cranbrook on November 3.

"CBT wants to work as a partner and as a facilitator with those interested in creating vital communities," said Aimee Ambrosone, Manager, CBT Planning and Development. "We were very happy with the turnout and with the quality of the dialogue, and hope these discussions can support the development of practical strategies to address the housing concerns of our communities."

Laurie Page, Chair of Housing for the Nakusp and Area Development Board said she was pleased following the West Kootenay forum.

"This was the best turnout of local government I have ever seen at a housing forum. Clearly we are all grappling with the same issues, and local governments are prepared to provide some leadership," said Page. "I was gratified to see that all of the breakout groups listed similar barriers and opportunities, it reinforced my opinion that we have commonalities. Every one of us prioritized developing regional expertise as a potential aid to finding solutions. I think the timing is right for us to work on regional solutions with a regional resource, and I hope that CBT will help us do that."

Page commented that these forums were valuable in providing an opportunity to network with other communities that may be experiencing similar issues, and as a venue to brainstorm solutions.

"You never know where a new idea or new perspective will come from, and it is always worthwhile looking outside our own communities to see what is out there," she explained. "Getting together with representatives of other communities creates a venue for collective wisdom to surface; if we meet often enough or the timing is right, a great idea comes up that can turn into action."

Ambrosone added that CBT will continue to support communities as they move forward in the planning and development of their affordable housing strategies.

For more information on these forums or on CBT's affordable housing initiatives, please contact Aimee Ambrosone at 1.800.505.8998 or aambrosone@cbt.org

Golden's Lady Grey Elementary Celebrates 100 Years

Monday, October 05, 2009

This past September Golden's Lady Grey Elementary celebrated its 100th birthday, and principal Ian Robinson wanted to ensure the whole school and community would be able to commemorate the birthday in a lasting manner.

Inspired by the Town of Golden's work in tile mosaics for its spirit square, the school contacted local artisans Donna Williams and Pierrette Robinson to help the school create a mosaic that could be displayed on the school's exterior.

The artists developed two designs that depicted life in the school in 1909 and 2009, and then designs were voted on by the students, staff and parents of students at an open house.

"This was a great project that inspired community involvement, there were so many current and past students who could appreciate and contribute to honouring the school in such an artistic way," said Katherine Hamilton, CBT Community Liaison. "CBT was happy to be a part of bringing the community together for such a historically significant celebration. "

"In a small community a hundred years is a long time, it's something significant, so we wanted to celebrate that the school has been a central part of the town for so many of the residents through those years," said Robinson.

"We wanted to involve the school community so that it wouldn't just be the artists vision, so after the vote and a design was chosen we still had everyone give input and incorporated that (into the final design)," said Robinson.

The final design included one 8x4' panel depicting a 1909 scene, a 8x4' panel depicting a 2009 scene and approximately 250 3"x3" tiles created by students, staff and community members that depicts individual thoughts on what Lady Grey Elementary represents to them.

The smaller individual tiles were created with the guidance of the artisans, who visited each classroom to teach the students and staff how to create their tiles. After being created, the tiles were glazed and fired at the Golden Secondary School.

"The students loved doing this project and working with the clay and it really created an anticipation for the unveiling," said Robinson. "We kept the final product hidden from students until the day of the unveiling. When everyone finally got to see the mosaic they were all excited and you could see them looking for their tiles."

CBT supported the project in \$8,000 through its Community Development Program.

Quest for Community - A Report By Newly Appointed YAC Member Jennifer Ternoway

Monday, October 12, 2009

On October 6, 2009, a former Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) member and I were presenters at the Quest for Community Forum at the Yasodhara Ashram in Crawford Bay.

Our presentation was about Columbia Basin Trust's Columbia Basin Youth Grants program (CBYG). The forum was hosted by Mount Sentinel Social Justice Academy and LV Rogers Secondary School. The purpose of this forum was for the students to come together and learn how to initiate a project in their communities, starting with the formation of the idea.

That afternoon my counter-part and I arrived at the Ashram armed with our power point presentation, knowledge of the youth grants program and a box of CBT goodies to give away. We both had a rough idea, or thought we did, of what we were in for, but to our pleasant surprise we were only partially right on our assumption.

When we walked into the bright, warm room we found the youth scattered about the room sitting on, in true Ashram fashion, yoga mats and chattering away. We were greeted by Don Warthe, the social justice teacher at Mount Sentinel Secondary who briefed us on the plan for the afternoon.

Many of the youth had already come up with project ideas and rough plans. They had also started to fill out the CBYG application form, but had some anxiety about them. Our purpose was to relieve that anxiety and guide them in the right direction of completing an application.

We started with the students presenting their ideas to everyone in attendance, and afterwards my counter-part and I made our presentation to the group. Following a YAC's greater presentation, we sat down with four groups each and looked over their applications and answered questions they had about the process.

The project ideas presented and discussed were very diverse and well thought out. It was wonderful to assist groups in the application process, especially since they were all very keen listeners and very grateful for our input.

I personally cannot wait to review the final applications and see how their projects develop. Since becoming a member of the YAC I have wanted the opportunity to sit down with youth grant applicants first hand and I am glad that I received the opportunity to do that. It was inspiring.

Watershed Network Makes A Splash - By Karen Nickurak

Friday, October 30, 2009

A re-invigorated Columbia Basin Watershed Network (CBWN) attracted more than 85 people to two regional workshops in October, held in Invermere at Panorama Mountain Village and in Nakusp at the Seniors Centre.

The Columbia Basin Watershed Network (the Network) is a network of watershed groups, agencies and individuals in the Canadian portion of the Columbia Basin working on water stewardship. 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 the Watershed Network volunteer steering committee.

The Water Quality Monitoring Group, a group under the support of the Watershed Network, started off the two-day event at Panorama with workshops focussing on refining what their monitoring needs are, how to interpret the data and to begin learning ways of presenting the data.

"Learning how to interpret and present conclusions from this much data requires guidance and lots of practice," said Laura Duncan, Water Quality Project Co-Coordinator.

Jim Duncan, project co-coordinator, is in agreement with Laura and added, "At the end of the workshop people were enlightened with new information and highly motivated to continue learning and sharing scientific information about our watersheds."

The Watershed Network workshops and presentations focused on celebrating successes in watershed stewardship and management in the Columbia Basin.

"At both events, there were presentations highlighting and celebrating local and regional watershed successes," said Nickurak.

At the Invermere event the group learned about the Lake Windermere Ambassadors, a group of committed citizens representing business, government, recreation, second homeowners, local residents, First Nations, and youth whose role is in an advisory and fundraising capacity and at the Nakusp workshop, participants heard from Jennifer Yeow of the Slocan River Streamkeepers who described some of the successes their group has achieved in areas of monitoring, education and restoration.

As the Columbia Basin Watershed Network continues to attract new members, it is committed to building a strong network of people within the Columbia Basin that are interested in conserving and managing watersheds for a sustainable future.

The Watershed Network now has close to 50 new member groups and individuals, lots of new ideas and a new website that will help connect people working on watershed issues. For more information on the Watershed Network, check out the website at www.cbwn.ca

CBT Contribution Improves Facilities at Rossland's Cross Country Ski Club

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is contributing \$75,000 to Rossland's Black Jack Cross Country Ski Club Society (the Club) in support of their efforts to host national and international Nordic competitions.

"This project is a step forward in helping Rossland achieve their aspirations of becoming a four-season destination, and it will improve the opportunities for athletes and spectators to see and participate in world-class competitions in their hometown," said Wayne Lundeberg, CBT Community Liaison. "CBT is pleased to be involved in this project, as it is supported by the community's own strategic plans, residents and club members, and by both Cross Country Canada and Cross Country BC."

The Club has been improving the facility for a number of years and has hosted many smaller events. The recent improvements were based on recommendations from Cross Country Canada (the governing body of cross country skiing in Canada) and Cross Country BC, who both said that with the improvements the Club would be able to host events such as the Canadian Championships, NorAms, the Western Canadian Championships, and potentially, selected World Cup events.

"Cross Country Canada has previously awarded us smaller events based on excellent terrain, dependable snow and weather conditions, and competent, enthusiastic volunteers. But they've also made some specific recommendations in order for us to host bigger events. With the recent improvements, our ski stadium and sprint trails now meet international standards," said Wannas Luppens, President of the Club.

Luppens added that an event like the Canadian Championships typically draws 600-700 athletes, plus family and support staff for about 10 days; "that would be a big impact to the local economy."

"Rossland is in the process of diversifying its economy, and we feel this project fits into those plans," said Luppens. "These events will bring competitors and tourists to Rossland and will create a greater awareness of the facilities and amenities we have to offer. Recreational skiers will also enjoy the improved trails."

George Grey, Black Jack member and 2006 and 2010 Olympian also gives his support to the project.

"This is the most significant upgrade that I have seen at the trail system in my 27 years in Rossland," commented Grey. "The upgrades will increase the Club's ability to host major competitions and make Black Jack a serious contender for National Team and club level training camps. The widened trail system will appeal to all levels of skier, allowing grooming to start earlier and trails to stay in better condition through wind storms and snow lulls. I am looking forward to using the upgrades and hope that more Rosslanders come out for a ski - they will love it!"

The project's \$207,330 improvements are expected to be completed this year with skiing enthusiasts invited to test out the improved trails and facilities this upcoming ski season. Since 2003, CBT has provided \$139,294 to the Club through CBT's Community Development and Community Initiatives Programs.

The Black Jack Cross Country Ski Club is a volunteer non-profit society whose mission is to build a community of Nordic skiers by providing and sustaining excellence in programs and services. The society has been in Rossland since 1983 and has approximately 600 members.

Contributing to Golden's Community Spirit

Monday, November 02, 2009

The Village of Golden has been working hard to get its businesses and residents into the spirit this past year - and CBT's Golden office was given the opportunity to participate in creating a lasting legacy, by creating a mosaic tile for the town's Spirit Square development.

Under the creative direction and mentorship of local artists Donna Williams and Pierrette Robinson, CBT's Golden office staff took part in creating a wall mosaic that depicts a series of waves splashing up against a corner of a building leading to Golden's Spirit Square. This wall mosaic is part of a river of tiles that the Town is laying down to create a pathway to the Square.

The CBT piece is one of five large tiles in the wave and depicts a design based on elements that represent CBT.

"CBT's logo was a starting point of inspiration, using the mountains and water as a theme," added Hamilton. "We added more elements like a salmon, moraine, alpine meadows and the Columbia wetlands."

The team collected rocks for use in their tile from the Kicking Horse and Blaeberry Rivers and also gathered additional glass and beads for the mosaic.

"In the end, we have an artistic mosaic in the shape of a wave that looks like a vista very similar to what many of us around the Basin see every day in June and July," described Hamilton. "One neat aspect that we only noticed once the work was completely finished, is that from afar the entire piece looks like a big fish!"

The Golden Spirit Square project has received great community support from residents and local organizations and can be viewed in its entirety at the north end of the Pedestrian Bridge.

"We decided to do this because we wanted to participate in this community project just like so many others in the community are doing, and we are so proud of what we accomplished."

Membership Opportunity: CBT's Advisory Committees

Friday, November 13, 2009

During the month of September CBT hosted a meeting of CBT's core Advisory Committees in Golden. This is an annual opportunity for members of these committees to network, exchange ideas and seek input on key issues facing CBT and the region.

Discussions during the meeting spanned an array of topics such as CBT's evolving role in community development, discussing CBT's strategic priorities, and learning more about CBT's investment portfolio and the Columbia River Treaty.

CBT has three core advisory committees in the mandated areas of social, economic and environmental made up of Basin residents that provide advice to CBT on delivering benefits to the region and two advisory committees that provide advice on youth and water initiatives. [Click here](#) for a list of the current Advisory Committee members.

Each committee may have up to 12 members, and each member typically serves for about three years, providing advice to CBT with respect to delivering benefits to the Basin, according to the vision and principles outlined in the Columbia Basin Management Plan (CBMP). These Committees are one mechanism for input into the Delivery of Benefits decision-making process, providing advice to CBT on a range of issues.

Currently CBT has opportunities on three of its committees. If you are interested in joining a CBT Core Advisory Committee, please contact the following:

Social

Aimee Ambrosone, Manager, Planning and Development
1.800.505.8998 or aambrosone@cbt.org

Economic

Lisa Erven, Manager, Planning and Development
1.800.505.8998 or lerven@cbt.org

Environment - some wait-time to be instated may apply.

Rick Allen, Program Manager, Environment
1.800.505.8998 or rallen@cbt.org

Demystifying Media Relations: CBT Hosts Telelearning Event on Media Relations

Monday, November 02, 2009

Calling all youth! Do you need some advice on how to get the word out about an important project you are working on for your community?

On Thursday, November 26 at 3:30 p.m. PST CBT will be hosting, Demystifying Media Relations, a telelearning workshop that will provide simple guidance on how you can work with the media to support your projects' success.

The hour-long session will be presented by staff from CBT's Communications department, and will walk listeners through the various tools of media relations such as preparing for a media interview, effectively using news releases and community contribution editorials, advertising and promotions, relationship-building and sponsorship opportunities. The session will also set aside time for a discussion and a question and answer session upon completion of the presentation.

"This will be great opportunity for youth to understand the media process and to learn more about how the media can help them promote their project's goals," said Dana Welsh, CBT Youth Liaison.

To participate in this session, youth must preregister by emailing cbtyouth@cbt.org or by calling 1.800.505.8998. Youth can also join the Facebook group for these sessions to connect with others who are participating. Find the group under the name, CBT Telelearning.

Demystifying Media Relations is the third of six telelearning sessions being offered to youth by CBT There are three sessions remaining on the topics of Handling stress (January 28), Developing your project budget (March 18) and Fundraising (May 25).

Last Chance To Vote: Photo Contest Closing on Friday, November 20

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) wants you to vote for your favourite photo!

The Show Us Your Basin photo contest, which closed earlier this month, received nearly 1,000 images from residents across the Basin. These images have been narrowed down by a selection committee and now CBT wants residents to choose the winning photo.

"CBT sincerely thanks all residents who showed us the many great angles, views and stunning locations of our region," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "Many of the photos were submitted with comments about what the Basin means to them. These comments were incredibly thoughtful and a true reminder that we live in a very special place that is worth protecting, fostering and strengthening. CBT is honoured to be a part of this Basin."

Basin residents can vote for their favourite photo until November 20 by visiting www.cbt.org/vote.

The top ten finalists are:

- * Brad Smiley, Cranbrook
- * Douglas Noblet, Nelson
- * Freya Rasmussen, Revelstoke
- * Gail Spitler, Johnson's Landing
- * George Hopkins, Revelstoke
- * Kathy Howard, South Slokan
- * Laurie Sittler, Nelson
- * Liliane L'Archer, Cranbrook
- * Rob Wyatt, Montrose
- * Sanne van der Ros, Golden

Five prizes will be awarded to the top ten photos in the Show Us Your Basin photo contest as follows:

- * 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 jackets valued at \$50 each;
- * Each of the ten finalists will receive a custom framed copy of their photo.

The winning photos will also be used on CBT's website, in publications, advertising and more.

Interested in what the Basin means to the people who call it home? Check out the new "Your Basin" section of the website showcasing a selection of contest photos and descriptions of what the Basin means to the photographers at www.cbt.org/YourBasin.

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 Provides \$138,000 For Conservation of Slocan Island

Monday, November 16, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and The Nature Trust of British Columbia (TNTBC) announced the successful purchase of a 142-acre conservation property called Slocan Island, located near the community of Winlaw.

"Considering the property's important ecological values, Columbia Basin Trust is pleased to support this securement as part of our Land Conservation Strategy," said Kindy Gosal, CBT, Director, Water and Environment. "CBT has made a commitment to ensuring long-term stewardship of the Columbia Basin's natural assets and maintaining healthy ecosystems. Investing in this property helps CBT fulfill those ongoing commitments."

The Slocan Island property is located in the Slocan River flood plain and has several distinguishable overflow channels intersecting the productive riparian site. The property is comprised of cottonwood forest, mixed conifer forest and wetland plant communities, and valuable rainbow trout rearing areas. Waterfowl, moose, elk, and Townsend's big-eared bats are also natural inhabitants of this property.

"As a leading land conservation organization, The Nature Trust along with its partners is working to ensure that the amazing variety of life in this area of BC is sustained through habitat protection. The acquisition of the Slocan Island conservation property is an excellent demonstration of this partnership in action," said TNTBC's Kootenay Conservation Land Manager Rob Neil. "Our principle land management plan for this property is to ensure that the biodiversity values of the property are maintained in perpetuity."

CBT provided \$138,000 toward the total value of \$370,000. CBT provides funding towards land conservation efforts, which will assist in maintaining a range of community values on lands in the Columbia Basin. CBT partners with the [East Kootenay Conservation Program](#) which researches various parcels of land each year and recommends the highest priorities and best-suited projects to meet CBT's goals for the [Land Conservation Strategy](#). Over the last ten years, CBT has contributed \$2.25 million to land conservation efforts in the Columbia Basin.

Other contributors towards the purchase of the property are the [Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program](#), the [Land for Wildlife Fund](#), [Kootenay Wildlife Heritage Fund](#) and [FortisBC](#). The owner of the property also provided a portion of the total cost as an eco-gift. For more information on the [Ecological Gifts Program](#), visit www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/egg-pde or contact The Nature Trust.

The Nature Trust of British Columbia is a leader in protecting BC's natural diversity of plants and animals through the acquisition and conservation of critical habitats and other areas of ecological significance. Along with their partners, The Nature Trust has invested more than \$63 million to secure over 61,000 hectares (150,000 acres) of critical habitat throughout British Columbia.

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Columbia Basin Water Smart Initiative Kicks Off

Monday, November 09, 2009

(Columbia Basin) Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is inviting municipalities, Regional Districts and First Nation communities to participate in the Columbia Basin Water Smart Initiative (Water Smart), which is working to establish a comprehensive approach to achieve a 20 per cent Basin-wide reduction in domestic water consumption by 2015.

"The goal of Water Smart is to develop a regional approach to water conservation by providing support and tools to Basin communities," said Kindy Gosal, CBT, Director, Water and Environment. "Water Smart will allow Basin communities to benefit from shared resources, expertise and learning to achieve their community specific water conservation targets."

All Basin communities are being encouraged to participate and take part in the Water Smart Network and sign the [Water Smart Charter](#), which demonstrates a collective commitment to Basin-wide water conservation. The Water Smart Network will connect communities and experts to learn, collaborate and share knowledge on water conservation. The Water Smart Toolkit will provide a variety of online water conservation resources to help communities develop and implement water conservation measures.

In addition, 10 Basin communities will be selected from the application process to receive one-on-one support from water conservation experts to create a Water Smart Action Plan. The action plans will identify water-use patterns, baseline inventory and targets, and provide a framework for implementation and monitoring. Each of these communities will then receive up to \$5,000 in matching funding from CBT to implement their Action Plan.

All community-specific targets will contribute to the overall Basin-wide goal of a 20 per cent reduction. It is an ambitious goal, but one that CBT sees as important.

"Water is the foundation of the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Columbia Basin and moving forward with water conservation efforts is key to ensuring a healthy and sustainable water supply is in place for future generations," added Gosal.

CBT will be working with Urban Systems Ltd (USL), who will act as the project coordinator and deliver the program. USL brings extensive experience in water conservation, engineering, policy and planning, communication and facilitation.

"This is a great opportunity for communities and we hope community leaders will respond in great numbers," said Don Nash, USL project coordinator.

Water Smart application packages have been sent to all municipalities, Regional Districts and First Nations communities in the Columbia Basin and selected communities will be announced in January 2010.

For more information on Water Smart visit www.cbt.org/watersmart or contact Heather Mitchell, CBT, Manager, Water Initiatives.

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CBT Helps Kimberley Get Shovels In the Ground For New Conference Centre

Friday, October 30, 2009

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is pleased to provide \$300,000 to the City of Kimberley's conference centre project.

"We are happy to announce our support for the construction of Kimberley's new conference facilities, as we believe the project will have a positive impact in the community and the region, providing long-term economic benefits to residents and businesses," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "The City has done an incredible job in pulling the community together in the face of the Sullivan Mine closure, and this project joins the many others they have successfully implemented to build the infrastructure to support their economic development strategy."

The 12,000 square foot convention centre, located at the base of Kimberley Alpine Resort will be the largest in the East Kootenay, providing sitting-room for up to 350 people and will be used as a year-round venue that will compliment the existing tourism market.

"The City of Kimberley appreciates the substantial commitment that Columbia Basin Trust is making to this project," said Mayor Jim Ogilvie. "With CBT as a partner we are now able to put shovels to ground; a major step in realizing the City's commitment to diversifying its economy."

The convention centre will contain several break-out rooms, office space and will be integrated with the City's Paralympic Training Centre. With the help of local contractors and businesses, it is anticipated that facility will be completed by September 2010.

"New Dawn Developments and their many sub-trades have really worked hard at bringing this project within budget," said Ogilvie. "New Dawn Developments anticipates at least 85 per cent of the work and materials will be supplied by local businesses. This project will contribute substantially to our regional economy during and after construction."

In addition to CBT's \$300,000 contribution, the \$6-million project is receiving funding from the City of Kimberley, \$2-million in federal and provincial infrastructure grants, \$2.5-million in additional provincial grants and Resorts of the Canadian Rockies (RCR) is contributing \$300,000, as well as donating the land for the project valued at \$450,000.

Earlier this year, CBT provided \$57,000 to help renovate Kimberley's curling facility, part of the City's vision to become a North American leader in providing quality Paralympic training facilities.

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UBCM Recognizes Carbon Neutral Kootenays Project

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

The Regional Districts of Central Kootenay, East Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary, received a Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Community Excellence Award for the Carbon Neutral Kootenays Project. This project, delivered in partnership with Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), is helping regional districts and local governments reduce their corporate emissions and become carbon neutral by 2012.

The Carbon Neutral Kootenays project is the regional district winner in the Leadership and Innovation category which recognizes environmental excellence and ideas that showcase vision, creativity and teamwork that can be followed by others. The award was presented at the most recent UBCM held during the last week of September in Vancouver.

"We know that work to reduce emissions at this scale, with so many regional and local government partners in a rural context, is unique," says Kindy Gosal, CBT's Director, Water and Environment. "It's great to have the work recognized by the UBCM and to share our experiences with other communities who want to reduce their emissions."

The project began in February 2009 when Sheltair Group and the Community Energy Association were hired to deliver year-one of the four-year Kootenay Carbon Neutral Action Strategy. The project is building on actions already being taken by local governments in the Columbia Basin. According to a survey done with local governments earlier this year, seventy-five per cent said they were already reducing emissions by taking actions such as improving insulation and retrofitting lighting and heating.

Building on the momentum already taking place, regional districts have been actively working towards learning more about reducing their corporate emissions. Sheltair Group hosted close to 100 local government staff and elected officials at various "Climate Change 101" workshops to increase their awareness of the issues and options to reduce emissions.

Over the next few weeks each local government will receive their energy and emissions inventories and action plans on how to reduce these will follow. Year-one work will be completed in February 2010.

"This regional collaboration with local governments and Columbia Basin Trust will help all of us fulfill our commitments under the BC Climate Action Charter," says Ramona Mattix, General Manager of Development Services for the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

The consulting team is building templates that will enable up to 29 local governments and five first nations communities to develop their own carbon-neutral strategies. Plus, the consulting team is looking at options for enabling ongoing collaboration and knowledge sharing as the rest of the Kootenay Carbon Neutral Action Strategy is implemented over the next few years.

The Carbon Neutral Kootenays initiative is one of several climate change initiatives supported by CBT. For more information about CBT and its climate change initiatives, visit www.cbt.org/climatechange.

RELATED ITEMS

 [Carbon Neutral Kootenays Project Update October 2009 \(146.18 KB\)](#)