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Issue 21 - May 2010

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[Sharing Wisdom: Cranbrook Students Connect with Aboriginal Culture](#)

A quiz on Social Enterprise

QUESTION - In May CBT will support a [Day of Learning](#) on social enterprises in the Basin. How would you describe a social enterprise?

- Business venture operated by non-profits
- Business ventures that sell goods or provide services for the purposes of creating a blended return on investment, both financial and social
- Privately owned ventures that have a financial and socially responsible return on investment.
- All of the above

VOTE NOW

BASINLink Newsletter



CBT Marks 15 Years of Strengthening Basin Communities; Budget for Delivery of Benefits Largest Ever

CBT marks two milestones this year; a 15 year anniversary combined with a \$15 million Delivery of Benefits budget. Over the past 15 years CBT has been bringing people, groups, communities and governments together, encouraging collaboration and partnerships to create a lasting legacy in the Basin. ...more



CBT Board Appointments

CBT welcomes three new members to its Board this year and would like to also recognize the continued contribution of nine of its current members. Bob Smith from Valemount, Cindy Gallinger from the Elk Valley and Ron Oszust from Golden were recently appointed to CBT's Board of Directors for two-year terms.more



Housing Expertise Available to Basin Communities

CBT and the [BC Non-Profit Housing Association](#) (BCNPHA) have entered into a partnership that will aid Basin communities and organizations in taking action on local affordable housing concerns through CBT's newly created [Affordable Housing Resources Program](#)....more



Community Social Planning in the Basin

Community social planning takes time and cooperation on the part of many individuals, community organizations and local governments - and this process is starting to happen across the Columbia Basin. ...more

FEATURES

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[CBT Finalizes its Economic Strategic Plan](#)

Check out CBT's [Social](#), [Economic](#), and [Environment](#) initiatives happening in the Basin.

Save the Date!
CBT Symposium
October 22-24
2010 in
Revelstoke



SCRATCH Mag is out!
[Read it now online](#) or find it in your community later this month.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CBT Supports Regional Training Centre in Nakusp

In March CBT celebrated alongside the Village of Nakusp in realizing a project that will see the development of a Regional Training Centre, in addition to the Village's success in linking all of its regional emergency service agencies under one roof.

CBT asked



"The Village of Nakusp was very fortunate to have been approved by the federal government for this project and we are extremely pleased and grateful with the support that CBT has given this project and our community," said Karen Hamling, Mayor, Village of Nakusp.

"This project brings together our emergency services groups in a way never realized in the region before; the new, stronger partnerships built will continue throughout the region for years to come."

The new building is anticipated to be completed in March 2011. ...more



Basin residents:
What does the Columbia Basin mean to you?

Jason Twizell from Castlegar said,

"Beauty, recreation and a great place to raise a family."

HIGHLIGHTS

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

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1.800.505.8998

CBT Marks 15 Years of Strengthening Basin Communities; \$15 million Budget set for Delivery of Benefits

Friday, May 07, 2010

CBT marks two milestones this year; a 15 year anniversary combined with a \$15 million Delivery of Benefits budget.

"It's hard to believe it has been 15 years since myself and other founding board members were present in the BC Legislature signing the CBT Act; the organization has done a lot of growing since that day," said Garry Merkel, CBT Board Chair.

"Over the years we have found that CBT can play a variety of roles to support communities in translating their priorities into action, and building a legacy in this region."

This year, the Delivery of Benefits budget has been increased by 25 per cent over last year, providing \$15 million in direct funding support to community projects and regional initiatives for this fiscal year.

"Our Investment Program continues to deliver predictable and increasing returns that allow CBT to support the efforts of Basin residents more than ever before in strengthening the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Basin," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "By working closely with communities and with our partners, we hope residents see their priorities reflected in our range of programs and initiatives, and in the hundreds of local projects."

Over the past 15 years CBT has been bringing people, groups, communities and governments together, encouraging collaboration and partnerships to create a lasting legacy in the Basin.

"CBT works with communities in an ongoing dialogue to understand priorities and to ensure that together we are meeting their needs and being responsive to opportunities," said Merkel. "As we move forward we will continue to engage residents so that our values are aligned with the people of this region " our neighbours, friends, families."

CBT will continue to take tangible action to address priority issues identified by residents and communities, in areas like economic initiatives, water conservation, climate change, youth engagement, and affordable housing, and by acting as a facilitator, a partner, an information resource, and a funder. View all of CBT's programs online at www.cbt.org/programs and learn more about our initiatives at www.cbt.org/initiatives.

This year, CBT is renewing its Columbia Basin Management Plan Strategic Priorities (2011-2015), which Basin residents will have an opportunity to review and provide input on in the coming months. Watch CBT's website for details.

Also, this year CBT is hosting a Basin Symposium in Revelstoke on October 22-24, so mark your calendar and watch CBT's website for registration details.



[Click to Enlarge](#)

[Garry Merkel signs the Columbia Basin Trust Act at the BC Legislature in 1995 with then Premier Mike Harcourt and founding member of CBT Josh Smienk.](#)



Columbia Basin Trust Board Appointments - Three New Directors Join Regional Board

Friday, April 30, 2010

CBT welcomes three new members to its Board this year and would like to also recognize the continued contribution of nine of its current members.

Bob Smith from Valemount, Cindy Gallinger from the Elk Valley and Ron Oszust from Golden were recently appointed to the CBT Board of Directors for two-year terms. Oszust has been a director with CBT in two previous terms from 2000-2004 and 2006-2008.

"We are fortunate to have these new members as they all exhibit a strong history of community engagement and a passion for this Basin," said Garry Merkel, CBT Board Chair. "At the same time, we are bidding a fond farewell to three longstanding members Jeannette Townsend, Evelyn Cutts and Loni Parker; they will be deeply missed, but their contributions will live on in the Basin."

The reappointed Board members include:

- Garry Merkel from Kimberley is reappointed for a one-year term;
- Ronald Miles from Cranbrook is reappointed for a one-year term;
- Denise Birdstone from Grasmere, nominated by the Ktunaxa Nation Council, is reappointed for a two-year term; and
- William Trehwella from Warfield, nominated by the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, is reappointed for a two-year term.

Existing members include Mike Berg (Nelson), Greg Deck (Radium Hot Springs), Jim Miller (Creston), Paul Peterson (Burton), and Richard (Kim) D. Deane (Rossland).

"I'm pleased to welcome new members to the Board, and would like to extend my appreciation to those members who have completed their term," said the Minister of Community and Rural Development, Bill Bennett. "The Board has been very effective in advancing CBT's priorities and regional interests and I have no doubt that will continue."

CBT's 12-member board is appointed by the Province. Members consist of an appointee from each regional government in the Basin (five regional districts and Ktunaxa Nation Council), and six additional directors who also must be residents of the Columbia Basin. Read Board member bios [here](#).

The Board meets six times a year, and minutes from these meetings are available online at www.cbt.org/board.

Housing Expertise Available to Basin Communities; CBT Partners with BCNPHA

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and the BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA) are partnering to support Basin communities and organizations in taking action on local affordable housing concerns through CBT's new Affordable Housing Resources Program.

Through the partnership, communities and organizations are able to evaluate options relating to existing housing projects, assess potential housing projects and develop plans, and understand how to work with a housing developer. The program will link communities and organizations with experienced affordable housing consultants and with other communities or organizations that have relevant experience. The cost of accessing these resources will be subsidized by CBT.

"CBT is launching this program in response to requests from Basin communities and organizations for access to housing expertise and resources, as well as information sharing around housing issues," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "We know that affordable housing issues can be complex and challenging. This program will help communities get the information they need to make sound decisions in determining their next steps, whether that help is needed in developing new projects, or managing existing ones."

Karen Stone, Executive Director, BCNPHA, added: "The partnership between CBT and BCNPHA allows communities to direct their own outcomes, while being supported by strategic resources. BCNPHA is excited by the opportunity to serve as a catalyst in the linking process and to work with the amazing communities within the Columbia Basin, towards ensuring innovative housing options."

This program will not duplicate supports that are already available to communities or community organizations through other channels, and where appropriate, may complement existing supports. Given that the program is new, CBT and BCNPHA will seek feedback from communities and community organizations on the program and will improve the program as needed.

To learn more about the program or to access affordable housing experts, call 1.800.505.8998 or email housinghelp@cbt.org. Learn more about CBT's other social initiatives and the Social Strategic Plan at www.cbt.org/social.

BCNPHA is a provincial, member-based organization that represents the non-profit housing sector, and provides leadership and support to housing providers in order to facilitate a high standard of affordable housing throughout BC. Learn more about the BCNPHA at www.bcnpha.ca.

Community Social Planning in the Basin

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Cultivating the vibrant well-being of a community can often be assisted through a process called community social planning. Effective community social planning is about finding solutions to community issues and working collaboratively to address the social, cultural, economic and environmental needs of a community.

Community social planning takes time and cooperation on the part of many individuals, community organizations and local governments - and this process is starting to happen across the Columbia Basin.

CBT recognizes the importance of strong community planning processes, and has made it a priority to support the integration of social perspectives into community and regional planning policy and practice. As part of achieving its priority, CBT recently took part in two, one-day workshops held in Cranbrook and Rossland on the topic of community social planning.

"Community social planning is a multi-sector process for developing evidence-based policies and programs for local action on priority issues," said Scott Graham, one of the keynote speakers and Manager of Research at the Social Planning and Research Council of BC. "One of the central challenges of work is resources and inspiring people to believe they can achieve consensus on local priority areas, build solutions together and act in coordinated ways across diverse sectors."

Graham was joined by a co-keynote speaker, Jill Zacharias, the Social Development Coordinator for the City of Revelstoke. Both speakers led participants through the various elements of successful community social planning, and admitted that while there is no easy solution that would work for every community, the act of engaging in dialogue is the beginning.

"It is critical to develop plans 'from the ground up' that are rooted in the realities the community is facing and linked to the availability of both human and community 'capital'," said Zacharias. "But it's okay to dream a little and envision what the ideal situation would look like and what you might need to do to get there. We're talking about meeting current needs while ensuring the needs of the future are met as well. That's why it's important to support organizational capacity building to promote the overall social sustainability of our communities."

The workshops were offered by a number of community partners, including Interior Health, the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC), the BC Cancer Agency, the Canadian Cancer Society, the BC Healthy Living Alliance and the Kootenay and Boundary Healthy Living Alliance.

"The Traction for Community Action workshops invited those from the health sector, community development, private sector, social services, youth centres, environment and local government to participate in sessions intended to help communities take action to address their local issues and concerns," explained Aimee Ambrosone, Manager of Planning and Development. "We had workshops on citizen engagement, how to create a community social plan, how to create a constructive space for dialogue, and how to use research indicators. The participation in these workshops was wonderful and we hope the beginning to some answers for many communities."

In addition to these workshops, a number of presentations were made about the process of community social planning, including a panel of local government representatives that shared perspectives on how to get engaged with community issues and how to work collaboratively with government

To learn more about community social planning, visit the Social Planning and Research Council of BC at www.sparc.bc.ca/.

CBT Supports Regional Training Centre in Nakusp

Wednesday, March 03, 2010

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is providing the Village of Nakusp with \$290,000 for a Regional Training Centre for emergency services, which fills a regional need for community-based training, as well as enhances the well-being of Nakusp and surrounding communities.

"We are pleased to support this regional facility through the training centre, and believe the project will have a positive impact to residents in Nakusp and surrounding areas," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "The collaboration between several emergency service organizations and the Village of Nakusp demonstrates what's possible when a community works together toward a common goal, and CBT is proud to be a part of that."

The Training Centre will include on-site training for all the volunteers and staff to maintain or improve their skills without needing to undertake expensive travel costs for courses. This Training Centre is one aspect of a \$2,315,000 project to create a facility that will guarantee a permanent home for the region's Emergency Social Services, the Nakusp Volunteer Fire Department, Arrow Lakes Search and Rescue, the regional Provincial Emergency Preparedness agency.

The Village of Nakusp has also received \$1,345,000 through the Community Adjustment Fund, part of the Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan, in addition to its own contribution of \$550,000 and a contribution from Arrow Lakes Search and Rescue towards this project.

"The Village of Nakusp was very fortunate to have been approved by the federal government for this project and we are extremely pleased and grateful with the support that CBT has given this project and our community," said Karen Hamling, Mayor, Village of Nakusp. "This project brings together our emergency services groups in a way never realized in the region before; the new, stronger partnerships built will continue throughout the region for years to come."

The new building is anticipated to be completed in March 2011.

CBT Recognizes Work of Founding Board Member, Jeannette Townsend

Friday, April 30, 2010

CBT bids farewell to one of its founding Board members, Jeannette Townsend of Valemount.

"Jeannette's history with CBT goes back to the days before there was a CBT, and her passion and dedication to this organization, and to the people of this region, have been a gift to all of us," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO.

Garry Merkel, CBT Board Chair, toasted Townsend at a dinner event and also spoke of her passion and the legacy she left with CBT, her community and the Basin.

"Jeannette was one of the founding members of the Columbia River Treaty Committee that directed the formation of CBT. As a charter Board member she dedicated countless days attending meetings throughout the Basin - no small task given the travel logistics from Valemount," said Merkel. "CBT and all Basin residents owe Jeannette a large debt of gratitude, particularly those from the Valemount area; Jeannette made sure her home town was recognized and treated equitably with the rest of the Basin."

Townsend's history with CBT sprung from her first appointment as Village of Valemount Mayor in 1990.

At that time she became aware of a need for the foresters in the community to get more annual allowable cuts. In discussions over how to support the forestry community, Townsend became aware of the impacts on her community as a result of the Columbia River Treaty (CRT).

A local committee was formed to look for compensation from the effects of the dams created through the CRT as a way to support the forestry industry of Valemount and the region. During an interview with CBC Radio, the Mayor of Golden at the time, Fred Demmon Jr., heard Townsend's comments. Demmon had been in contact with Josh Smienk and a few other local politicians from the Columbia Basin region on the topic of the CRT and its effect on communities. Soon after, Townsend joined Smienk and others to form the Columbia River Treaty Committee which led to successful negotiations with the Province to create Columbia Basin Trust.

"We started from scratch, not knowing exactly what we were going to do," said Townsend. "It was a grassroots movement and there were a lot of us working together to get action."

Townsend said even after CBT was formed in 1995, there remained a collaborative approach to shaping CBT. It was an approach that didn't just speak to the political decision makers, but that reached out to all residents.

"There were many planning meetings to try to figure out what CBT should be, and we involved all the people of the Basin through our symposia the first two years. Through their ideas and feedback, the 1997 Columbia Basin Management Plan was created. This still guides the work of CBT, and I am immensely proud of what CBT is today and that we achieved it."

In her 15 years with CBT, Townsend has been part of its growth and said it is astounding to think how it's gone from distributing \$1.25 million in direct benefits to the region, to the current \$15 million.

"The opportunity to have been involved in the creation of CBT and the legacy that it has created for the people of the Basin is something I will always regard an honour and a privilege. I was here for the conception and the birth of CBT, and now I am leaving it in its adolescence. Neil Muth and the staff he has around him are absolutely excellent, and I know they will continue to do wonderful things."

When asked what she's most proud of, Townsend said it is the combination of the various programs, initiatives and opportunities that CBT has created that makes her proud.

"Opportunities for youth, opportunities for greater education and the work CBT supports towards achieving greater social, economic and environmental well-being is something I am very proud to have been a part of," added Townsend.

Townsend said another legacy she has seen evolving over the last few years, is a shared sense of Basin culture.

"People are more aware now of the different parts of the Columbia Basin region and there seems to be a new feeling of cohesiveness, of being part of some greater entity. This

Basin culture is something Garry [Merkel] has talked about for a long time, and we're now beginning to see it."

Townsend's term ended March 31, 2010. Valemount's current Mayor, Bob Smith, has been appointed to the CBT Board.

CBT Recognizes Long-Term Board Member, Evelyn Cutts

Friday, April 30, 2010

CBT bids farewell to long-term Board member Evelyn Cutts of Fernie.

"In her seven years with CBT, Evelyn has been a tremendous asset to CBT and to the region," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "Evelyn's participation on several Board committees was always with enthusiasm and with an educated voice."

Garry Merkel, CBT Board Chair, added: "Evelyn's strong sense of community and her direct understanding of the impacts arising from reservoir operations made her a valuable Board member. We will miss her as chair of CBT's Water Initiatives Committee. We all owe Evelyn a debt of gratitude for all she has done for CBT and Basin residents."

Cutts joined CBT's Board in 2003, bringing with her experience as an independent businesswoman who has co-owned and operated Sheep Mountain Outfitters for 30 years, as well as the Kooacanusa Lake Campsite, in addition to her experience as the Fernie mayor and being an active community member.

"I'm sad to be leaving CBT. Being on CBT's Board was a wonderful opportunity," said Cutts. "I love that this Board is representative of our whole region and that everyone who sits on it can take a regional approach; it is not just for the 'metropolitan' cities of the Basin."

Cutts said there were many great moments in her time with CBT, but said one of her fondest experiences has been her involvement in the Community Initiatives Program (CIP).

"With CIP you're able to see how CBT's legacy is affecting every person in the Basin. You see community programs or organizations doing things that otherwise wouldn't happen if they didn't have access to funding."

Cutts added that she is proud of the calibre of staff at CBT and their dedication and respect for the Basin and the mission of CBT.

"CBT continues to provide opportunities for communities to heal from the effects caused by the construction of the dams under the Columbia River Treaty, and we are very fortunate to have CBT for our region," she explained.

Cutt's position on the Board expired on March 31, 2010 to comply with the BC Government's Board Resourcing and Development Office policy that stipulates a maximum term of six years on any one board.

The BC Government has appointed Cindy Gallinger from Elkford, effective March 31, 2010. Learn more about CBT's Board of Directors at www.cbt.org/board.

CBT Rewards Residents For Community Service - College Community Service Awards Now Available

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Applications are now available for Columbia Basin Trust's (CBT) College Community Service Awards.

CBT offers these awards in partnership with four Basin-based Colleges. The 22 awards valued at \$2,000 are divided amongst students attending Selkirk College (10), College of the Rockies (10), Valemount Campus of College of New Caledonia (1) and the Revelstoke Centre of Okanagan College (1). Residents who are thinking of going back to school, but need some financial help, and have been actively volunteering in their community may qualify for these awards.

"It's not uncommon for students to put their post-secondary education on hold after high school " for travel, work, family or any number of reasons," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "When they do decide to return to school, students find a shortage of scholarship options and that's where CBT's award program helps bridge that gap."

Based on volunteer community service rather than academic standing, these awards provide an opportunity for those residents who are already proving to be valuable assets in their communities to further their education. Volunteer service refers to a significant contribution of time, energy and/or talent that fosters social, environmental or economic well-being without resulting in a financial benefit to the applicant.

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

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

CBT Acknowledges Basin Volunteers

Monday, April 19, 2010

The Board and Staff of Columbia Basin Trust would like to acknowledge all Basin residents who dedicate their time and energy to volunteer in their communities.

Volunteers play a critical role in creating and fostering the social, economic, and environmental legacy in our communities.

CBT would like to take this opportunity during National Volunteer Week to say a heartfelt, "Thank You!"

Periwinkle Children's Centre Now Accepting Registration

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

Submitted by Debra Barrette

Periwinkle Children's Centre in Kaslo is opening its doors full-time to children age 2 ½ -5-years for the best kind of play, social and educational experiences and child care possible.

"This very necessary service for Kaslo families will comply with the exacting standards of B.C. child care licensing regulations, and our new staff is enthusiastic, trained in early childhood specifics and caring nurturing individuals," said Debra Barrett, manager. "We are pleased to have caregivers Melissa Calder, Debbie Perrault and Betty Gutierrez join our team."

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) supported the centre earlier this month with \$35,000 towards the centre's redevelopment into a group day care facility in recognition of the growing community need for such services.

"CBT actively engages with communities in order to take action on issues residents identify as priorities, and we realize that the need for quality child care is a growing one in many Basin communities," said Lynda Lafleur, CBT Community Liaison. "We were pleased to see how Kaslo came together, to find a solution and we hope families enjoy the expanded services at Periwinkle."

CBT funding will be used for a successful start-up and for renovations to increase building space. The new plan includes a glassed-in greenhouse room, an added quiet area for napping, office space, a laundry area and enlarged dual purpose entry way and mud room. Barrett said the character of the heritage building will remain the same. The building has been in use for child care since 1982 when the dilapidated park pavilion was revitalized.

Periwinkle is located in a beautiful spot adjacent to Vimy Park in Kaslo - near beaches, river walks, the gazebo and playground, and open fields. An emphasis on exploring the environment and natural sciences will be part of the daily programming, as the school believes in the comment made by David Suzuki that 'children who play and learn in nature become adults who care for and respect their environment as well.' The centre will provide lunches to the children, but a Food Sustainability project will be part of the centre's future efforts, which will entail providing quality food on a small budget.

Parents are invited to contact Periwinkle to register their children for full or half days five days a week, including summer months. Call 1.250.353.2222 or drop by during the week of April 19, please be prepared with your child's care card number, your dentist's and doctor's contact information and a small photo of your child.

Volunteer board members deserve congratulations and thanks for many meetings, fundraising, planning and for staying with this project over the last several years. Thanks to Joy Lukacs, Kiara Lynch, Sarah Lawless, Lindsay Frary, Patti Willot, Leanne Blancher, Angela Burton and Debra Barrett.

Other thanks go to funders and supporters Kaslo Early Childhood Coalition, North Kootenay Lake Community Services, CBT, Success by Six, Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake, Katimavik, Regional District of Central Kootenay, and Village of Kaslo.

Individuals, Betty Pratt-Johnson, Selma Ozkocek, Don Scarlett, Ed Korens, Anne Heard and Bill Lynch also contributed skills and support.

CBT Launches 'Summer Works Program' to Boost Basin Business - \$390,000 Toward Wage Subsidies for Student Summer Jobs

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is announcing \$390,000 to launch the 2010 Summer Works Program, a Basin-wide wage subsidy program for small business and social enterprise to create up to 100 summer student jobs in the region.

The program aims to encourage businesses to provide employment this summer for high school and post-secondary students by providing up to eight dollars per hour in wage subsidies for entry level and career-related positions.

"CBT sees this program as strengthening the economic well-being of the Basin, while addressing a current market need," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "The subsidies will assist businesses with increased staff during a time when resources are tight, as well as provide summer employment opportunities for students."

CBT is partnering with College of the Rockies (COTR) to administer the program. The goal is to provide a quick turnaround on successful applications so businesses can move forward with hiring for this summer. Applications for funding will be available on CBT's website on March 22, 2010 and will be assessed on a first come, first served basis.

Businesses and the work must be located in the Basin to qualify and must also meet minimum criteria. Full eligibility requirements and guidelines are available at www.cbt.org/summerworks or call 1.877.489.2687 ext 3644.

The 2010 Summer Works Program is being launched as a result of consultations with organizations, businesses and residents currently engaged in addressing economic issues in the Basin. This input, along with conversations with CBT's Economic Advisory Committee, evaluation of existing programs with economic focus and previous studies of economic issues and challenges, helped develop CBT's Economic Initiatives Strategic Plan for 2010-2012. The plan will be available online on March 22, 2010.

For more information on CBT's other economic focused programs, visit www.cbt.org/economic or call 1.800.505.8998.

RELATED ITEMS

 [Learn more about the Summer Works Program from the Program Guidelines and Fact Sheet.](#)

CBT Supports Regional Visitor Gateway

Friday, February 26, 2010

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is contributing \$300,000 to the Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce (NDCC) in support of their efforts to restore a historic landmark and increase tourism infrastructure in Nelson.

"The restoration of the CPR Station to function as a new Visitor Gateway to Nelson is a landmark project for Nelson that will be an anchor for the revitalization of the entire western end of Baker Street," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "CBT is proud to support this project as it is not only restoring a historic landmark, but it will have lasting economic benefits to residents and businesses in Nelson."

The NDCC has secured the donation of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) Station and one acre of surrounding land from CPR on the west end of Nelson's historic downtown core for the development of a Regional Visitor Gateway (RVG). The station is the only example of this type of architecture in Western Canada.

"Columbia Basin Trust's generous financial contribution to the restoration of the historic CP Rail station at the foot of Baker Street will enable the Chamber to begin reconstruction. It was extremely important to receive CBT funding at this time, as it allows for immediate reroofing of the building to prevent further structural damage, and also begin construction of the public washrooms, and interior renovation work."

The building renovations are expected to be complete in 2013 and will include a full service Regional Visitor Information Centre with an interpretive display that showcases the region's recreation and tourism products, investment opportunities, heritage, arts and cultural diversity. It will also feature a "Made in the Kootenays" marketing showcase.

Adjacent to the Information Centre, new offices for the Chamber of Commerce, the Nelson Economic Development Partnership, and the Regional Destination Marketing Organization will be housed. A range of private and public sector organizations will fill the remaining portions of the building, adding to the location's vibrancy. The project will also create a new transit hub for the city, moving that function away from the current congested hub at the corner of Ward and Baker Streets.

The development of the Regional Visitor Gateway dovetails with a city-wide development plan to enhance Nelson's waterfront, create a pedestrian corridor to the downtown business centre, and revitalize industrial areas.

CBT Partners with Castlegar on Youth Initiative - Working toward a Youth Friendly Castlegar

Friday, March 05, 2010

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) will be working with the City of Castlegar in collaboration with various community stakeholders over the next five months to create an Integral Youth Engagement Strategy for Castlegar.

"CBT is pleased to be working with the City of Castlegar on this project, and to help see it through so that it may reach the kind of success that will become a model for other communities to use in their own pursuits of creating youth friendly and youth-inclusive communities," said Dana Welsh, CBT Basin Youth Liaison.

Kevin Chernoff, city councillor, said the City has been working toward this project for some time in order to be operationally prepared to implement any plan derived from this process.

"Today's youth are the people we are going to depend on in the future as leaders, voters, workers, friends and neighbours. We will ask them to make crucial decisions for all of our futures. Now more than ever we need to be doing everything we can to make sure their voice is heard and their participation is crucial to this process," said Chernoff. "That is why the City of Castlegar is excited to be partnering with Columbia Basin Trust in this initiative to explore youth engagement strategies."

The Integral Youth Engagement Strategy will bring together youth, community services groups and local government to find solutions in planning and programming to better meet the needs of Castlegar youth and better integrate youth in community decision-making.

The project will be implemented in two stages beginning with the gathering of information through consultations with youth and other stakeholders, an online survey tool and a visioning session with local youth leaders. The second stage will analyze the information gathered in the first phase and will develop into a Youth Strategy, which will become a working map for future action-oriented goals and city-wide programming. Youth will be engaged in all aspects of this project, and will have an opportunity to provide input on the Youth Strategy.

CBT will be supporting the City throughout the project as a resource on youth strategies, as well as financing a project facilitator.

CBT believes in taking an active role in developing opportunities for young people in the Basin and through CBT Youth Initiatives, work within communities across the Basin to support an active youth culture. To learn more about CBT Youth Initiatives or for a chance to become involved, visit www.cbt.org/Youth.

Housing Expertise Available to Basin Communities; CBT Partners with BCNPHA

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and the BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA) are partnering to support Basin communities and organizations in taking action on local affordable housing concerns through CBT's new Affordable Housing Resources Program.

Through the partnership, communities and organizations are able to evaluate options relating to existing housing projects, assess potential housing projects and develop plans, and understand how to work with a housing developer. The program will link communities and organizations with experienced affordable housing consultants and with other communities or organizations that have relevant experience. The cost of accessing these resources will be subsidized by CBT.

"CBT is launching this program in response to requests from Basin communities and organizations for access to housing expertise and resources, as well as information sharing around housing issues," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "We know that affordable housing issues can be complex and challenging. This program will help communities get the information they need to make sound decisions in determining their next steps, whether that help is needed in developing new projects, or managing existing ones."

Karen Stone, Executive Director, BCNPHA, added: "The partnership between CBT and BCNPHA allows communities to direct their own outcomes, while being supported by strategic resources. BCNPHA is excited by the opportunity to serve as a catalyst in the linking process and to work with the amazing communities within the Columbia Basin, towards ensuring innovative housing options."

This program will not duplicate supports that are already available to communities or community organizations through other channels, and where appropriate, may complement existing supports. Given that the program is new, CBT and BCNPHA will seek feedback from communities and community organizations on the program and will improve the program as needed.

To learn more about the program or to access affordable housing experts, call 1.800.505.8998 or email housinghelp@cbt.org. Learn more about CBT's other social initiatives and the Social Strategic Plan at www.cbt.org/social.

BCNPHA is a provincial, member-based organization that represents the non-profit housing sector, and provides leadership and support to housing providers in order to facilitate a high standard of affordable housing throughout BC. Learn more about the BCNPHA at www.bcnpha.ca.



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CBT provided \$100,000 to help Selkirk College with the planning and renovation of McCarthy Hall to create student residential housing on the Tenth Street Campus.



Affordable Housing Resources Program

CBT is helping communities and organizations make decisions around affordable housing efforts by providing the best possible information through a partnership with the BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA).

Through the partnership, communities and organizations are able to evaluate options related to existing housing projects, assess potential housing projects and develop plans, and understand how to work with a housing developer. The partnership will link communities and organizations with experienced affordable housing consultants and with other communities or other organizations that have relevant experience. The costs of accessing these resources are subsidized by CBT.

The Affordable Housing Resources Program will help a community or community organization:

- Build its understanding of the necessary steps needed to take in order to create a housing project;
- Assess its current status and situation and develop a strategy to address a housing need;
- Perform an initial feasibility analysis of a housing project;
- Develop an affordable housing strategy;
- Manage, operate or assess options related to an existing housing project; and
- Understand how to work with a housing developer.

Who Can Apply:

CBT has kept the criteria as open ended as possible, because communities have diverse needs in the area of affordable housing, and because communities define affordable housing differently.

A wide range of community organizations are eligible for the program, from non-profits to public housing committees to housing authorities to local governments.

How To Apply:

To request assistance from the program, contact housinghelp@cbt.org or call CBT at 1-800-505-8998.

Deadline For Applications: There is no application deadline.

Community Social Planning in the Basin

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Cultivating the vibrant well-being of a community can often be assisted through a process called community social planning. Effective community social planning is about finding solutions to community issues and working collaboratively to address the social, cultural, economic and environmental needs of a community.

Community social planning takes time and cooperation on the part of many individuals, community organizations and local governments - and this process is starting to happen across the Columbia Basin.

CBT recognizes the importance of strong community planning processes, and has made it a priority to support the integration of social perspectives into community and regional planning policy and practice. As part of achieving its priority, CBT recently took part in two, one-day workshops held in Cranbrook and Rossland on the topic of community social planning.

"Community social planning is a multi-sector process for developing evidence-based policies and programs for local action on priority issues," said Scott Graham, one of the keynote speakers and Manager of Research at the Social Planning and Research Council of BC. "One of the central challenges of work is resources and inspiring people to believe they can achieve consensus on local priority areas, build solutions together and act in coordinated ways across diverse sectors."

Graham was joined by a co-keynote speaker, Jill Zacharias, the Social Development Coordinator for the City of Revelstoke. Both speakers led participants through the various elements of successful community social planning, and admitted that while there is no easy solution that would work for every community, the act of engaging in dialogue is the beginning.

"It is critical to develop plans 'from the ground up' that are rooted in the realities the community is facing and linked to the availability of both human and community 'capital'," said Zacharias. "But it's okay to dream a little and envision what the ideal situation would look like and what you might need to do to get there. We're talking about meeting current needs while ensuring the needs of the future are met as well. That's why it's important to support organizational capacity building to promote the overall social sustainability of our communities."

The workshops were offered by a number of community partners, including Interior Health, the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC), the BC Cancer Agency, the Canadian Cancer Society, the BC Healthy Living Alliance and the Kootenay and Boundary Healthy Living Alliance.

"The Traction for Community Action workshops invited those from the health sector, community development, private sector, social services, youth centres, environment and local government to participate in sessions intended to help communities take action to address their local issues and concerns," explained Aimee Ambrosone, Manager of Planning and Development. "We had workshops on citizen engagement, how to create a community social plan, how to create a constructive space for dialogue, and how to use research indicators. The participation in these workshops was wonderful and we hope the beginning to some answers for many communities."

In addition to these workshops, a number of presentations were made about the process of community social planning, including a panel of local government representatives that shared perspectives on how to get engaged with community issues and how to work collaboratively with government

To learn more about community social planning, visit the Social Planning and Research Council of BC at www.sparc.bc.ca/.



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CBT Rewards Residents For Community Service - College Community Service Awards Now Available

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Applications are now available for Columbia Basin Trust's (CBT) College Community Service Awards.

CBT offers these awards in partnership with four Basin-based Colleges. The 22 awards valued at \$2,000 are divided amongst students attending Selkirk College (10), College of the Rockies (10), Valemount Campus of College of New Caledonia (1) and the *Revelstoke Centre of Okanagan College (1). Residents who are thinking of going back to school, but need some financial help, and have been actively volunteering in their community may qualify for these awards.

"It's not uncommon for students to put their post-secondary education on hold after high school " for travel, work, family or any number of reasons," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "When they do decide to return to school, students find a shortage of scholarship options and that's where CBT's award program helps bridge that gap."

Based on volunteer community service rather than academic standing, these awards provide an opportunity for those residents who are already proving to be valuable assets in their communities to further their education. Volunteer service refers to a significant contribution of time, energy and/or talent that fosters social, environmental or economic well-being without resulting in a financial benefit to the applicant.

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

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


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The deadline to submit an application for the College Community Service Award is June 30, 2010.

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Castle Wood Village Grand Opening

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Castlegar's first seniors' housing development celebrates its expansion. Castle Wood Village, which first opened its doors in 2002, recently celebrated the completion of a new addition that will provide more housing options for local seniors.

The \$4,344,000 expansion of Castle Wood Village is a joint project between Columbia Basin Trust, Golden Life Management and Pace Setter Construction.

"CBT is proud to be a partner in the expansion of Castle Wood Village, which is helping to meet the growing need for excellent seniors' care and housing in the region," says Johnny Strilaeff, CBT Vice President of Investments. "We invest in these properties not only because they provide positive, long-term value to CBT's investment portfolio, but we believe this is a way CBT can make a real difference in the lives of many families."

The addition of 33 new suites for a total of 110 independent and assisted living suites makes Castle Wood Village the largest of its kind in the West Kootenay. It provides comfortable housing options and the security of various support systems to help seniors enjoy an active and independent lifestyle.

"Given the great demand for seniors housing services in the Castlegar area, we are excited and proud to offer housing and services that will allow more seniors to live comfortably, close to their friends and family," says Endre Lillejord, CEO of Golden Life Management. "On a personal note, it has been wonderful to watch Castle Wood Village evolve into such an important and vital part of the Castlegar community. We are committed to giving our best to our residents and their families."

The expansion of Castle Wood Village brings CBT's ownership interests to a total of eight seniors' housing care facilities in the region, offering a total of 803 living suites.

Castle Wood Village is hosting an open house on Saturday, May 15 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. The public is invited to attend and staff will be on hand to provide tours of this state-of-the-art building.

Communities Seal Deal to Dive into Water Conservation

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Nineteen Basin communities signed CBT's Water Smart Charter on March 24, along with 18 other local governments. CBT's *Water Smart* initiative aims to reduce community water use across the Columbia Basin by 20 per cent by 2015. By signing the Charter, communities are committing to work together and with CBT to achieve regional water conservation goals.

The event took place at a regional workshop in Cranbrook which kicked off the first steps to creating a Water Smart Action Plan for each of the 19 participating communities.

A Water Smart Team will provide one-on-one technical support to help communities prepare, develop and monitor a customized plan, and CBT will provide up to \$10,000 in matching funding to support the implementation of the plans.

The local governments participating in this initiative include: Castlegar, Cranbrook, Creston, Elkford, Fernie, Fruitvale, Golden, Kaslo, Montrose, Nakusp, Nelson, Radium, Salmo, Slocan, the Regional Districts of Central and East Kootenay, Sparwood, Trail and Valemount.

View the Charter and learn more about CBT's Water Smart initiative at www.cbt.org/watersmart.

Sharing Wisdom: Cranbrook Students Connect With Aboriginal Culture

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

(Cranbrook) - Being a high school student can often feel like a fish out of water. Being an Aboriginal student can amplify this feeling. But, thanks to some innovative high school students, this is changing.

The Wild Warriors, a group of Aboriginal students at Cranbrook's Mount Baker Senior Secondary School (MBSS) are helping Aboriginal students feel more confident and empowered, and connected to their culture through a project the group dubbed - Sharing Wisdom.

Working with the MBSS Aboriginal Education department, and funded by MBSS, the School District, Columbia Basin Trust, and the Vancouver Foundation, the students and the Aboriginal Education Support Workers are able to connect with Elders from the Ktunaxa and Métis Nations. The Elders regularly participate in the school and have become an integral part of the Aboriginal Education program bringing information and wisdom to the students about their cultures, traditions and languages.

"Over the years, Aboriginal youth have expressed a need to talk to an Elder about who they are as Aboriginal youth and to ask cultural questions," said Debbie McPhee, an Aboriginal Education Support Worker at MBSS. "The Sharing Wisdom project has exceeded our expectations. From the beginning the involvement of the Elders has been significant and enlightening."

Joan O'Neil is one of the Elders participating, and reflected on this project in a project report stating: "By my adding bits here and there of where they come from and generations gone by, I hope to achieve the connection of each and every one of them to their heritage, their culture, and language. They are so important to our Nation. I hope to help the youth to communicate with unfamiliar surroundings and help them know who they are, where they come from and to be true to themselves."

The Elders have an office at MBSS and use the Aboriginal Education Centre (classroom) where they are accessible to youth and where they work with youth on specific projects. In addition, the Elders participate in other classes at MBSS such as photography and social studies where the classes discuss perspectives, stereotypes and discrimination, and the Métis Nation and its history in Canada.

One of the Elders also participated in a First Nations Studies class where an Elder recounted his experience and knowledge of residential schools. Aboriginal youth participating with the Elders are also currently working on a Storytellers Project to learn skills in public speaking and personal interviews to discuss individual challenges, dreams and their desires about their culture or families.

"Having the Elders at our school means a lot to me. They are always there when we need them and they always want to help us out," said Paetonn MacPherson, a grade 12 student. "Whenever I have a down day, I tend to go see the Elders and they always make things better by just talking or telling me stories."

"The greatest success of this project is the relationship between the Elders and the youth. Second to that are the relationships with Elders and staff and the authentic voice and advocacy for Aboriginal students that Elders bring to the school," said McPhee.

The Sharing Wisdom project will be part of the school until December 2010, with a commitment by MBSS and the School District to keep their funding commitments into the future as well.

McPhee said they are receiving requests from other communities about this project and she hopes it becomes a great example of the positive contribution Elders can make to the public education system.

"Elders have an integral role and responsibilities within Aboriginal cultures and are important to Aboriginal communities. I am hopeful the Elders will become an integral and important part of public education for the success of Aboriginal students," she said.

CBT Welcomes New Staff Member

Friday, April 09, 2010

CBT welcomed Carrie Schafer in April. Carrie is filling a 15-month maternity leave coverage as the community liaison for the Southeast region of the Columbia Basin.

Carrie has many years of experience working in the area of community development and community business needs, most recently as the Regional Community Development manager for College of the Rockies out of Cranbrook.



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Carrie Schafer, Community Liaison in Cranbrook.

"I'm really looking forward to working with communities in this position with CBT," said Carrie. "I enjoy the community development process and look forward to connecting with people and seeing how we can all work together towards creating success for our communities."

Carrie is working out of the Cranbrook office and can be reached at cschafer@cbt.org or 1.800.505.8998.

In addition to Carrie joining CBT, two summer students will be joining the team for the months of May through August.

Aita Bezzola will be working out of the Golden office with CBT's water and environment programs, researching alternative energy and waste management. Aita grew up in the Golden area and has been attending McGill University in Montreal for the past three years, where she has been studying biology and geography towards her Bachelor of Science.

In the Castlegar office, Ming Yan (Rachel) Li will be joining the Accounting department. Rachel grew up in China, and has lived in Castlegar since 2007. She has just completed her Accounting Diploma from Selkirk College. Rachel will be working closely with accounting staff assisting with payables, receivables and other accounting and administrative tasks.

Welcome to CBT!

