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Issue 22 - July 2010

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BASINLink Newsletter



SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Take Action
 Build Partnerships
 Strengthen Communities

2010 Columbia Basin Symposium • October 22-24 Revelstoke BC

Save the date for Shaping our Future Together

A [draft program](#) is available online and interested individuals can sign up now at www.cbt.org/2010symposium to receive a notification when registration opens. ...more



CBT Renewing Its Strategic Priorities

CBT is seeking input from Basin residents on its 2011 - 2015 Strategic Priorities. CBT sets its overall strategic priorities every three to four years. The priorities provide overarching direction for CBT in terms of delivering benefits, pursuing investment activities and managing corporate operations in the Columbia Basin region. The current strategic priorities expire this year. ...more



Add Your Photo to the myBasin Collection

Whether you live in Valemount, Golden, Cranbrook, Creston, Rossland, Nakusp or any point in between, all of us share something in common. We are all located in a region known as the Columbia River Basin (Basin), but more than that, we value a way of life that is uniquely our own. We recognized there's an opportunity to build on our common ground and to create an avenue for residents to connect at myBasin.ca. ...more



Congratulations 2010 YCSA Recipients

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) would like to congratulate the recipients of the 2010 Youth Community Service Award. Forty-five high school graduates were recently presented with \$2,000 toward their first year of post-secondary education or training for exemplary volunteer service in their community. See the 2010 recipients [here](#).

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Veneto Place: Attainable Housing in Fernie

Construction is nearly complete on a condo project that used an innovative approach to bring attainable housing to Fernie. Veneto Place is a joint partnership between Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), BC Housing, the City of Fernie, Fernie

FEATURES

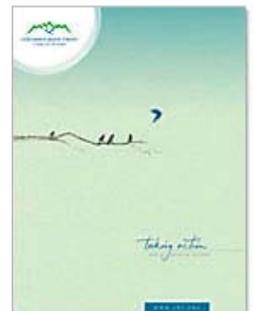
[Welcome Galadriel Watson](#)

[CURRENTS: Youth Water Forum 2010](#)

[Opportunity: Request for Proposals](#)



[Click to watch. Climate Change 101](#)



Now available: CBT's 2009/10 Annual Report, including CBT's Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2010.

for Report to Residents
2010.

Family Housing Society (FFHS) and Veneto Place Properties Ltd.

"This project is unlike any other in the province that we know of," said Johnny Strilaeff, CBT's VP of Investments.

"Not only is it an investment opportunity for CBT, but it also meets one of our goals in terms of addressing affordable housing issues in the Basin. This project brings to mind what our seniors' care facilities looked like ten years ago, and I hope it will be a model for similar projects in other communities moving forward."...more



CBT asked
Basin residents:
*What does the Columbia
Basin mean to you?*
Shelley Plotnikoff from
Crescent Valley said,

*"Family,
community and
freedom."*

HIGHLIGHTS

- [Revitalization of Golden Civic Centre Supported by CBT](#)
- [Moving Forward on Ecosystem Restoration in the Basin](#)
- [Cranbrook's Haven Gardens Celebrate Official Grand Opening](#)
- [Lake View Village Celebrates Grand Opening in Nelson](#)
- [Partnership with BC Conservation Foundation Provides \\$55,000 to Support Basin Bear Aware Programs](#)

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



2010 Symposium Program

Nearly 300 people from communities throughout the Columbia Basin attended the 2010 Columbia Basin Symposium: Shaping Our Future Together: Take Action, Build Partnerships, Strengthen Communities. Hosted by Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), the free Symposium took place October 22 to 24, 2010, in Revelstoke.



[View photos from Symposium](#)

The event sought to engage key leaders and residents active in their communities to collectively look toward the future of the Columbia Basin, while also discussing and addressing some of today's key issues. The Symposium included several facilitated sessions covering economic development, alternate energy, community engagement and building resilient organizations. Information presented at these sessions can be found in the [Presentation Section](#). Videos will also be made available in the coming weeks.

Basin residents were able to connect with one another to discuss issues affecting daily life in their communities, and identify possible responses and strategies to deal with those issues. [Download a PDF of the program.](#)

An evening of cultural entertainment featuring local and Basin talent was open to the public on Saturday evening. Photos from the event can be viewed on [CBT's flickr site](#).

Keynote Speaker - David Beurle

Founder and Managing Director Innovative Leadership Australia

David holds a firm conviction that the future of rural and regional areas, lies in the hands of the local people. He created Innovative Leadership, with the mission of bringing the tools and skills to the people who care the most - the people who choose to make rural towns, centers and regions their home.

He has a passion for rural life; having been raised on a farm and having worked all his life in, and with, rural communities.

His career has covered a wide range of experiences - from working for many years in the remotest parts of northern Australia, where cattle ranches are often over one million acres; to working at the highest levels of Government, with eight years as the 'right-hand man' to a senior Australian Cabinet Minister; the Western Australian Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries. This also included a short diversion as the producer of a pilot TV series that explored and showcased innovation in rural areas.

David's experience covers a similar breadth; from working on the ground with farmers and Aboriginal communities; to building international trade relations and strategic alliances between Australian farmers and their markets in Egypt, China, India and Europe. David has now provided leadership training to thousands of people and has worked extensively with hundreds of communities and regions across North America and Australia as they reinvent and revitalise themselves.

These days, David splits his time between Australia and North America, as he pursues his passion for community revitalization and creating vibrant and prosperous regions. Until recently he served on the Board of Directors of the Western Australian Community Foundation. His work in community and economic development has earned him - and his work - international, national and State awards.

For more information visit David's website, www.ila.net.au/.



CBT Renewing Its Strategic Priorities

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

CBT Seeking Input from Basin Residents on 2011-2015 Strategic Priorities

Columbia Basin Trust sets its overall strategic priorities every three to four years. The priorities provide overarching direction for CBT in terms of delivering benefits, pursuing investment activities and managing corporate operations in the Columbia Basin region. The current strategic priorities expire this year.

"Setting clear priorities helps Columbia Basin Trust decide how to best use our resources and helps to ensure residents understand how those resources are used to fulfill our mandate," says Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "Being responsive to community and regional needs is how CBT approaches its work in the Basin."

In developing the draft priorities for 2011-2015, CBT considered what it had accomplished in relation to its 2007-2010 priorities and what themes and issues were emerging from Basin communities, or were likely to emerge. A draft set of strategic priorities for 2011-2015 has been prepared based on that information.

Until September 30, 2010, CBT will be seeking feedback from residents on the draft priorities. Progress CBT has made in relation to its 2007-2010 priorities can be found in the [Annual Report](#).

Feedback on the draft priorities is now complete. Thank you to everyone who responded.

CBT hopes to be able to share the final strategic priorities with Basin residents at the 2010 Columbia Basin Symposium, being held in Revelstoke on October 22-24.

The strategic priorities for 2011-2015 form part of the Columbia Basin Management Plan (CBMP). The CBMP also includes CBT's Charter, which outlines CBT's vision, mission and core values. You can view the Charter [online](#) or request a copy from CBT.

RELATED ITEMS

-  [2011-15 Draft Strategic Priorities \(68.12 KB\)](#)
-  [Strategic Priorities 2007-2010 \(1.33 MB\)](#)

Join us at "myBasin"

Monday, July 05, 2010

Whether you live in Valemount, Golden, Cranbrook, Creston, Rossland, Nakusp or any point in between, all of us share something in common. We are all located in a region known as the Columbia River Basin (Basin), but more than that, we value a way of life that is uniquely our own.

Last year, we asked residents to tell us what living in the Basin means to them. The response was overwhelming and we sifted through over 1,000 statements and photo entries.

Inevitably, there were some words that just kept popping up: Beauty, Wilderness, Family, Community. Throughout all the entries, there was a familiar feeling, a common thread woven from around the Basin, which we wanted to share with you.

The "wordle," shown above captures those sentiments.

We recognize there's an opportunity to build on our common ground, to create an avenue for residents from all across the Basin to connect in a virtual community where we can share photos and stories, dialogue with each other and with CBT.

Welcome to myBasin. While still early in its formation, we hope you'll come visit us at myBasin.ca and share a photo or a thought.

And if you need a little more incentive, you could win a myBasin "wordle" T-shirt.

So come and say hello.

45 Grads Receive \$2,000 CBT Award

Thursday, July 08, 2010

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) would like to congratulate the recipients of the 2010 Youth Community Service Award. Forty-five high school graduates were recently presented with \$2,000 toward their first year of post-secondary education or training for exemplary volunteer service in their community.

"The recipients of this award contribute in a positive way to their community and we want to commend them on the difference their volunteering is making," said Neil Muth, CBT, President and CEO. "We are proud of all the 2010 graduates across the Basin for their achievements and wish them every success in their future endeavours."

All students graduating from a Basin high school, alternate school or other institution that grants graduation diplomas recognized by the Ministry of Education are eligible for this award, which is presented each year. Awards totalling \$90,000 are distributed to communities in the Columbia Basin based on the number of graduating students. Last year, CBT increased the number of awards from 20 to 45.

CBT proudly supports students in the Columbia Basin with two scholarship programs, the Youth Community Service Award and the College Community Service Award, both of which are based on volunteer community service rather than academic standing.

RELATED ITEMS

 [List of Award Winners by Community \(23.59 KB\)](#)

Veneto Place: CBT Invests In Fernie Attainable Housing Project

Monday, July 05, 2010

Construction is nearly complete on a condo project that used an innovative approach to bring attainable housing to Fernie. Veneto Place is a joint partnership between Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), BC Housing, the City of Fernie, Fernie Family Housing Society (FFHS) and Veneto Place Properties Ltd.

The 45-unit strata condominium complex will provide attainable rental and ownership opportunities for Fernie residents.

Originally brought forward by the developer, Parastone Developments, Veneto Place addresses issues raised by an independent consultant hired by the City to review affordable housing opportunities in Fernie.

"This project is unlike any other in the province that we know of," said Johnny Strilaeff, CBT's VP of Investments. "Not only is it an investment opportunity for CBT, but it also meets one of our goals in terms of addressing affordable housing issues in the Basin. This project brings to mind what our seniors' care facilities looked like ten years ago, and I hope it will be a model for similar projects in other communities moving forward."

All partners in the project are committed to making it an attainable housing project, and are aiming to sell or rent the units at 20 per cent below market value. CBT is contributing completion financing of \$4.5 million for the project, while BC Housing is providing Veneto Place: Attainable Housing in Fernie interim construction financing of \$7 million.

"Given the amount of effort and alignment required from all parties, the commitment of each partner was critical," added Strilaeff.

"The construction of this development is a testament to the power of partnerships," said Simon Howse, on behalf of Veneto Properties. "We need to acknowledge the efforts of our federal, provincial and municipal leaders. The Veneto project received tremendous support from Columbia Basin Trust and the community at large was instrumental in making attainable housing a priority in Fernie."

The project consists of three separate apartment style buildings, with 15 units in each building. All buildings will contain a mix of ownership and rental properties:

- Nine units will be retained by the developer and rented through FFHS;
- 12 units will be purchased by the Province through BC Housing to be used as affordable rentals managed by FFHS; and
- 24 units will be sold to local residents at attainable pricing with permanent housing agreements registered to the title.

Says Corrie Hurlburt, Property Manager at FFHS: "The addition of the 45 units to the affordable housing stock in Fernie will go a long way to address some of the identified gaps in housing. The units provide an excellent option for local renters to transition to affordable home ownership, alleviating the potential for stagnation within the rental sector. We appreciate the outstanding work done by Parastone to successfully bring all the partners together in such a short period of time."

Adds Fernie Mayor, Cindy Corrigan: "Veneto Place is a welcome addition to the City of Fernie. Affordable housing is a key concern and this is a great first step in addressing it. Moreover, City staff and Parastone have been working toward establishing a partnership which will ensure the affordability of housing in the region in the future. Many thanks to all the partners for taking the initiative and moving forward on this project."

A show suite will be available for viewing in the summer of 2010. Contact the Fernie Family Housing Society for more information on how to qualify for Veneto Place at 1.250.423.4239

CBT Supports Golden Civic Centre 'Rebirth'

Thursday, July 15, 2010

CBT is contributing \$250,000 towards the redevelopment of the Golden Civic Centre. The Golden District Arts Council, also known as Kicking Horse Culture, has worked proactively with the Town of Golden these past four years to raise awareness and funds to 'rebirth' this heritage hall into Golden's dedicated cultural space.

The 62-year-old centre was built by volunteers after World War II, with original wood trusses from the Columbia River Lumber Company circa 1911. Scheduled for completion in 2011, 100 years later, the hall will be fit for a new life cycle as Golden's only dedicated performing arts and culture centre.

"These efforts will enrich the whole community by increasing this building's use as a centre for various community activities," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "Through this funding, CBT is recognizing that the arts, cultural and other extracurricular activities are an important aspect of a vibrant community."

The Golden District Arts Council, which manages the Civic Centre on behalf of the Town of Golden, is a non-profit society incorporated in 1970. Its mission is to engage, energize and enrich the cultural life of Kicking Horse Country, which it does through its more visible face: Kicking Horse Culture (KHC).

"KHC enthusiastically thanks CBT for its generous support towards 'rebirthing' the Civic Centre as a landmark heritage cultural centre," said Bill Usher, KHC Executive Director. "Our community's commitment and engagement in arts, culture and heritage activities fuels a deep sense of pride and makes Golden a better place in which to live and visit. Rebirthing the Civic Centre is a community dream come true."

Adds Christina Benty, Mayor of Golden: "CBT's partnership on this project is greatly appreciated. The revitalization of the Civic Center honours the historical roots of the building and creates a social and cultural hub for the community. It has become a top non-infrastructure priority for the town council."

Moving Forward on Ecosystem Restoration in the Basin

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

CBT contributes \$160,000 for three projects in the East Kootenay

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is providing \$160,000 to support ecosystem restoration efforts in the Columbia Basin with partners The Nature Trust of BC (TNT), The Land Conservancy (TLC) and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). Three separate projects will restore plant and wildlife habitat on more than 170 hectares of Basin land.

"CBT's Land Conservation Initiative was created to provide support to groups and organizations working on maintaining a range of community values on lands in the Basin," said Rick Allen, CBT Program Manager, Environment. "Our Land Conservation Strategy for private lands in the Basin includes securement and stewardship primarily through a partnership with the East Kootenay Conservation Program. CBT supports habitat and ecosystem management on these conservation properties while looking to balance social and economic needs."

Supporting the NCC, CBT has contributed \$60,000 towards the Kootenay River Ranch Conservation Property Stewardship Project. This land was purchased by the NCC in 2005 to protect the critical forest and grassland habitat that species such as badgers and Lewis's Woodpecker rely on. In the last five years the NCC has completed restoration on 139 hectares of this property. With CBT's funding, an additional 70 hectares will be treated this year and a 30-year Kootenay River Ranch Vegetation Management Plan will be created.

"When NCC first secured the Kootenay River Ranch, the native grasslands and open forests were being lost to encroaching forest due to many decades of suppressing wildfires," said Nancy Newhouse, NCC-BC Region, Program Manager, Canadian Rocky Mountains Program. "Thanks to funding partners such as CBT, we are able to restore the grassland habitat that many local species like badgers need in order to survive here."

In two similar projects, CBT supported a joint TNT/TLC ecosystem restoration project on the Cherry Creek (TNT) and Wycliffe (TLC) conservation properties. Funding was also provided to TNT for restoration work on their Hoodoo conservation property, located northwest of Columbia Lake. Each project received a total of \$50,000 for this important stewardship work.

Both projects will support the organizations' efforts to implement prescriptions from the respective property Management Plans, which intend to restore local ecosystems to their previous fire-maintained state by addressing forest in-growth and encroachment into grassland habitat.

"The restoration project at Wycliffe is an important step we are taking to address the impacts of tree encroachment and in-growth," said Emily Nilsen, TLC, Terrestrial Stewardship Advisor. "This was a great opportunity to work in partnership with CBT and The Nature Trust to achieve our management goals; however, this is just one of many steps that need to be taken to ensure this conservation property stays ecologically healthy."

Rob Neil, TNT, Kootenay Conservation Land Manager, added, "The financial support provided by CBT has been invaluable in fulfilling The Nature Trust's goal of restoring identified grasslands to an ecologically suitable fire-maintained condition on both the Cherry Creek and the Hoodoos conservation properties."

CBT funds have enabled TNT to treat 28 hectares on Cherry Creek and, with additional support from the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, the Ministry of Environment and the Habitat Conservation Foundation, 90 hectares on the Hoodoos.

CBT's land conservation and related initiatives strive to achieve a balance between conservation and economic development in order to sustain the way of life and natural surroundings that currently exist in the Canadian Columbia Basin.

CBT has contributed over \$2.8 million to conservation and securement opportunities in the Basin, helping to protect nearly 100,000 hectares of land that residents of the Basin have deemed important for conservation purposes. This work is done in collaboration with the East Kootenay Conservation Program (EKCP), a partnership of over 50 groups and organizations focused on conservation and stewardship opportunities on private land. EKCP provides recommendations to CBT regarding investment in securement and stewardship projects within the Canadian Columbia Basin.

Celebrating Haven Gardens

Thursday, June 17, 2010

On Wednesday, June 16, Garry Merkel, CBT Board Chair, celebrated the grand opening of Haven Gardens in Cranbrook, along with project partners, the Provincial Government, the City of Cranbrook, and the BC Real Estate Foundation, and the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Kootenays branch - who will be managing and operating the facility.

"CBT is proud to be a partner on this important housing project which fills much needed housing and support services for women and their children leaving domestic violence situations," said Garry Merkel, Board Chair. "CBT sees the opportunity to partner on this project as an effective way of addressing a local housing concern."

Haven Gardens is an 18-unit second-stage housing project for women and children fleeing abusive relationships. This project is a secondary housing unit to the CMHA's existing housing unit for women fleeing troubled and abusive homes. Unlike first-stage housing that supplies a short-term living option, Haven Gardens will provide women and children a safe haven for up to 18 months.

The project is funded by \$5.8-million from the provincial government, \$125,000 by the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, and \$100,000 by CBT. The provincial government is also leasing the site to CMHA, with land equity of \$250,000.

Lake View Village Celebrates Grand Opening in Nelson

Monday, May 10, 2010

The Kootenays' newest seniors' lifestyle development, the \$13.7-million Lake View Village, located at 1020 - Seventh St. in Nelson, officially opened to provide 90 supportive-housing suites for seniors, including 13 studio suites for low-income seniors.

"We proudly support housing solutions that meet the diverse needs of our seniors, including those on fixed incomes who want to remain independent," said Bill Bennett, Minister of Community and Rural Development and MLA for Kootenay East. "Lake View Village is an excellent example of how community and government partners are working together to address the needs of Nelson's seniors."

Lake View Village adds a much-needed component of affordable rental housing to Nelson's housing stock.

"Creating housing options for seniors is a vital component of any healthy community," said Nelson Mayor John Dooley. "Developments such as Lake View Village provide area seniors an affordable housing option allowing them to continue to be an active part of the Nelson community."

Golden Life Management operates Lake View Village providing hospitality services such as chef-prepared meals, laundry and light housekeeping services, 24-hour emergency monitoring as well as social and recreational opportunities. Columbia Basin Trust has ownership interest in eight seniors' housing and care communities in the region offering a total of 803 living suites.

"It is an absolute joy to be here today celebrating the official opening of Lake View Village along with our provincial and community partners," said Endre Lillejord, CEO of Golden Life Management. "This much-needed housing will combine quality support services with engaging social and recreational opportunities designed to help residents enjoy an active and independent lifestyle."

"There is a growing need for more seniors' housing options in Nelson and surrounding communities," said Neil Muth, President and CEO of Columbia Basin Trust. "The addition of Lake View Village to our region will offer both affordable and market rental suites for seniors so they can remain in their community, close to family and friends."

In 2010-11, the Province will invest over \$562 million to provide affordable housing and fight homelessness - more than four times as much as in 2001.

Through Housing Matters BC, the Province is addressing a range of housing needs, from homelessness to affordable rental housing and homeownership. To find out more about affordable housing in B.C., visit www.bchousing.org.

To learn more about Lake View Village and the housing and services it provides, contact Golden Life Management at 250-352-0051 or visit www.goldenlifemanagement.ca.

CBT and BC Conservation Foundation Partner; \$55,000 to Support Basin Bear Aware Programs

Monday, May 17, 2010

Spring is blooming in the Basin, and with the extra sunshine and greener lawns, residents are also beginning to see some other familiar sites outside - bears.

While most residents enjoy the Basin's beautiful wildlife, they don't want bears in their backyards. That is one of the reasons the Bear Aware program was established in 1998, and why this educational, innovative and community-based resource is a valuable asset to Basin communities.

CBT's new partnership with the BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF) designates \$55,000 for one year to assist bear-proofing efforts at the community level and to increase the ability of communities to provide educational tools and information to residents that will decrease bear/human conflict.

"The Bear Aware program is a natural fit for CBT because we share similar goals with BCCF in regards to fostering a healthy ecosystem," said Rick Allen, Program Manager, Environment. "We want to ensure that bears are not attracted to our communities and keep them in their own habitat. The community coordinators are key to educating the public about reducing attractants for bears in our communities. Our partnership with BCCF enables the coordinators to use BCCF's experience and expertise through a pre-established, preventative, conservation program called Bear Aware."

Bear Aware programs will be offered in 10 communities this year including Castlegar, Elk Valley (Elkford and Sparwood), Fernie, Kaslo, Kimberley, Revelstoke, Rosland, Arrow Lakes (Slocan), Golden, and the rural areas between Nelson, Creston and Cranbrook.

"A partnership with CBT ensures that we are able to support local conservation organizations in their efforts to enhance and conserve fish and wildlife populations," said Barb Waters, Northern Regional Manager of BCCF. "CBT's contribution has allowed the BCCF Bear Aware program to hire Bear Aware Community Coordinators who will receive extensive training to deliver and assist communities in reducing bear/human conflict."

Residents can expect to see local Bear Aware Community Coordinators bringing education materials and presentations to public spaces, community events, schools and more, to help the general public better understand how to reduce bear/human conflict.



[Click to Enlarge](#)

On Monday, May 10, Bear Aware Community Coordinators met to receive training for the Bear Aware outreach programs being delivered to Basin communities this summer. CBT is providing \$55,000 towards the Bear Aware programs in the Basin. Front Row (left to right) Colin Smith-Golden; Sharon Wieder-Rosland; Kathy Murray-Fernie; Penny Page-Brittin-Revelstoke; Shaunna McInnis-Kimberley. Back row (left to right) Katia Plotnikoff-Rural areas between Nelson, Creston and Cranbrook; Gillian Sanders-Kaslo; Betty Offin-Castlegar; Courtnay Sopko-Elk Valley (Elkford and Sparwood); Erica Mallam-Lower Arrow Lakes and Upper Slocan Valley.



2009/10 Annual Report Released

Monday, July 12, 2010

\$10.9 million disbursed to the region and a year of solid returns on investments

The 2009/10 CBT Annual Report and audited financial statements are now available to the public. The Annual Report reflects CBT's performance for the 2009/10 year ending March 31, and details the financial investments, spending and Delivery of Benefits activities.

"For CBT, 2009/10 was a year of action and solid returns on our investments. We disbursed \$10.9 million to support the efforts of people and communities in the Basin by delivering a range of programs and initiatives," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "Our strong financial performance this year means we are well-positioned to continue working with residents to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of this region, and we have committed \$15 million for our Delivery of Benefits activities for 2010/11."

Total revenue in 2009/10 increased to \$26.1 million, up from \$24.1 million in 2008/09 and exceeded budgeted amounts set out in CBT's 2009/10 Service Plan by \$1.8 million.

Our theme Taking Action reflects CBT's role in helping to bring people, governments and communities together; encouraging collaboration and partnerships; working with groups to access funding, information and expertise through our staff, advisory committees and partners; and identifying and translating the region's priorities into action.

"CBT's successes are a testament to the commitment and contributions of many - residents, partners, advisory committees, Board members and staff - who all help to improve our communities to create a legacy for future generations," said Garry Merkel, CBT Board Chair. "This past year we have made significant progress in all areas of CBT's broad mandate, and we look forward to continuing to meet Basin priorities and being responsive to opportunities in the most meaningful way."

Highlighting several Basin projects and initiatives that CBT supported this past year, the informative and reader-friendly report is available to all residents [online](#) or by calling 1.800.505.8998.

Basin residents can also connect with CBT by providing input on CBT's 2011-2015 Strategic Priorities between now and September 30, or by participating in the 2010 Columbia Basin Symposium, which is being held in Revelstoke October 22-24, 2010.

RELATED ITEMS

-  [2009/10 Columbia Basin Trust Annual Report \(3.08 MB\)](#)
-  [Annual Report Highlights \(26.80 KB\)](#)

Summer Works Program Fully Subscribed

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Over 100 Students Employed Basin-Wide

Columbia Basin Trust's (CBT) 2010 Summer Works Program is fully subscribed, and Basin-based businesses are now employing over 100 students in the region this summer. Launched in March of this year, the pilot program offers up to eight dollars an hour in wage subsidies for small business and social enterprise.

"We are really pleased with the success the Summer Works Program has experienced," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "With our new Economic Initiatives Strategic Plan in place, CBT is committed to being responsive to the changing economic landscape. In this instance, we were able to quickly take action on a current market need to support local businesses and employ students."

Implemented to ease tough economic times, the subsidies are assisting businesses with increased staff during a time when resources are tight, as well as providing summer employment opportunities for students.

"The Summer Works Program has provided me with an employment opportunity that will help me develop practical business and people skills; skills that I could not necessarily learn in other entry-level jobs, and that will prove essential when I make it into my chosen career path," said summer student Joy Friesen. And, as a bonus Friesen adds, "I'll be able to afford to eat next year at university too!"

Friesen's employer, Suzanne Thompson of Kootenay Therapy Centre in Cranbrook says the program is helping her assess future full-time employment opportunities.

"Funding through the Summer Works Program has allowed us to hire a student through the summer to assist with creating patient education and business development materials," said Thompson. "In addition, we now have the opportunity to determine the needs of a potential new staffing position for the fall. None of this would be possible without the support of Columbia Basin Trust. Thanks!"

Evaluation of the Summer Works Program will be completed in the fall to determine if it will be offered next year.

Environmental Initiatives Program Supports 51 Projects

Thursday, June 10, 2010

CBT has awarded \$658,000 to support 51 community-based environmental projects across the Basin through its Environmental Initiatives Program (EIP).

"It is a priority for CBT to encourage long-term stewardship of Basin resources and help build the capacity of residents to take action in meeting environmental challenges," said Rick Allen, CBT Program Manager, Environment. "We have been supporting residents, community groups and organizations since 2002 on projects that aim to reduce the impacts humans have on local and regional ecosystems and we are excited about these 51 recently approved projects."

The EIP provides support to community-initiated and supported projects and includes a small grants stream geared at projects under \$5,000, and a large grants stream for projects up to \$20,000. With a 40 per cent boost in funding this year CBT was able to support more projects. See the attached list of [projects funded](#).

CBT has provided just over \$4 million in funding over the past nine years under this program for environmental conservation, restoration, stewardship and education projects across the Basin. In addition to the EIP, CBT takes action on environmental issues in various other ways. To learn more about CBT's environmental priorities, visit www.cbt.org/environment.

RELATED ITEMS

 [EIP Projects Funded \(98.49 KB\)](#)

Partnership with the Province Provides Affordable Seniors' Housing

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is partnering with the Province of British Columbia to construct 114 affordable housing units for seniors and persons with disabilities in seven communities throughout the Basin; Cranbrook, Kimberley, Creston, Baynes Lake, Golden, Revelstoke and Valemount will each see projects built as a result of the partnership.

"One of our goals is to assist communities in dealing with affordable housing issues, and in particular to explore opportunities to support new housing initiatives. Partnering with BC Housing to develop these new units is a great chance for us to fulfill that goal while meeting a clear need in communities," said Garry Merkel, CBT Board Chair. "This is a unique opportunity for CBT to be involved in the creation of a significant number of housing units, particularly in rural locations within the Basin."

This partnership between CBT and the Province will contribute to the overall capital costs of nine sites and 114 units under the Seniors' Rental Housing (SRH) initiative. CBT has committed \$425,000 to be allocated towards the 114 units, and the Province, under the SRH initiative, will provide approximately \$8,550,000 in cash equity for these units.

"It's important we offer seniors and people with disabilities affordable housing options that meet their needs and allow them to stay in their communities," said Rich Coleman, Minister of Housing and Social Development. "The Province is proud to partner with Columbia Basin Trust to create affordable seniors housing options in eight Basin communities."

"Our government is committed to creating more affordable housing options in the Columbia Basin region and across the province," said The Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of Community and Rural Development and MLA for Kootenay East. "This is a very innovative development as it will provide affordable rental housing for low-income seniors and people with disabilities. Once again, the Columbia Basin Trust has shown their commitment as a great community partner in the Kootenay region."

The SRH initiative is a \$365-million joint investment under an amendment to the Canada-British Columbia Affordable Housing Agreement, which includes funding through Canada's Economic Action Plan and by the Government of British Columbia. This initiative will provide \$123.5 million, including \$104 million for seniors and \$19.5 million for persons with disabilities, to develop up to 1,000 new affordable rental housing units, which will help to stimulate local economies in smaller communities across B.C. Under terms of the agreement, the provincial and federal governments will provide matching contributions of \$61.79 million.

Property for the housing projects will be managed by local non-profit societies. Some developments will be co-located with existing housing projects in the communities, as is the case with Golden, Kimberley and Revelstoke.

Learn more about CBT's other housing initiatives and the Social Strategic Plan at www.cbt.org/social.

CBT delivers economic, social, and environmental benefits to the residents of the Columbia Basin. To learn more about CBT programs and initiatives, visit www.cbt.org or call 1-800-505-8998.

The Province of British Columbia's \$14-billion capital infrastructure program is creating up to 88,000 jobs, helping to build vital public infrastructure in every region of the province and stimulating local economies across B.C.

Through Housing Matters BC, the Province is addressing a range of housing needs, from homelessness to affordable rental housing and homeownership. In 2010/11, the Province will invest over \$562 million to provide affordable housing and fight homelessness - more than four times as much as in 2001. To find out more about affordable housing in B.C., visit www.bchousing.org.

Shaping Our Future Together

Take Action-Build Partnerships-Strengthen Communities

2010 Columbia Basin Symposium
Revelstoke Community Centre
October 22 – 24, 2010

DRAFT AGENDA

Friday, October 22nd	
3:00 pm	Opening and Welcome
4:00 pm PLENARY	Columbia River Treaty As a significant event “shaping our future”, a variety of speakers will engage Basin residents in an informative dialogue about the process towards 2014 and beyond.
5:30 pm	Break
6:00pm	Dinner
7:30 pm	Dessert and Inspiration Inspirational presentations around the conference theme that convey an appreciation and celebration of the Basin.
Saturday, October 23rd	
7:30 am	Breakfast
8:30 am PLENARY	What is Shaping the Basin Today and Tomorrow? Global, national, provincial, regional information, trends and/or perspectives on the forces that are influencing the present and future Basin will be presented.
9:30 am	Health and Nutrition Break
10:00 am	Concurrent Sessions Several facilitated sessions covering topics such as economic development, alternate energy, community engagement, building resilient organizations and creative project financing will be conducted, supported by “expert” speakers, community champions, tools and best practices.
12:00 pm	Lunch and CBT Conversation Cafes and Basin Knowledge Fair An opportunity to learn, mingle and encourage interactive conversations.
2:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions (Repeat of morning sessions)
4:00 pm PLENARY	Building Our Views About the Future - David Beurle, Innovative Leadership Build on attendees’ knowledge of current opportunities and challenges in their community, explore key drivers shaping the future of their community and region, and assess these drivers in terms of importance and uncertainty.
6:00 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm	Cultural Entertainment An evening of entertainment showcasing Basin talent. Open to the public.

Shaping Our Future Together

Take Action-Build Partnerships-Strengthen Communities

Sunday, October 24th	
7:30 am	Breakfast
8:30 am PLENARY	Summary Presentations from Concurrent Sessions Facilitators from each session will present back to the plenary on ideas that were generated the day before.
9:30 am	Building Our Views About the Future (continued) - David Beurle, Innovative Leadership Continuing from the previous day, explore and describe the future, considering social, economic and environmental dimensions. This will provide a catalyst for thinking about what actions we need to start taking today to put us in a position to deal with tomorrow's challenges, including things that can be addressed on a regional basis and those that are more community specific.
12:00 pm PLENARY	Closing Inspire and motivate participants to take action, build partnerships and strengthen their community.
12:30 pm	Bag Lunch and Farewell Attendees can take advantage of opportunities to "stay and play" in Revelstoke in the afternoon.

Welcome Galadriel

Thursday, July 08, 2010

CBT welcomes Galadriel Watson, Communications Coordinator, to the Nakusp office.

Galadriel worked most recently as Communications Coordinator at the Haskayne School of Business at the University of Calgary. She has also been a communications specialist with the City of Calgary, and a freelance writer and graphic designer. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce with Distinction in Marketing and Entrepreneurship from McGill University and a Bachelor of Arts with Distinction in Writing from the University of Victoria.

"My family and I have always loved the Kootenays," said Galadriel. "We have been looking for a way to move to the area for years. Columbia Basin Trust has helped make this possible, and I look forward to working for an organization that means so much to people in the community."

Galadriel can be reached at gwatson@cbt.org or 1.800.505.8998.

Request for Proposals

Thursday, July 08, 2010

RFP CLOSED

CBT is seeking a qualified contractor to assist with research and analysis into the state of childcare and early childhood development (ECD) in the Columbia Basin. The contractor will explore what, if any, potential roles CBT could play in proactively supporting each of child care and ECD within the Columbia Basin.

In CBT's view, organizations or individuals currently employed or on contract to provide child care or support early childhood development have an interest in the outcome of the project, which would disqualify them from consideration. CBT would therefore encourage such organizations or individuals to submit a response to this Request for Proposals.

Proposals must be submitted no later than 3:30 pm PST, July 28, 2010. For more information or to submit your proposal, please contact Aimee Ambrosone, Manager, Planning and Development at 1.250.365.6633 or aambrosone@cbt.org.