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Welcome to the Basin Link:

This month's BasinLink is full of information about CBT's work around the Basin, including a comprehensive projects funded list and we welcome for the first time two guest writers. We hope to see you in the next few months as we travel around the Basin to community trade fairs. Stop by our booth and our staff are happy to answer any questions you have about CBT. If you have suggestions for our newsletter or comments in general please email us at cbtnews@cbt.org.

Let's Go Fishing

Submitted by: Laird Siemens, Manager, Kootenay Trout Hatchery

What started off as a dream has become a reality (almost) - *with a huge assist from Columbia Basin Trust.*

In spring 2006 a staff member of the Kootenay Trout Hatchery (in Bull River in the East Kootenay) suggested a children's fishing pond be built on site to teach children (and adults!) how to fish. What a great idea - but where to build it and how to finance it? [...more](#)

Taking the Pulse of the Columbia Basin

Submitted by: Gary Ockenden

This is an article about data indicators and reporting models. If you're thinking of skipping it, you need to know that there is a joke hidden in the text. So read on...

Do you love facts and figures and enjoy quoting research evidence when engaged in a heated debate? Or instead, are you someone who strives for a better world - with or without the numbers to back up your efforts?

If you are a data junkie or simply someone who cares about the quality of human (and other) life in the Columbia Basin you might find the State of the Basin initiative interesting. If you are both an information nerd and someone who is interested in facilitating change, you should definitely find it interesting. [...more](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [Bigby Place Celebrates Grand Opening](#)
- [Heavy Metals Custom Art Studio Wins People's Choice Award](#)
- [Columbia Basin Trust Meetings April 2007](#)

NEWS RELEASES

04/06/2007
[Sign Up For BasinLink: The Columbia Basin Trust Email Newsletter](#)

03/27/2007
[Columbia Basin Trust Board Appointments](#)

03/12/2007
[\\$40,000 In Awards For Graduating Students Who Are Active In Their Communities](#)



Staff and Children at the Kootenay Trout Hatchery.



\$40,000 Available to Students Attending Selkirk College and College of the Rockies

CBT now offers mature students of the Columbia Basin \$2,000 towards attending post-secondary education or training at Selkirk College or College of the Rockies. The \$2,000 is awarded to students who have spent a significant amount of time volunteering in the Basin. This award is based on volunteerism and not based on academic achievement. Ten awards are available to Selkirk College students and another ten are available to students attending the College of the Rockies.



Ribbon Cutting at the Valemount Visitor Information Center Grand Opening.

For more information on CBT's College Community Service Awards call 1-800-505-8998.

Valemount Visitor Information Center Celebrates Grand Opening

The Valemount Information Center celebrated its grand opening on Friday, March 30 with over 100 people in attendance. The center highlights the area's associations with major river systems, major regional tourism and recreation attractions, local history, local facilities, and wildlife and economic activities within the valley. Columbia Basin Trust contributed \$150,000 to the new 3,500 square foot facility and donated a terrain model of the Columbia River Basin. The center will be open to the public on May 18. For more information call 1-250-566-4435.

LET'S GO FISHING

A natural park-like setting on the hatchery site was selected. The site also included opportunities for a nature trail to teach youngsters of the bird, reptile and small-mammal life of the area.

Now the tough part – raising the money. The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC (FFSBC), the non-profit society that operates Kootenay Trout Hatchery, provided the seed money –the first \$29,000 of the \$105,000 budget.

Columbia Basin Trust approved a request for \$25,000 and that grant along with FFSBC's seed money, assisted in getting other donors on board. Significant donations were also received from BC Hydro, the Regional District of East Kootenay, Cranbrook's Sunrise Rotary Club, Arrow Installations, Percy Davis, and the family of Sec and Milly Semenzin – at the time of writing \$98,000 has been donated/pledged.

Kootenay Trout Hatchery's ***Children's Fishing Pond and Nature Trail*** will be a gem for the local area. When completed, this project will provide an opportunity to teach youngsters, (able-bodied and disabled), adults, and seniors the basics of fishing. There will be opportunities for all to learn more about the region's ecosystems – as well, the area will be offered to local groups for special environmental events or even birthday parties.

The project is 80% complete– the pond has been excavated, inlet and outlet controls are in place and the water supply line is in. Work left to complete includes Still sealing the pond (with a clay-like material), the finishing touches on the landscaping, building a bridge over the inlet creek, and building an entrance arch.

The plan is to have children fishing the pond by late spring – stay tuned for a grand opening announcement.



BASIN Link

...and thanks again to Columbia Basin Trust for their financial and moral support of this project – ***it couldn't have been done without CBT!***

TAKING THE PULSE OF THE COLUMBIA BASIN

The initiative will present economic, social, environmental and cultural information (based on statistical facts) to Basin residents and organizations in reports and through online access. By gathering, analyzing and presenting this information, CBT will inform citizens about the state of life in Basin communities; encourage understanding of complex issues and trends over time; provide community level data for planning; and perhaps motivate discussion and action.

A project team, including CBT volunteers, has researched dozens of reporting models in Canada and beyond. In spring 2007 the team will travel to Basin communities and organizations to present a CBT version and to propose a set of indicators (data) for a first report, to be published this fall.

Imagine this: the Columbia Basin Trust releases a report on the State of the Basin - highlighting issues and conditions of interest to achieve a successful, sustainable future. As well, governments, organizations, educators, researchers and CBT itself have ongoing online access to data at a variety of levels – to assist them in making decisions and plans.

Recently, I raved on about the State of the Basin project to a friend. He suddenly interrupted me, proclaiming, "Did you know that 79% of all statistics are made up on the spot?" (By the way, that's the joke.)

For information on this project and to learn about meetings this spring to review it, contact Gary Ockenden at ockenden@netidea.com or Aimee Ambrosone at aambrosone@cbt.org.