

ISSUE - 05, JUNE 2007

EVENTS AND DEADLINES ▶

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS ▶

FUNDED PROJECTS ▶

CONTACT US ▶

## Welcome to the Basin Link:

Over the past two months staff at CBT have been busy connecting with residents, building partnerships, and delivering benefits to Basin communities. We have just announced 32 environmental projects that received contributions from CBT as well as a new granting program targeting the heritage community. Our Open House tour to nine communities in the Basin is just wrapping up this week. If you were not able to attend and provide input into our three-year draft strategic priorities we are still seeking input, please visit our website at [www.cbt.org](http://www.cbt.org). If you have suggestions for our newsletter or comments please email us at [cbtnews@cbt.org](mailto:cbtnews@cbt.org).

## Giving Plastic Bags the Sack

Submitted by: Tracey Saxby, Greener Footprints  
An innovative community effort to reduce plastic bag use is underway in Rossland. Local merchants and residents have been working together to curb their dependence on single-use plastic bags that are handed out with purchases at supermarkets and retail stores...[more](#)

## Kootenay Bat Project

Submitted by: Juliet Craig, Silverwood Ecological Consulting  
Did you know that half the species of bats in BC are considered threatened or vulnerable? Or that some Basin residents have rare bat species living in their garden shed? From health warnings to horror movies, bats always seem to get a bad reputation, and the Kootenay Community Bat Project was designed to change that. Initiated in 2004 as a small community-based approach to bat inventory and conservation, this project aimed to raise awareness about bats and their conservation, identify local bat species and their roost sites, and to work with landowners who have bats in their buildings...[more](#)

## Canadian Columbia River Forum

Columbia Basin Trust is one of seventeen organizations that cooperatively worked together to organize and attend the Canadian Columbia River Forum public workshop held in Cranbrook, BC on May 30, 2007. These organizations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which outlines how they will work together on Columbia River Basin water issues...[more](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [2007 CBT Symposium](#)
- [CBT's Nakusp Office Blooming in the Community](#)
- [CBT Annual General Meeting](#)
- [State Of The Basin Website Launch](#)

## NEWS RELEASES

**06/13/2007**  
[Columbia Basin Trust Funds 32 Environmental Projects](#)

**06/05/2007**  
[Columbia Basin Trust Continues Business Support Program](#)

**06/01/2007**  
[Columbia Basin Trust Elects New Chair And Vice-Chair](#)



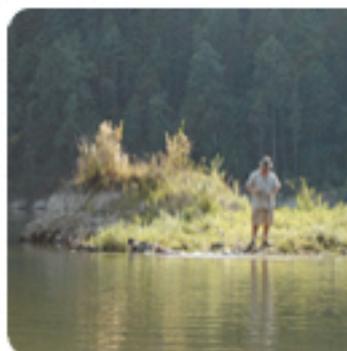
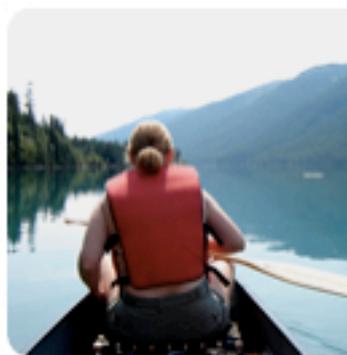
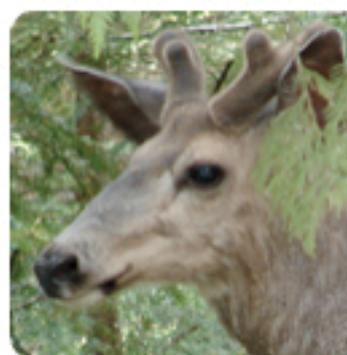
Using reusable tote bags helps improve environmental conditions for animals.



Kimberley bat-house workshop.



Representatives of the seventeen agencies involved in the Canadian Columbia River Forum public workshop.





## GIVING PLASTIC BAGS THE SACK

Submitted by: Tracey Saxby, Greener Footprints

An innovative community effort to reduce plastic bag use is underway in Rossland. Local merchants and residents have been working together to curb their dependence on single-use plastic bags that are handed out with purchases at supermarkets and retail stores.

This initiative was introduced to Rossland residents by Tracey Saxby, co-founder of Greener Footprints. Saxby, whose native Australia is now home to over a dozen towns that have elected to go “plastic-bag-free,” recognized the importance of transplanting similar measures to communities in Canada.

Canadians use approximately 10 billion plastic shopping bags every year. The average plastic bag is used for just five minutes to transport goods from the store to people’s home, yet these bags can last up to a thousand years. Plastic bags litter our forests, grasslands, waterways, and oceans, killing hundreds of thousands of animals every year when they accidentally ingest or become entangled in the bags.

Emphasizing the need for individual responsibility, local supporters in Rossland recommend just saying “no” to plastic checkout bags and to bring your own sturdy, reusable tote bag made from cotton, canvas, or similar fabric. Paper bags, while more easily recyclable than plastic, actually require more resources to manufacture.

“This is an easy way for people to make a difference today and reduce their environmental footprint by refusing to use plastic bags,” says Saxby. “Every bag makes a difference.”

The Columbia Basin Trust has contributed \$7,240 towards education and awareness posters and brochures, and a website that will highlight Rossland as a case study, detailing the steps involved to become a plastic-bag free community. Greener Footprints would like to encourage other communities in the region to take up the challenge and follow Rossland’s lead.

For more plastic-bag facts and tips on what you can do today, please visit <http://www.greenerfootprints.com/>.

**TIP!** After you unpack your groceries at home, make sure you put your reusable bags straight back on the front seat of your car or at your front door. That way, you won’t forget them the next time you shop!

## KOOTENAY COMMUNITY BAT PROJECT

**Submitted by:** Juliet Craig, *a Registered Professional Biologist with Silverwing Ecological Consulting.*

Did you know that half the species of bats in BC are considered threatened or vulnerable? Or that some Basin residents have rare bat species living in their garden shed?

From health warnings to horror movies, bats always seem to get a bad reputation, and the Kootenay Community Bat Project was designed to change that. Initiated in 2004 as a small community-based approach to bat inventory and conservation, this project aimed to raise awareness about bats and their conservation, identify local bat species and their roost sites, and to work with landowners who have bats in their buildings.

Using community interpretive programs offered throughout the Basin, this project dispelled myths about bats. We provided residents with the opportunity to see bats up close and personal during our public mist-netting nights where we caught wild bats. And we built over 375 bat-houses to provide roosting habitat during our bat-house building workshops. Residents came out in droves to these programs and offered their support and enthusiasm.

Through our “Got Bats” campaign, we encouraged residents to report their bats (or bats living on their neighbour’s property) to our project so we could investigate the roost site and identify the species. During the project we conducted over 380 site visits and identified 289 roost sites for eight species of bats. Some of these roosts were for the rare Townsend’s big-eared bat, including important maternity colonies where mothers gather to give birth to their single pup.

Funded primarily by the Columbia Basin Trust with a contribution of \$18,000, the Kootenay Community Bat Project is a leading example in North America of a community-based project that engages the community in bat conservation, incorporates local knowledge in identifying roost sites, and works with landowners towards the conservation and enhancement of roost sites.

For more information, see our website at [www.kootenaybats.com](http://www.kootenaybats.com).





### CANADIAN COLUMBIA RIVER FORUM PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Columbia Basin Trust is one of seventeen organizations that cooperatively worked together to organize and attend the Canadian Columbia River Forum public workshop held in Cranbrook, BC on May 30, 2007. These organizations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which outlines how they will work together on Columbia River Basin water issues.

The workshop provided an opportunity for federal, provincial, First Nations, regional organizations, and Basin residents to share information, and build a collective understanding about water and watershed issues in the Canadian Columbia Basin. Over 120 people from Canada and the United States attended the workshop. Topics included:

- Columbia River system management, and Columbia River Treaty
- Major emerging water management issues in the Canadian Columbia River System
- Major water management issues in the US Columbia River System
- Impacts of climate change in the Columbia Basin

Under the terms of the MOU, the organizations have agreed to the following main objectives:

- Enhance the working relationship among federal, provincial, First Nations, and regional organizations.
- Aid governments (including First Nations) in sharing perspectives and developing a common understanding, and a set of values for dealing with trans-boundary water issues.
- Develop mechanisms to maintain this common understanding and to help agencies stay aware of, and active in, relevant ongoing and emerging trans-boundary issues.
- Identify tangible initiatives for collaborative attention.

For more information on the Canadian Columbia River Forum contact Kindy Gosal, Manager of Water Initiatives, at [kgosal@cbt.org](mailto:kgosal@cbt.org) or 1-800-505-8998.