

Our trust

A REPORT TO
RESIDENTS
IN THE
COLUMBIA
BASIN
2015/16 • FREE

BROADENING ACCESS TO BROADBAND

Connecting the
Basin online

UNDERWATER INVADERS

Protecting our
local waterways

INVESTING IN THE BASIN

One small business
at a time

CELEBRATING

20 YEARS
IN THE
BASIN

Focusing on your
priorities

Columbia
Basin trust

Together We Are the Trust

Columbia Basin Trust supports the ideas and efforts of the people in the Columbia Basin.

We take our lead from residents and communities. Whatever the situation calls for, we adapt our role: from providing resources, to bringing people together, to leading an entire initiative. The Trust is here to offer experience and support to all Basin residents.

While our range of services, programs, initiatives and financial investments is extensive, our purpose is straightforward: we exist and act for the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Columbia Basin—now and for generations to come.

Fall colours grace the banks of the headwaters of the Columbia River in British Columbia, with the Rocky Mountains in the distance.

Contents

A REPORT TO RESIDENTS IN THE COLUMBIA BASIN • 2015/16

cover stories

- 8** Renewed Focus for the Future
Columbia Basin Trust listens to residents and expands how it supports communities.
- 14** Broadening Access to Broadband
Eleven thousand rural households in the Columbia Basin Boundary region are getting high-speed Internet access.
- 22** Underwater Invaders
Zebra and quagga mussels may be tiny, but the threat they pose to Basin industries is staggering.
- 25** Return on Investment
Through loans from Columbia Basin Trust, local businesses are investing in their futures and their communities.



COLIN PAYNE

14

supporting the basin

- 4** Our Thoughts
A message from the chair and CEO.
- 5** Snapshots
A glimpse of the projects and programs Columbia Basin Trust is supporting in our communities.
- 11** Foundation for the Future
A look back with Board Chair Greg Deck.
- 12** Forging a Profit
Thanks to valuable business advice, a Crawford Bay family is hammering out a living at Kootenay Forge.
- 17** Snow Intel
Avalanche Canada keeps backcountry recreationalists safe in the snow.
- 18** Raising a Child Care Centre
Solid research and close ties build better foundations for Golden's children.
- 20** Putting Youth in the Driver's Seat
How do Basin communities keep the youth engaged? They start by asking them.
- 30** Working Together to Strengthen the Basin
Contact the Trust for help with your community project.



DAVID R. GLUNS

12



DAVID R. GLUNS

25

investments and financials

- 28** Powered Up
Celebrating the completion of Waneta Expansion.
- 29** Financial Report

COVER PHOTO: DAVID R. GLUNS

Our trust

2015/16

Our Trust is published annually by Columbia Basin Trust. If you'd like to reproduce anything you read, contact us through cbt.org.

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Our Trust is produced for Columbia Basin Trust by Canada Wide Media Limited.

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PRODUCED BY



CANADA WIDE MEDIA LIMITED | canadawide.com



Our thoughts

THIS YEAR, Columbia Basin Trust celebrates 20 years of supporting the ideas and efforts of residents across the Columbia Basin region. Over the past two decades, our partnerships with local organizations and governments, as well as our program development and funding for various projects, have helped strengthen the region's social, economic and environmental well-being—now and for generations to come. This issue of *Our Trust* explores and celebrates our deep commitment to community.

Our most significant undertaking of 2014/15 was reaching out to residents and asking: What's most important to you? How should the Trust focus its efforts going forward? Between September 2014 and February 2015, we connected with 3,000 residents and received more than 17,000 suggestions. Thank you all for your thoughtful responses! We have now finalized our new strategic priorities and are developing measurable, achievable action plans. You can read more about the outcomes of *Our Trust, Our Future*—and where we're going from here—on page 8.

Our many other activities included renewing our *Social Strategic Plan* (see one way we support social well-being on page 18) and continuing to build a regional, open-access broadband network (page 14). In April 2015, Waneta Expansion became fully operational—six weeks ahead of schedule and well within budget—thanks in part to our longtime partner Columbia Power Corporation (page 28).

Also in this issue, you'll find articles about our collaboration with the provincial government on a new aquatic invasive species program (page 22); the Basin Business

Advisors program, which helps strengthen small- and medium-sized businesses, including social enterprises (page 12); and much more.

Before signing off, we wish to thank our knowledgeable and committed staff, the members of our advisory and adjudication committees who share their expertise and make funding recommendations, and our dedicated and hard-working partners. Without all these people, the Trust and our communities wouldn't be in the position of celebrating so many strong successes.

In most aspects of life, it's important to continually assess and evolve, which is why we're happy to introduce a new format for our annual *Report to Residents*. You'll notice a new name—*Our Trust*—and a new magazine format that will help us tell the stories of the community projects and programs we're proud to be a part of. Please let us know what you think by filling out and sending in the enclosed feedback card, or visiting cbt.org/ourtrustfeedback.

As always, we are honoured to be able to support you, and to help residents of the Basin support each other.



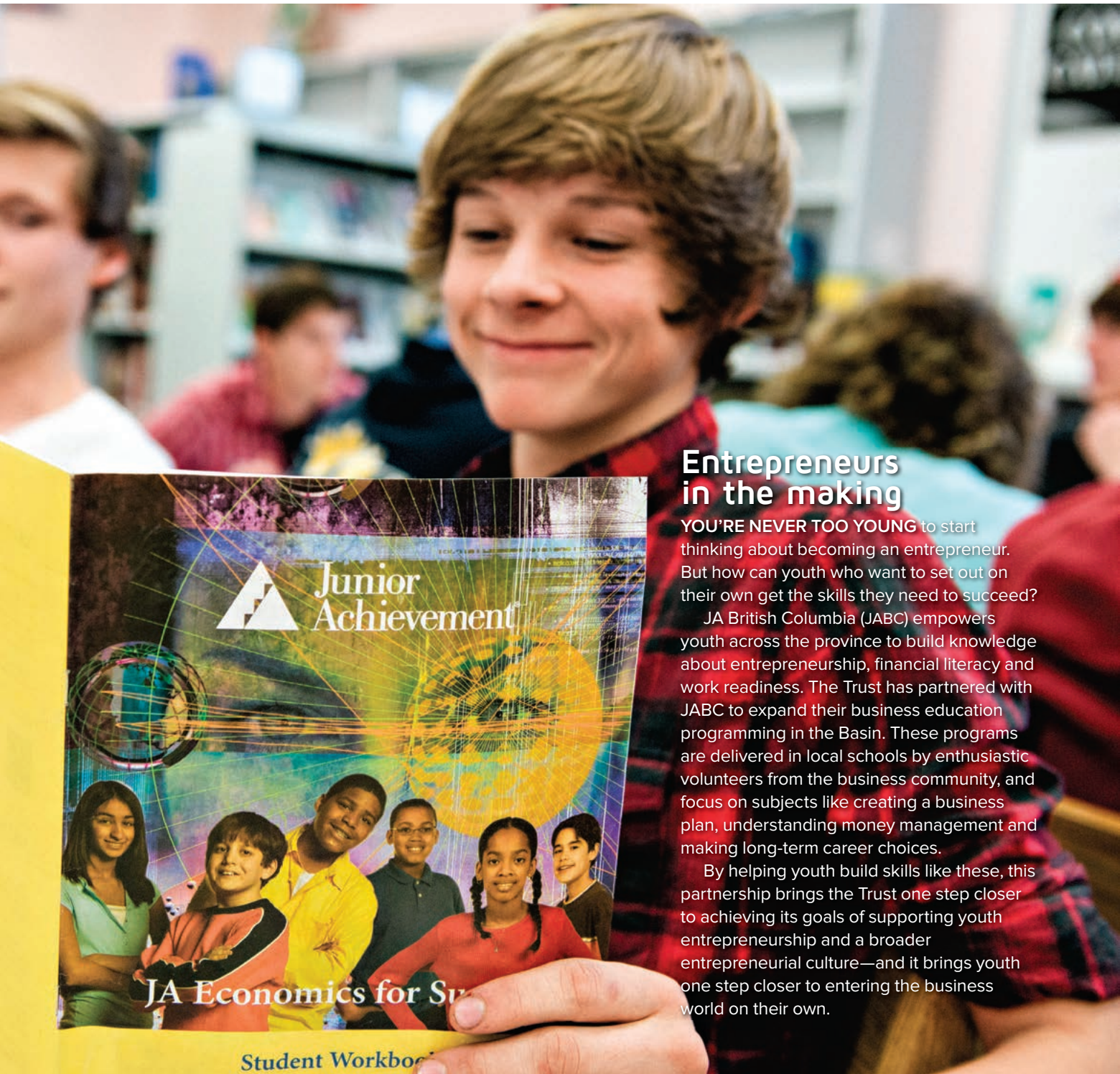
Greg Deck and
Neil Muth


Greg Deck
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS


Neil Muth
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Snapshots

A glimpse of the projects and programs Columbia Basin Trust is supporting in our communities



Entrepreneurs in the making

YOU'RE NEVER TOO YOUNG to start thinking about becoming an entrepreneur. But how can youth who want to set out on their own get the skills they need to succeed?

JA British Columbia (JABC) empowers youth across the province to build knowledge about entrepreneurship, financial literacy and work readiness. The Trust has partnered with JABC to expand their business education programming in the Basin. These programs are delivered in local schools by enthusiastic volunteers from the business community, and focus on subjects like creating a business plan, understanding money management and making long-term career choices.

By helping youth build skills like these, this partnership brings the Trust one step closer to achieving its goals of supporting youth entrepreneurship and a broader entrepreneurial culture—and it brings youth one step closer to entering the business world on their own.



LEE ORR

Camp revamp

TO ENHANCE THE CAMPER experience while increasing sustainability, Burton Historical Park and Campground, on the shores of Arrow Lakes Reservoir, recently underwent a sizeable revamp. Thanks to community volunteers, donations and funding from the Trust, the campground now features upgraded power and water service, improved landscaping and a gazebo that invites campers to settle back and soak in the surroundings. Campground revenues will fund additional projects into the future, ensuring the continued operation of this popular space.

Get intimate with your watershed

DELIVERED BY WILDSIGHT, the Trust's Know Your Watershed program teaches grade eight students where their community's water comes from, how it's treated and where it goes—and has reached almost 3,100 students in 74 Basin schools since 2010. Last year, after completing the program's field trip and classroom components, the students at Rossland's Seven Summits Centre for Learning undertook an additional challenge. Through Lego, they explored their local water's journey from its headwaters to the Columbia River. As a result, students and community members walked away with renewed appreciation of H₂O as a key contributor to environment and health.



JESS WILLIAMS



DOELL PHOTOGRAPHY; INSET: ROSSLAND MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

The jewel of Rossland, restored

BUILT IN THE LATE 1800s, Rossland Miners Union Hall functions as the city's arts centre and community hall—but, as one of the province's oldest miners union halls, the space needs some additional care. The City of Rossland, in partnership with the Rossland Council for Arts and Culture and Heritage BC, has received support from the Trust and Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance to significantly renovate and restore the hall. Upgrades include detailed preservation work to the building's facade, a new roof, fresh paint, upgrades to the fire and safety systems and conversion of the large attic into community space.

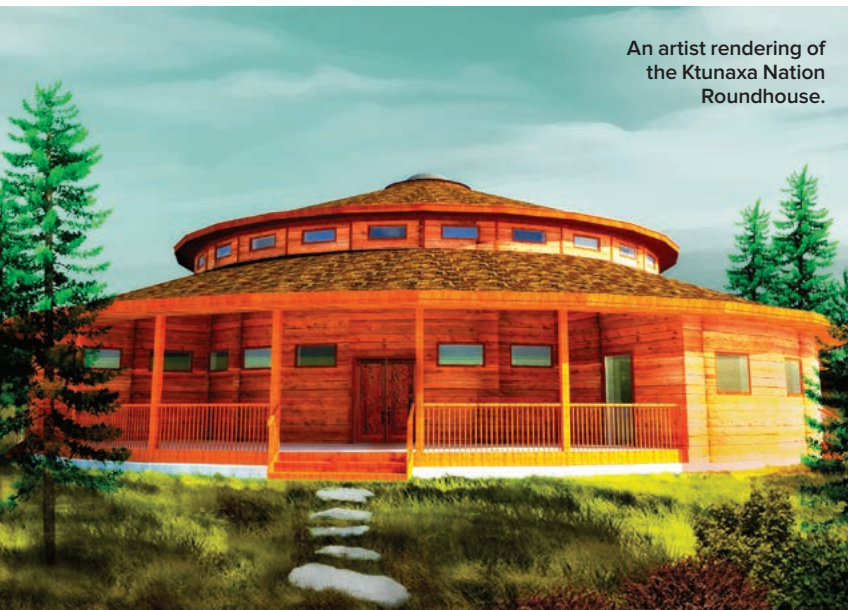


A home for the Berrys

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY helps low-income families realize a dream they might not otherwise achieve: home ownership. In summer 2014, the organization’s South East British Columbia Society constructed its first home in Cranbrook. The home recipients, the six-member Berry family, were overwhelmed by the number of businesses and individuals that stepped up to donate goods, services, labour, materials and financial support—including the Trust. The Trust is now continuing its partnership with Habitat for Humanity to pursue more projects that increase affordable housing in the Basin.

Roundhouse reimagined

THE KTUNAXA NATION is strengthening its presence in our region thanks to its roundhouse initiative, partially funded by the Trust. The Ktunaxa Nation Roundhouse, located at the Lower Kootenay Band (yaqan nukiy), is a contemporary reimagining of traditional “big lodges.” Considered a powerhouse of energy and culture, the roundhouse will teach First Nations traditions, host celebrations and ceremonies, and preserve the rich art and identity of the Ktunaxa Nation.



An artist rendering of the Ktunaxa Nation Roundhouse.

NEW PROGRAMS!

Helping non-profits stand on solid ground

NON-PROFIT GROUPS run our recreational activities, oversee our social services, provide our libraries and museums, work to keep our streams clean, and more. While often these groups simply need support to get a particular project up and running, sometimes they need more in-depth organizational assistance. The Trust’s new Non-profit Advisors Program will help strengthen them in areas like planning, human resources, administration and governance, offering non-profits a new approach to help increase capacity and become more sustainable and efficient. In addition to providing information resources, the program can connect a non-profit with an advisor who will assess the organization and provide recommendations.

► cbt.org/ourtrust/nonprofit

Business loans for community good

SOMETIMES A BUSINESS wants to grow or expand and needs money to make it happen. While it may look to conventional lenders—such as banks and credit unions—the risk of the loan may be too high for them. If the opportunity is expected to result in measurable positive impacts—by creating local jobs, for example, or addressing a major community need—the Trust’s new Impact Investment Fund may be able to help. Administered by Community Futures, the \$2-million fund looks at social, environmental, economic and community development benefits. *(Read about the creation of this program in “Renewed Focus for the Future” on page 8.)*

► cbt.org/ourtrust/iif

Renewed focus for the future



Columbia Basin Trust listens to residents and expands how it supports communities

THEY DIDN'T JUST COME for the food and small talk.

On Wednesday, October 15, 2014, nearly 75 people—from children to seniors—gathered in the Nakusp auditorium, browsing displays that explained who Columbia Basin Trust is, adding their thoughts to a white board that asked “What’s most important?” and jotting answers to the question “What makes your community great?”

It was an opportunity for the people of Nakusp and the surrounding area to express their ideas one on one with Trust staff—and was one of many such opportunities, both in person and online, available across the Columbia Basin.

A history of Columbia Basin Trust



Pre-WW II THE COLUMBIA River Basin’s many mountains and rivers made it susceptible to floods. This was a concern to residents who lived along the river in Canada and the United States.

Post-WW II RESIDENTS on both sides of the border began using and demanding more electricity.

Late 1940s to Early 1950s THE CANADIAN and U.S. governments began to ask: How can we control the Columbia River to 1) minimize flooding and 2) generate more electricity?

1964 THE ANSWER was the Columbia River Treaty, finalized in 1964. Four dams were built, each of which created large reservoirs located entirely or partially in BC.

WHEN the governments created the treaty, they didn’t ask Basin residents for their views, concerns or solutions.



Residents gave input to the Trust during 22 workshops that took place around the region.

A reason to reflect

The Trust has always consulted with residents. However, in 2014 it had three reasons to touch base with the community in a more significant way:

1. Its 20th anniversary was coming in 2015.
2. The strategic priorities in its *Columbia Basin Management Plan* were up for renewal.
3. It was expecting an increase in revenue.

“In recent years, our revenue has been around \$27 million a year,” says Neil Muth, President and Chief Executive Officer. “We are expecting that to double. Starting next year, it’s going to be about \$54 million.” The primary reason is the



CANADIAN Basin residents approached the Province of BC and asked it to: 1) give funds to the region so Basin residents would get a fair share of the benefits created by the treaty and 2) create a Basin-based organization to manage those funds.

1995 THE GOVERNMENT established Columbia Basin Trust and endowed it with \$276 million to invest in regional hydroelectric projects and \$45 million to invest otherwise.

TO GENERATE a predictable, sustainable and appreciating income stream, the Trust earns money by investing in power projects, Basin businesses and market securities.

Today THE TRUST continues to support the ideas and efforts of the people in the Basin. We take our lead from residents and communities, and offer resources, experience and support to all Basin residents.

OUR WORK focuses on helping Basin residents improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Columbia Basin—now and for generations to come.

completion of Waneta Expansion (see page 28) and a new power sales agreement that will come into effect at another one of its power projects: Arrow Lakes Generating Station.

“Our activities are driven by responding to what Basin residents want us to do,” says Muth. “It was time to go back and reconnect with them and ask them how we could best support them.”

Thanks to the input from this engagement process—called Our Trust, Our Future—the organization has now refocused how it will help residents and communities address their needs now and into the future.

Investing for financial return—and more

The Trust invests in power projects, Basin-based businesses and market securities. It then uses the income earned to deliver programs and services to the Basin.

While it will continue to grow its investments in these areas, it will also begin to invest for new reasons.

“Sometimes an opportunity doesn’t generate high financial returns, but does generate other benefits,” says Muth. “For example, it may create jobs, or support the social well-being of people in the community, or help the environment. If so, we may now consider investing in it.”

Addressing bigger-picture issues

The organization will also focus on issues that are of larger scope or are more complex.

“We have a number of responsive granting programs, for which you fill out an application for a project,” says Muth. “Then we have a number of other initiatives in which we take a more proactive, long-term approach to a regional issue. An example of that might be affordable housing or broadband.”

With input from residents, the Trust has developed 13 of these strategic priorities (see sidebar).

“As our revenue grows, more of that revenue will be going into these priorities,” says Muth. “It doesn’t mean they’re necessarily new things—just that we’ll be placing greater emphasis on them.”

Moving ahead

In fact, there were very few new or unexpected priorities to come out of Our Trust, Our Future. Muth considers that a good thing: “It would be disappointing for the organization if there were huge surprises. We pride ourselves in having continuous and ongoing engagement with the people of the Basin, and this helps us understand what is important to them and what the issues are that they are dealing with.”



Strategic Priorities

The Trust plans to focus on 13 priorities over the next five years:

- affordable housing
- agriculture
- arts, culture and heritage
- broadband
- community priorities
- early childhood and childhood development
- economic development
- environment
- First Nations relationships
- land acquisition
- non-profit support
- recreation and physical activity
- renewable and alternative energy.

► cbt.org/ourtrust/priorities

Now that it has updated the strategic priorities in its *Columbia Basin Management Plan* for 2016 to 2020, the Trust is sharing them with people in the Basin.

It is also moving ahead on how it can address the priorities. For example, the Trust has already established a \$2-million fund that will support investment opportunities that have social, environmental, economic or community development benefits (see page 7). Other changes will require more conversation with communities and experts to identify a meaningful role for the Trust.

“We’re here to support what the people of the Basin want to achieve,” says Muth. “It’s their input that guides how we work.” ●

Foundation for the future

A look back with Board Chair Greg Deck

GREG DECK has been involved in Columbia Basin Trust since its inception. Now, after more than two decades sitting on the Board of Directors, he is completing his final term. But before he does, he sat down with *Our Trust* to reflect on the history and the future of the Trust.

OUR TRUST: What was the main goal when Columbia Basin Trust was first being developed?

GREG DECK: The main goal was always to seek the return of some of those financial benefits from the Columbia River Treaty directly to the region that suffered the environmental, social and economic damages from the treaty dams.

OT: Do you feel, after 20 years, that you've achieved that goal?

GD: I'm very satisfied with what we've achieved. The contributions by the Province to our early operations, and the capital it provided us to build power-generation and other investments, has created a regional corporation that is on the threshold of earning almost \$54 million a year—all of which we return to the Basin through the various forms of benefits that we deliver to the residents. So I see it as a remarkable success on the part of our visionary founders, as well as the various directors and staff members who have worked with us since.

OT: What have you learned along the way?

GD: We've learned that we need to

be flexible and patient, that we need to help each community achieve its own aspirations, and that it may take a while until the residents of each community can agree on a



common understanding of what those aspirations are. We've learned that sometimes those communities only need financial resources and that sometimes they need outside expertise and counselling as well.



Founding Board of Directors, 1995.

We've learned that it's important to acknowledge the difference between communities, but that we often make the best use of our resources when we look for ways to support goals that are common across a bigger area or even the whole Basin. And I think we've learned that sometimes we can be useful to communities in the Basin when we offer programs or projects that we hadn't even considered before, but that we've researched as best practices elsewhere. Sometimes we can add things to the mix; other times we are trying to empower people's own aspirations.

OT: What is your main hope for the next 20 years of Columbia Basin Trust?

GD: It's actually been 22 years since we first started the initiative. I don't know of any other opportunity in public service that can compare with the broad mandate, the large financial resources and the social licence of the Trust. So I leave it very reluctantly, but I leave it in very good hands—both around the Board table and in all of our staff positions. I'm not just hoping, I'm very confident that the foundation we've laid together will continue to serve the Basin well. I hesitate to predict exactly what our many diverse communities will aspire to, but I am confident—I have no doubt at all—that the Trust will find clever and innovative ways to help them get there. ●

▶ cbt.org/ourtrust/board

Forging a profit

Thanks to valuable business advice, a Crawford Bay family is hammering out a living at Kootenay Forge

LIKE MANY OF THE COMMUNITIES sprinkled along Kootenay roads, Crawford Bay has been a magnet for creative, free-spirited people who have turned their passions into successful businesses. This includes jewellers, glass blowers, broom makers, weavers and Kootenay Forge, a blacksmithing shop whose wrought-iron fixtures and accessories (think towel racks, wall lamps, curtain rods and candleholders) adorn the interiors of some of Western Canada's most dazzling and opulent homes.

Coming west from Nova Scotia, Forge founder John Smith hammered out his first creations in 1981. In 2007, Smith sold the forge to his daughter, Gina Medhurst, and her husband Cory. It was the best of times, with eight blacksmiths working full time, orders pouring in from all over North America and the company on track to crack the million-dollar mark in annual sales.

But like many businesses, the fortunes of Kootenay Forge were seriously affected for three years following the economic downturn that began shortly after the global financial crisis of 2008.

Feeling stressed about the Forge's future, the Medhursts reached out to Wendy Morrison of Columbia Basin Trust's Basin Business Advisors program. "I heard about the program through the local chamber of commerce," says Gina. "At that point, due to the economic downturn and some pressing personal issues, we essentially went to Wendy and wondered if we should simply declare bankruptcy and walk away from the Forge."

The Forge was barely keeping its doors open. To keep costs and inventory manageable, they were concentrating on their retail gift shop and had largely abandoned the wholesale part of the business.

Morrison crunched Kootenay Forge's numbers and came to the conclusion that it was a long way from bankruptcy, but that things had to change.

What happened next was somewhat painful, especially to Smith, who was now back in the family business, helping make products for minimal pay in order to maintain profitability. "She had us go through our entire catalogue of 250 items and take a hard look at which items were making money and which ones weren't," says Gina. Coat hooks might be inexpensively priced and immensely popular, but they were low-margin items compared to, say, lamps.

Gina says, "We actually cut the number of items in our catalogue to 85 so that we could add some completely new designs in the future."

Focusing on the more profitable items made an immediate difference to the Forge's bottom line. "The gift shop is thriving. Our sales are up almost 70 per cent from 2014, and wholesalers are starting to come back."

The Medhursts credit much of this success to the advice they received from Morrison. "Wendy was amazing! She was easy to get hold of, remained calm during my small panics, remained professional and checked in regularly with us," says Gina. "I would definitely advise any business to seek out the Basin Business Advisors program." ●



Cory and Gina Medhurst (pictured together, opposite page) revived their blacksmithing business with advice from the Trust's Basin Business Advisors program.



Better business in the Basin

The Trust helps local businesses in several ways

- **Basin Business Advisors** assists small- and medium-sized businesses, including social enterprises, by providing free, one-to-one, confidential business counselling and assessment services. It also arranges and cost-shares specialized consulting services if recommended by program advisors.

▶ bbaprogram.ca

- **School Works** helps small businesses, non-profits, First Nations organizations and public bodies hire full-time students on a part-time basis throughout the school year. **Summer Works** helps small businesses hire high school and post-secondary students full time in entry-level and career-related jobs during the summer break.

▶ cbt.org/ourtrust/studentwage

▶ cbt.org/ourtrust/economic



Eleven thousand rural households in the
Columbia Basin Boundary region are getting
high-speed Internet access

Broadeni

Towers like this one
above Nelson wirelessly
provide Internet service
to Basin residents.

IMAGINE: NO ONLINE BANKING, NO NETFLIX, no Skypeing or FaceTiming with out-of-town family.

In some rural areas of the Columbia Basin, residents have had to learn to live without. Internet access is too slow, or too unreliable, or doesn't exist at all.

For up to 11,000 of these households, located in communities throughout the Columbia Basin Boundary region, this situation is about to change.

Columbia Basin Trust, 12 Internet service providers in the Basin and local regional districts have worked together to secure up to \$3.34 million in federal funding from the Connecting Canadians program and nearly \$2.3 million from the provincial Connecting British Columbia Program. This means high-speed access is on its way to thousands of rural residents who never had it before.



ng access to broadband

Expanding our communities' horizons

Tim Ryan needs reliable, high-speed Internet to do his job.

When he first moved to the village of Kaslo in 2001, there was very basic dial-up service. "If you've got small communities like Kaslo that are wonderful places to live but there is zero bandwidth, what possible hope do these places have to be able to participate in an electronic knowledge economy?" he asks. "It's economically strangling."

Luckily for him, Kaslo InfoNet was able to turn that around. In 2006, the local Internet service provider was able to introduce high-speed service to a limited number of customers—including Ryan, who serves as a director on the non-profit's Board.

Ryan now makes his living as a senior technology officer for an Edmonton-based photofinishing lab. The high-speed Internet "made it feasible for me to exist here."

Strengthening our ISPs

Still, there are pockets of people around Kaslo who can't access high-speed service—and many more in the Basin's other

rural areas. This is where the combined \$5.64 million from the governments fits in, along with additional funding from Internet service providers, regional districts and the Trust.

Internet service providers (ISPs) are the companies or non-profit organizations that sell Internet services to customers. They may be huge and nationwide (think Telus or Shaw) or serve a local area (like Kaslo InfoNet).

The 12 ISPs that decided to join forces with Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation to apply to the programs now have the funds to 1) introduce high-speed service (five megabits per second) to rural areas that never had it before and/or 2) improve the slow or unreliable service that already exists.

Columbia Wireless is a locally owned and operated ISP based out of Nelson. While it currently covers most of the West Kootenay, only a couple of the communities it services are able to receive high-speed access. Thanks to the funding, it is now improving service to all its existing customers by upgrading 18 of its 21 towers.

"The funding from these programs is going to help our customers quite a bit with increasing service speed



Ben Leslie of Columbia Wireless performs work on a tower overlooking Nelson.

COLIN PAYNE

Know the lingo

WHEN IT COMES TO INTERNET SERVICE, the words “broadband” and “high-speed” essentially mean the same thing. Different broadband services may connect users to the Internet in different ways, but they all offer high-speed access.

and improving reliability of service,” says chief executive officer Ben Leslie. “We had plans to upgrade our entire network anyway; however, funding the upgrades privately would have been a slow process over a few years. Thanks to these programs, we plan to upgrade all existing towers this year and build the new expansion towers to our network next summer.”

Accessing the regional broadband network

The Trust also plays a role. In order to improve

The participating Internet service providers from across the Columbia Basin Boundary region

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. China Creek Internet Services Ltd. | 9. Tough Country Communication Ltd. |
| 2. Columbia Wireless Inc. | 10. Trout Lake BC Internet Society |
| 3. East Shore Internet Society | 11. WINK Wireless |
| 4. FlexiNET Broadband Inc. | 12. Yahk Area Communications Society. |
| 5. Inonoaklin Edgewood Broadband | |
| 6. Kaslo InfoNet Society | Contact your local ISP to learn more about the improvements coming to your community. |
| 7. Peak Broadband Solutions | |
| 8. SWIFT Internet | |

connectivity across the Basin, in 2011 it created a wholly owned subsidiary called the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation (CBBC).

Since then, CBBC has been lighting up a high-speed network in the Basin. This network is currently 724 kilometres long, stretching from the U.S. border near Waneta, up through Trail and Rossland, to Crawford Bay, over to Cranbrook, and as far north as Canal Flats and Elkford. CBBC’s priority has been activating this network, and most of it is now active, meaning information can pass through it.

The network is primarily made up of fibre optic cables, about the diameter of a quarter, slung over telephone poles. Although it passes a variety of rural communities, many of them can’t access this network without what’s called a “point of presence.”

Thanks to the government funding, CBBC is now able to add or upgrade 23 “points of presence.” This involves installing equipment that will allow ISPs to connect to the network. ISPs can then relay the service to their customers—often using the towers and equipment the government funding is enabling them to build or upgrade.

“I think of our current network as a freeway or highway,” says CBBC chief operating officer Aimee Ambrosone. “The network has great capacity if you can connect to it. This project will let us put more on- and off-ramps onto that information freeway in rural locations.”

The end result of the work both CBBC and local ISPs are undertaking will be new or improved service to thousands of residents in communities across the Columbia Basin Boundary region. Finally, these people will find activities like online viewing, banking, chatting and working within reach. ●

► cbt.org/ourtrust/broadband

A MIDST THE VICTORIAN architecture of downtown Revelstoke, at the foot of the Selkirk Mountains, sits an unassuming brown brick building. During the summer months its exterior crawls with ivy and things are relatively calm inside. In the winter, though, with ever-growing snowbanks overwhelming the streets of one of the snowiest communities in the country, it becomes a hive of activity. This is the headquarters of Avalanche Canada, our national public avalanche safety organization.

Originally called the Canadian Avalanche Centre, the organization formed in 2004 largely in response to the tragic winter season of 2002/03, in which 29 people lost their lives to avalanches in Canada. In the short time since, Avalanche Canada has become a homegrown world leader in forecasting, education and public safety, and has been instrumental in reducing the annual average number of avalanche deaths in Canada.

Today, the non-profit is the single most important source of information on snow safety for recreational backcountry users in Canada—for free—while also providing a host of excellent snow science and outreach programs.

Avalanche Canada exists to deliver an essential safety service, explains executive director Gilles Valade. The organization is funded through a variety of sources, including Columbia Basin Trust. Over the last two years, the Trust has worked closely with the organization, including granting \$325,000 to help cover ongoing activities.

“Most of our funding is annual,” says Valade, “and not guaranteed year-to-year. Columbia Basin Trust gave us a two-year agreement that enables us to have the infrastructure for our programs and the organization behind our services.” This, in turn, directly powers the workforce that runs these important public programs—the most widely used of which is avalanche.ca, the main mode of delivery for the national daily avalanche bulletin.

Through Trust funding, in 2014 Avalanche Canada retooled its site to provide a simpler user experience, reduced the number of clicks required to access the most relevant information and hired a full-time IT staff person. For the 2014/15 winter season, 185,000 unique users made 518,000 visits to avalanche.ca, with about 35 per cent of those visits coming through Avalanche Canada’s mobile app.



Snow intel

Avalanche Canada keeps backcountry recreationalists safe in the snow

“Sixty-five per cent of all avalanche fatalities in Canada have occurred in the Columbia Basin,” says Valade. “This region is famous for its winter recreation and there is a tremendous amount of public use of avalanche terrain, which is why eight of our 12 forecast regions are here. Serving residents of and visitors to the Basin is critical.”

Shauna Speers is a search and rescue manager in Golden. For the public, what has improved dramatically over the last few years, she says, is the interpretation and presentation of Avalanche Canada’s data. “Before it was super hard for backcountry users to understand; it was more for avalanche professionals than the target audience.”

Thankfully for Speers, that’s no longer the case. If there’s an incident in her area, she’s often the first called. The more informed the public is, the less she needs to put herself at risk. Due in part to the proliferation of the bulletin, she’s not seeing an increase in callouts for avalanche involvements, even as the number of backcountry users increases. “People are starting to invest in education and equipment, and Avalanche Canada is a big part of that. Snowmobilers, especially, make up a really big group that’s getting more and more tuned in.”

Indeed, as a region whose roots lie in the wild places that are the foundation of industry, recreation and community, Avalanche Canada remains an important service. Thanks to the funding from those who recognize its key role in leading fuller, healthier lives, everyone in the Basin has the opportunity to play a little harder and feel a little safer. ●

Raising a child care centre

Solid research and close ties build better foundations for Golden's children

“ **STILL GET GOOSEBUMPS** thinking about what we've come through,” says Karen Cathcart of her town's five-year journey to build a 102-space child care centre. “When the going got tough—and truly it got tough—we were still able to come to the table and say, ‘No, we need to push forward,’” recalls the Golden campus manager for College of the Rockies.

For over a decade, the people of Golden had known there were gaps in the local child care offering. Home daycares were insufficient in number, preventing some parents from working or going back to school. As well, local teachers had raised flags about the readiness of kindergartners for school. Many people felt Golden needed a licensed group daycare with places for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and that it should be staffed by trained early childhood educators. But group daycares—particularly those that support enough staff to care for babies—are notoriously difficult to get off the ground.



Golden's 102-space Early Years Centre (rendering bottom left) will hold its grand opening in summer 2016.



In Golden, “there have been a couple of stabs at it over the years, but it's been hard to make them financially viable,” says Connie Barlow, executive director of Golden Community Resources Society.

In 2011, with Trust support, local child care professionals commissioned a feasibility study to research the cost of maintaining a group child care program versus the status quo.

Essentially, the study declared that a licensed quality child care facility would improve the economic and social health of the whole area, from parents to businesses to local colleges. And it promised to enrich the younger generation with stronger aptitudes for numbers and language in later school years.

The results of the study were compelling enough to inspire a number of residents to form the Early Learning and Care Stakeholder Action Group. Members included the mayor, the School District Six superintendent, the Rotary Club president and the Ministry of Children and Family Development's regional director, as well as early



grants, initiatives and programs



preschool and group child care rooms. For the final funding needed for the infant and toddler room, the group again approached the Trust.

In December 2014, the Trust provided the group with the final construction funds: \$316,000 from its Social Grants program.

Both Barlow and Cathcart credit hiring the right project co-ordinator for the group's ability to stay the course over several years of discussions and to ultimately secure more than \$1 million for the project. "A co-ordinator is an important person," she explains. "Joanne became the collective heart of our project. She engaged people and was able to tell 'our story.'"

Another smart decision, says Barlow, was devoting valuable resources to researching best practices in similar centres, eventually developing a guidebook. "Our point of view was, 'Let's have a common understanding of what we're creating.'" In addition to leading to better, more efficient construction and setup periods later on, the exercise drew members closer together, says Barlow. They felt committed not only to the project, but to one another.

Cathcart looks back over the team's journey with well-earned pride. "People have asked, 'Why is it different now?'"—referring to Golden's past child care efforts. "And I know the reason why it's different this time. Because from the very get-go we made this a community effort. We had private daycares, education, local government and business and industry all pushing and working together." ●

childhood educators and representatives from many other local organizations.

They began with a six-month consultation, funded by Columbia Basin Trust, to create a viable business plan. Though the process cemented commitments and fostered camaraderie, it did not identify any existing buildings appropriate for the group's purposes. Construction was the best option. The Golden Community Resources Society agreed to operate the centre and the school district offered land at Alexander Park Elementary School, proposing that the centre be constructed as an addition to the elementary school.

With Trust support, the group hired Joanne McCullough as project co-ordinator. She pursued funding opportunities and commissioned conceptual drawings that provided beautiful visions but frightening cost estimates. Although they fundraised impressive contributions from residents and organizations, it wasn't enough.

"Then all of a sudden," recalls Barlow, "two amazing opportunities became available to us."

The first was an opportunity to promote Golden as a pilot site for an Early Years Centre. Golden was selected by the Government of British Columbia as one of 12 test sites in a network of Early Years Centres across the province.

The second opportunity was the timely announcement of the provincial government's Major Capital Funding program. Under it, the group secured \$500,000 to cover the capital costs required to create new licensed child care spaces.

"Wow, this was it!" says Barlow. "This was the funding that would make it possible to get the show on the road."

Adding this money to pledges from the Columbia Valley Credit Union, Town of Golden, Rotary Club, Steve Nash Foundation and Western Financial Group, plus generous private donations, the group finally had enough to cover the

► cbt.org/ourtrust/social



Putting youth in the driver's seat

How do Basin communities keep youth engaged? They start by asking them

SMALL-TOWN LIVING, for all its wonderful attributes, can leave the calendars of youth a little lacking in social life, extracurricular activities and opportunities. But in New Denver, the historic and picturesque community of 600 on the east shore of Slocan Lake, youth turn to the Outlet Youth Centre to help fill this gap. Since opening in May 2012, the Outlet has become an integral part of the youth experience in New Denver and outlying communities like Hills and Silverton. Art classes, ski trips, first-aid courses and a popular Tuesday night supper club are just a few of the activities offered at the Outlet. It's also an important meeting place—a social hub where youth can hang out in a safe and comfortable environment.

“It has a real family feel, and it has brought youth in our community a lot closer together,” says 17-year-old Claire Yaremchuk, who previously served on the Outlet's Board of Directors. “It's also a way for us to meet other youth who are visiting and camping around New Denver in the summer.”

Located at street level in a heritage building that once housed a café, the Outlet has a casual and welcoming atmosphere, with couches and a bank of computers in the main area. The walls, painted in purple and blue waves, feature

youth artwork, including a creative take on a Jackson Pollock painting. In the back room there's a fully stocked kitchen, and on warm days young people can hang out in a backyard patio area with lawn chairs and a swinging seat.

Banishing boredom, and more

The Outlet is one of many positive examples of how Columbia Basin Trust is helping communities increase local activities, opportunities and services for youth aged 12 to 19. In 2011, during the Trust's last round of youth strategic planning consultations, Basin residents listed some common concerns, including youth boredom, a lack of activities and opportunities, inconsistent funding to support youth services or spaces and the need for a safe space, or hub.

Consequently, in 2012 the Trust launched Community-Directed Youth Funds, a four-year initiative intended to address issues like these.

Since the plan's inception, 19 participating communities—from Valemount on the Yellowhead Highway to Rossland near the U.S. border—have taken a grassroots approach in deciding how to set up the program



Learning first aid at the Outlet Youth Centre in New Denver.

(TOP AND OPPOSITE PAGE) BY YOUTH CLUB; (LEFT) ANITA DUMINS



Beaver Valley youth lend a hand in the kitchen for a food bank fundraiser (above) and at the Silver City Days parade (right).



locally and how to put into action a four-year total of \$100,000 each in funding. With the support of the Trust and adult community members, youth played a key role in the process, including by identifying issues, prioritizing ideas, brainstorming solutions and hiring co-ordinators.

“The Columbia Basin Trust funding has been essential to our being able to provide youth with a centre of their own, which has become more than just a space. They take ownership and responsibility for the centre and for themselves,” says Outlet co-ordinator Paula Shandro. “I believe they feel valued by the community in that the centre receives widespread community support, and the kids have a place to go that is neutral and is their own.”

A customizable approach

When the Trust first reached out to Basin communities to gather information on youth issues and concerns, the Village of Fruitvale had already identified youth engagement as a priority goal. After Trust funding was secured in 2012, Fruitvale community leaders worked with their counterparts in nearby communities like Montrose to form what is now called the Beaver Valley Youth Club. Instead of a one-size-fits-

all approach, each area or region decides how best to use the funding to meet the unique needs of its youth. That’s the key to the program’s success, says Tammy Gallamore, who took over as co-ordinator of the Beaver Valley Youth Club in 2014.

Although the club started with, and continues to focus on, volunteerism and fun social events, its initial formal structure struggled to hit the mark with participating youth. But the club still served an important role, and organizers were determined to work through the growing pains. The club shifted focus and put youth in the driver’s seat in a more open and casual environment, allowing them to take an active part in planning and making programming decisions.

“When I first met with the kids after taking over, we brainstormed. I didn’t want to lead; I wanted to facilitate and allow the kids to lead,” says Gallamore.

The club is now a big hit—a Friday night focal point that fills a blank spot for many youth in the Beaver Valley region. These days, an average of 30 youth meet every Friday evening between 6:30 and 9 p.m. on the lower floor of the Fruitvale Memorial Hall. The club offers youth a mix of experiences and opportunities while also striving to attract and offer more to male youth. A volunteer component helps foster civic responsibility among youth through helping out at events like Canada Day celebrations. Meanwhile, social and sporting events, such as games and movie nights, and skating and bowling outings, give youth the chance to engage with one another in a fun, safe environment.

Leadership development is also an important aspect of the club. In 2015, the club began offering Today’s Teens, Tomorrow’s Leaders, a popular program developed in the United States that helps build youth confidence.

“I graduated from the leadership course in July. It really helped me to overcome some shyness and get comfortable speaking in front of groups,” says 15-year-old Kyleen Mcmillan, one of 20 Beaver Valley youth to complete the program.

Looking forward

With up to four years of the program behind them, the participating Basin communities have built strong foundations for youth culture and meaningful youth engagement. Engaged and happy youth are key to healthy communities in the Basin, and the Trust will continue to reach out to support community efforts to ensure youth are supported and proud to live in this region. ●

► cbt.org/ourtrust/youth

Zebra and quagga mussels may be tiny, but the threat they pose to Basin industries is staggering

Underwater invaders

Mussel cluster



“ZEBRA” AND “QUAGGA” may sound perfectly paired to star in a Dr. Seuss book, but their presence in the Basin is anything but playful. Walleye and northern pike, two invasive freshwater fish, have already wiggled their way into local rivers and lakes, raising local concern as they chomp through food sources and alter the balance of aquatic ecosystems. And although the zebra and quagga (mussels, that is) have not yet shown up in British Columbia, the havoc they’ve wreaked in other regions has people in the province rallying to keep them at bay.

Zebra and quagga mussels, dubbed ZQM by those in the field, are almond-sized mollusks with striped shells. Adult ZQM latch firmly onto underwater surfaces with thin cords called byssal threads (imagine a beard dipped in crazy glue), where they live for up to five years. The theory is that zebra

MATT CHILKOS

mussels first arrived in North America in the 1980s when trans-Atlantic freight ships released ballast water at port in the Great Lakes region. Swirling about in the discharged water were stowaways from Eastern Europe: zebra mussels. It would only have taken a single tank and two mussels—one male and one female—to pioneer a population boom.

The first colony was found in Lake St. Clair, east of Detroit, Michigan. Three years later, zebra mussels had taken over parts of Lake Erie, with densities reported at up to 700,000 mussels per square metre. Thirty years later—and now with their cousin quagga in tow—the tiny bivalves have spread throughout Ontario and Quebec, turned up in Lake Winnipeg and been found in waters of 34 U.S. states. In spring 2015, two dead zebra mussels were found clinging to a dock near the Red River in Manitoba.

A map of ZQM in North America shows a scourge of red dots clumped around the Great Lakes, clotting waterways that feed out of the epicentre and speckling hundreds more lakes and rivers with new data points noting their arrival. Yet, as of today, British Columbia remains mussel-free.

Many organizations hope it will stay this way. The Okanagan Basin Water Board, for example, estimates costs to Okanagan communities of over \$43 million per year if the mussels were to establish themselves in Okanagan waterways.



With funding from Columbia Basin Trust, the provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program increased the number of inspection teams from three to six, helping educate the public and prevent mussels from being transported into BC.

The Columbia Basin's Khaylish Fraser is also concerned. As the aquatic invasive species program co-ordinator with the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society, Fraser understands the ramifications of a mussel outbreak. "Our lakes and rivers are at risk," she says. "The ecology and economy of the Columbia Basin would be seriously impacted."

In the span of a single year, one female mussel can spawn millions of eggs. After two or three days, the eggs become larvae, moving with the current for several weeks, sometimes travelling hundreds of kilometres before they take up residence somewhere. For the first year they creep along a surface with their mollusk feet until they finally settle down to stay.

Between the two species, ZQM can cover any surface. Docks, boat hulls, pipes and aquatic plants become encrusted with layer upon layer of mussels filter-feeding for phytoplankton, stripping the lake or river of food and excreting liquid feces.

According to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the ecological impacts of ZQM include an increase in toxic algal blooms, degradation of spawning grounds, lowered chance of fish egg survival and less food available for fish. These could lead to big drops in fish populations, including those favoured by anglers, such as trout and kokanee. Also, as the mussels filter out a lake's plankton, the water becomes remarkably clearer. Sunlight then travels deeper, and aquatic vegetation, including the invasive milfoil, has a better chance of



survival. A few other problems that can come with ZQM are increased community drinking water treatment costs, clogged community water-intake pipes, botched agricultural irrigation systems and exorbitant maintenance costs for hydroelectric and drinking water facilities.

For example, Ontario Power Generation had to spend between \$15 and \$18 million to retrofit its facilities in response to a zebra mussel infestation. And in some areas, thick carpets of razor-sharp mussels have covered the once-pebbly or -sandy beaches, making it nearly impossible to swim or walk barefoot. Meanwhile, the mussels continue to multiply.

“Just one boat carrying live mussels or their larvae across the border into BC could set things off,” Fraser warns. ZQM are small and their larvae are even smaller, invisible to the naked eye, which makes detection tricky.

Part of Fraser’s job is to help coordinate the aquatic efforts of the four invasive species societies that currently operate in the Basin: the East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council, Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society and Northwest Invasive Plant Council. With numerous lakes and rivers, the Basin and the province as a whole are popular destinations for water enthusiasts, who drive a huge number of boats here from the States and other provinces. This means vigilance about detection is key.

In July 2015, a new partnership was announced. To increase the chance of finding mussels before they enter BC’s waterways, British Columbia’s Ministry of Environment Invasive Mussel Defence Program, Columbia Basin Trust and the invasive species societies banded together to streamline efforts and resources. With a \$275,000 contribution from Columbia Basin Trust, \$70,000 from Columbia Power Corporation and \$15,000 from FortisBC, the number of Conservation Officer Service inspection teams who stop, check and clean watercraft has been doubled from three to six.

The teams are strategically based out of Cranbrook, Invermere, Nelson, Penticton and Valemount, and move between border locations, focusing on high-traffic routes to



A regional committee is addressing all aquatic invasive species, including yellow flag-iris.

Mussels, irises, bullfrogs and more

Not only are invasive mussels a concern, but so are aquatic plants like yellow flag-iris and flowering rush. These can escape from garden ponds and establish themselves in our rivers, lakes and wetlands, choking out native species and impacting wildlife.

To address all these invasive threats—from the Asian clam to the American bullfrog—a regional steering committee worked with the four invasive species societies and the Trust to create a broad, long-term plan. There were over 20 members on the committee, with representation from government to environmental groups to industry.

The goal is to prevent the introduction and reduce the spread of all aquatic invasive species that pose significant risk, potentially impacting the ecology, economy and social opportunities of the region.

► cbt.org/invasiveplan

ensure all watercraft—including kayaks, canoes and stand-up paddleboards—are mussel-free. And yes, there have been a few close calls. In addition to these stations, proactive efforts also include water sampling to test for larvae and outreach campaigns such as the catchy Clean, Drain, Dry program.

As ZQM populations grow outside of the province, so does the threat of a local introduction. How ironic that the original quagga went extinct in the late 19th century (it was a type of zebra—the mammal, not the mussel), whereas these ones are so prolific. To date, there is no viable solution to the ZQM problem beyond trying to stop them from hitching a ride into our region. And once established, they’ll likely be here to stay. ●

► cbt.org/ourtrust/environment

Through loans from Columbia Basin Trust, local businesses are investing in their futures and their communities

Return on investment

Room and board

WHILE VACATIONING IN THE KOOTENAYS, Annette and Larry Plett saw a little business for sale in Meadow Creek. By October 2014, they'd moved from Kelowna to become the proud owners of Drifter's Restaurant, the village's longstanding sole roadside eatery-pub-bunkhouse.

Now they're set on making that business opportunity even bigger, both for Drifter's and the community at large.

An area institution since the 1960s, around the time Duncan Dam was built, Drifter's has become a hub for the village of Meadow Creek and surrounding communities. "Primarily, there isn't anything up the lake for people to stay at," Annette says. "Road workers, crews, firefighters, everybody—they need a place to stay."

Larry and Annette Plett, owners of Drifter's Restaurant in Meadow Creek.

DAVIDE GLUNS



Investing on Your Behalf

The Trust's investments enable it to deliver programs and services

IN 1995, the Province of British Columbia endowed Columbia Basin Trust with \$321 million: \$276 million to invest in regional hydroelectric projects, and \$45 million to invest otherwise. Since then, the Trust has been carefully investing this money in

order to deliver programs and services to Basin residents.

The Trust invests in three overarching categories: power projects, private placements, which includes real estate investments and loans to Basin businesses, and market securities.

In addition to providing financial benefits, many of the Trust's investments also promote social, economic and environmental well-being in the Basin.

▶ cbt.org/ourtrust/investments

With the help of a loan from Columbia Basin Trust, the Pletts are completely rebuilding Drifter's on-site accommodations, renovating them from bare-bones lodgings into modern motel-style rooms. They're taking the restaurant off the well it's long shared with the adjacent grocery store and digging its own, and adding its own sewage system. Plus, they've added an 800-square-foot deck, which opened in time for summer 2015. "The patio deck has been a huge draw for people," says Annette. "We've had a big increase in business."

But the Pletts are also looking at things with a broader view: the motel-style accommodations are vital to making

Meadow Creek a tourism destination. And that potential boon to the economy is the Pletts' ultimate goal. Annette notes the region is ideal for outdoor recreation like boating, fishing, hiking and quadding. "I think it will be a destination for people; that's what we're trying to make it. Not just a place that people are going to drive through, but that they'll want to come to; they'll be using it year after year."

Drifter's currently employs six people—making it one of the community's biggest employers—a number that will grow once the accommodations are up and running. It also supports the local economy in other ways, including using local growers for seasonal produce and putting regional breweries on its beer list.

Although the Pletts are new to the village, they've been humbled by the support it has offered and recognize the important role their business plays for area residents. "A little restaurant like this is a critical part of a small community," says Annette. "It's an economic engine, and a place for people to gather. It really has united the valley in terms of the different communities that are here."



Andy and Michelle Gray, owners of Gray's Compounding Pharmacy in Kimberley.

Prescription for growth

WHAT STARTED OUT AS PHARMACIST Michelle Gray's vision for a health- and lifestyle-focused community pharmacy has quickly grown into an essential service for customers throughout the Kootenays.

Andy and Michelle Gray opened Gray's Compounding Pharmacy in May 2013 in Kimberley's Marysville area, delivering compounded medications (personalized for patients in specific strengths and dosages) to customers throughout the East Kootenay.

When they had the opportunity to partner with Golden Life Management and supply medications to six of its long-term-care seniors facilities, from Kimberley to Fernie to Grand Forks, another facet of the business was born—and another capital investment was required.

With a loan from the Trust, the Grays were able to

invest in the equipment they needed to supply, deliver and track medications for approximately 350 residents. The focal purchase was a packaging machine that individually pouch-packages and labels all medications, vastly improving ease of delivery for the nurses.

The Grays are also bringing technology into the facilities through an electronic medication management system, meaning nurses no longer have to log everything on paper. “The tracking and the data that they’re able to gain from the system is one of the real big advantages,” says Andy, “so we can all continue to become more efficient, but also to improve patient safety and patient compliance.”

A destination pint

FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS, Mt. Begbie Brewing Co. has been satiating people with its craft-brewed beers, served throughout British Columbia and into Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Now, having outgrown its second location in downtown Revelstoke, the brewery is moving to new digs where it will be able to marry its current focus on the bottled product with a year-round tourism-oriented approach, including increased brewery tours, a tasting room and a retail space.

A loan from the Trust has enabled owners Bart and Tracey Larson to develop a tract of land just east of Revelstoke off Highway 1, put in infrastructure like water, sewer and power, and build a nearly 15,000-square-foot facility. This will allow them to amalgamate their storage facilities on site, increase capacity by 50 per cent right off the bat, offer tastings anytime (something they’re currently unable to do) and leave significant room for growth. Plus, the new brewery will employ about 13 people.

Since they founded the brewery in 1996, the Larsons have seen the craft brewing industry shift and explode. They have also noticed an influx of brewery tourism in



Bart and Tracey Larson, owners of Mt. Begbie Brewing Co. in Revelstoke.

recent years, and are optimistic about the contribution Mt. Begbie Brewing Co. will make to tourism and the economy in Revelstoke.

“Revelstoke relies a lot on tourism, and people investing in the tourism aspect is really helpful,” she says. “It’s all about growing our community and making it a place where people can survive economically and live.” ●

Powered Up

Celebrating the completion of Waneta Expansion

IN LATE JULY 2015, workers and their families gathered to celebrate the \$900-million, 335-megawatt Waneta Expansion, which began generating power commercially this spring. The development adds a second powerhouse below Waneta Dam, just south of Trail, transforming water that would otherwise be spilled into a clean, renewable and cost-effective power source for the province of BC.

In 1995, Columbia Basin Trust and Columbia Power Corporation joined forces to develop three core power project investments in the Basin, which included the construction of Arrow Lakes Generating Station, Brilliant Expansion Generating Station and Waneta Expansion Generating Station (in partnership with Fortis Inc.). In addition to the three core power projects, the two organizations also joined forces to purchase and upgrade Brilliant Dam. ●

► cbt.org/ourtrust/power

► columbiapower.org/flipbooks/waneta



Fast facts

WANETA EXPANSION:

- was the eighth-largest infrastructure project in the province at its time of construction
- finished six weeks ahead of schedule and within budget
- employed more than 1,400 people and provided nearly 200 apprenticeship opportunities
- boosted the local economy by over \$200 million through the purchase of goods and services and provided \$95 million in wages.



Financial Report

AS WE CELEBRATE our 20th anniversary, Columbia Basin Trust is pleased to announce 2014/15 was another year of strong support to the communities we serve in the Basin. Over the year, the Trust delivered nearly \$22 million in programs and services to communities and residents, and worked to strengthen the region's social, economic and environmental well-being.

Over the year, the Trust delivered nearly \$22 million in programs and services to communities and residents.

The main way we support these activities is by investing in power projects. Over the year, all power projects performed well and brought in revenues of over \$22 million (out of total revenues of over \$29 million). In spring 2015, Waneta Expansion began operating, which will positively impact future revenues.

We also invest in market securities (stocks and bonds) and local real estate, and this year we provided nearly \$17 million in new loans to Basin-based businesses.

► cbt.org/ourtrust/annualreport

Consolidated Statement of Operations for the Year Ending March 31 (in Thousands)

	2015	2014
Revenues		
Power Projects	\$22,514	\$22,825
Market Securities	2,558	1,380
Private Placements: Commercial Loans	1,528	1,121
Private Placements: Real Estate Investments	1,069	886
Short-term Investments	946	1,208
Other	921	1,933
	29,536	29,353
Expenses		
Community Initiatives	6,866	7,773
Economic Initiatives	5,074	6,592
Water and Environment Initiatives	3,429	3,491
Social Initiatives	2,605	1,674
Broadband Initiatives	1,562	1,234
Youth Initiatives	1,166	614
Other Initiatives	678	320
Administration	6,107	5,899
	27,487	27,597
Private Placements: Impairment Loss	625	-
Annual Surplus	\$1,424	\$1,756

Return on Investments for the Year Ending March 31

	2015	2014
Power Projects	10.7%	11.2%
Private Placements	4.7%	6.1%
Market Securities	12.1%	14.2%

Working together to strengthen the Basin

HERE IN THE COLUMBIA BASIN, one of our strongest assets is committed individuals and groups already working to improve their communities.

You may already know what your community needs, which makes you the best person to make it happen. But you may still require the right contacts, technical expertise or financial support to see it through.

At the Trust, we partner with groups and organizations to develop and deliver programs and services that improve social, economic and environmental well-being in the Basin. We offer guidance and assistance, and this issue of *Our Trust* is filled with examples of the types of work we do.

Connect with the Trust to discuss how we can support your project.

► **1.800.505.8998** ► **cbt@cbt.org**

► **cbt.org/ourtrust/contact**



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Columbia Basin
Trust staff

We want your feedback!

OUR ANNUAL REPORT TO RESIDENTS doesn't just have a new name—*Our Trust*—it has a whole new look! We believe the new magazine format will help us keep you informed about the work we're doing in the Basin by telling the stories of the community projects and programs we're supporting. We'd love to hear what you think of *Our Trust*—please fill out the enclosed comment card or fill out a short online survey to share your opinion.

► cbt.org/ourtrustfeedback



Map Legend

Columbia Basin Trust Offices

Incorporated Communities/
Ktunaxa Nation Communities

Columbia River
Treaty Dams

Columbia Basin
Trust Region

Rivers



