

Our trust

A photograph of a person carrying a young child on their back, walking up a dirt trail in a lush, mossy forest. The person is wearing a dark jacket and a beanie, and the child is wearing a blue jacket and purple boots. The forest is dense with green trees and moss-covered rocks.

A REPORT TO
RESIDENTS
IN THE
COLUMBIA
BASIN
2016/17 • FREE

**OUR CLIMATE
IS CHANGING**
How the Basin
is preparing

**TAKING
ADVICE
TO HEART**
Program offers
expertise to
non-profits

**TRUST
ON SOLID
FINANCIAL
FOOTING**

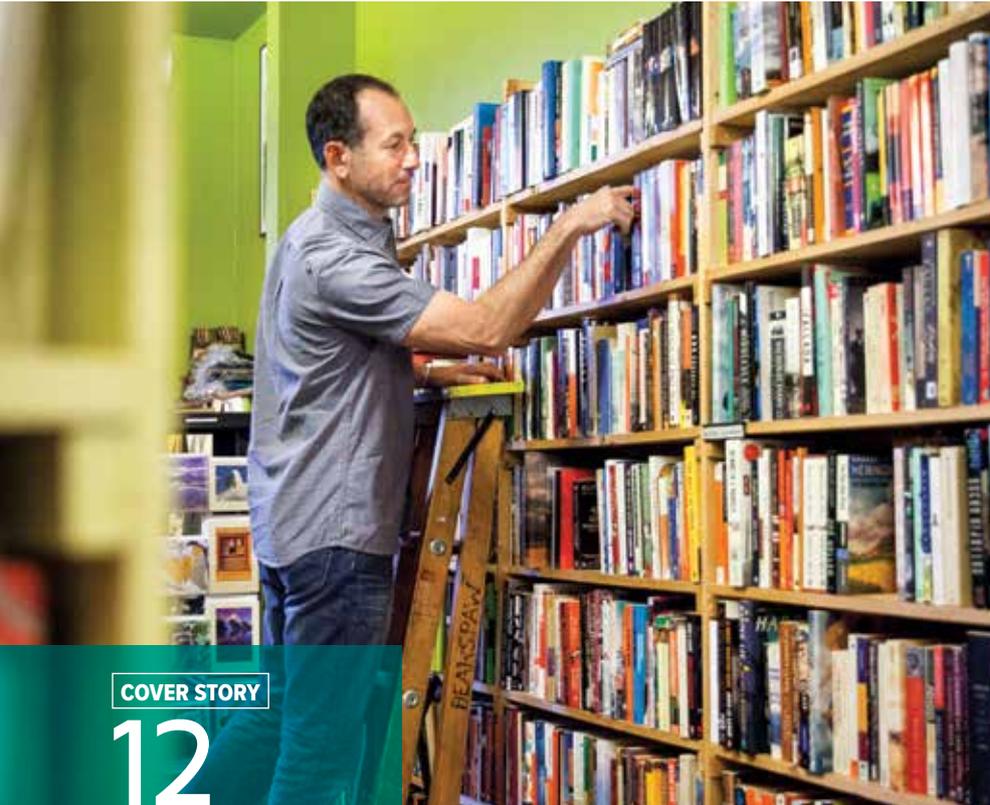
**LIVE,
WORK,
PLAY**

Strengthening
the Columbia
Basin now, and
for the future

Columbia
Basin **trust**

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A Columbia Basin Trust program supports non-profit organizations with expertise and advice



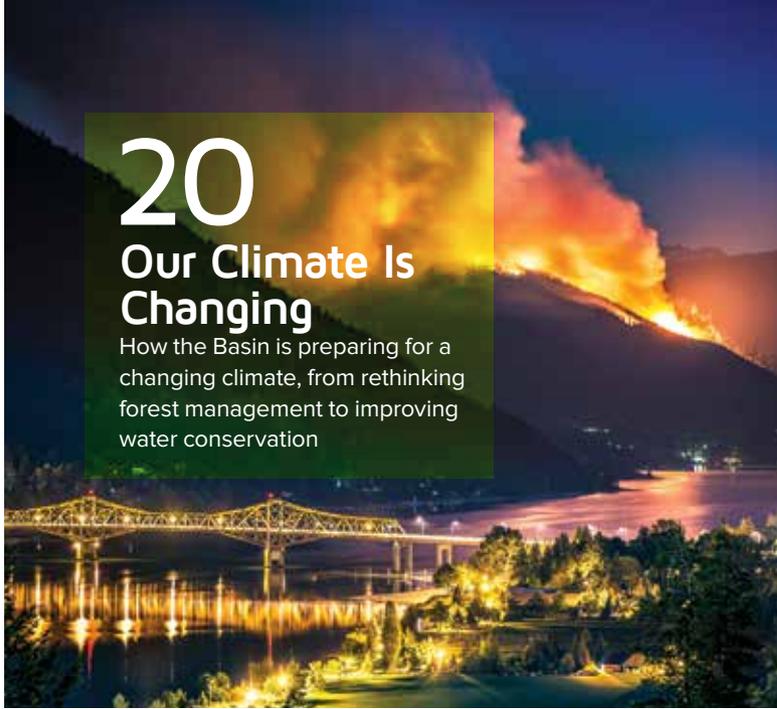
ON THE COVER

LOCATION:
Valhalla Trail,
Slocan Lake
PHOTO:
Adrian Wagner

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Our Climate Is Changing

How the Basin is preparing for a changing climate, from rethinking forest management to improving water conservation



What's Online!



We launched a new website!

We're excited to offer you an improved experience, which will make it simpler to find the information you need.

► ourtrust.org



What were the lives of Basin residents like before, during and after the construction of the Columbia River Treaty dams? Watch these stories.

► ourtrust.org/basinstories



Just starting your business? Or are you a long-time business owner?

Find business development resources through our Basin Business Advisors program, which provides free resources, consultations, workshops and more.

► bbaprogram.ca/resource-directory



Want to discover more projects from your community? Use this search tool to find projects we've funded since 2000.

► ourtrust.org/fundedprojects



We're making headway!

You helped us set 13 priorities that are guiding our efforts from 2016 to 2020. Follow our progress.

► ourtrust.org/priorities



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Return on Investment

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

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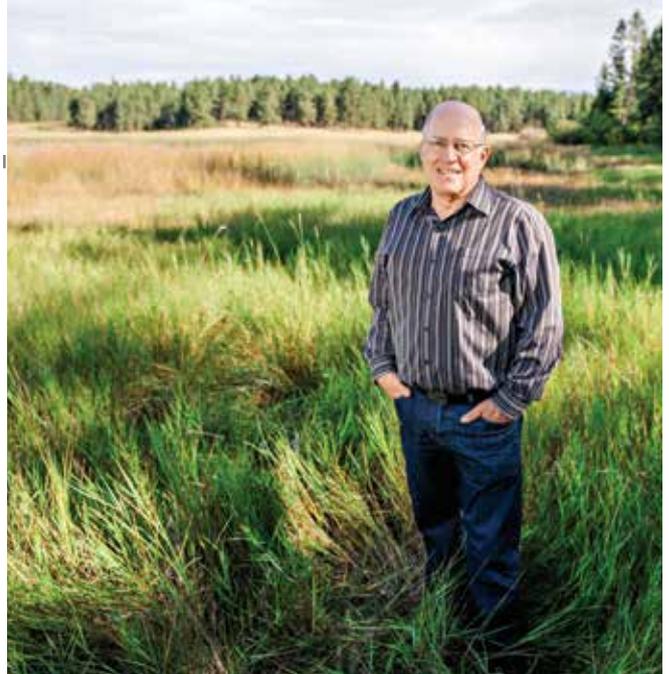
Message from the Chair

The Columbia Basin is truly a special place. It is picturesque mountains, expansive waterways and lush valleys. It is vibrant towns and serene countryside. It is creativity, knowledge and industry. And it is made up of dedicated residents who want to see the Basin thrive.

At Columbia Basin Trust, we recognize, applaud and support the efforts of people like you. You have given us your trust to manage resources generated right here in the Basin for the social, economic and environmental benefit of everyone in the region. This stewardship anchors our core values, and we conduct our work with transparency and accountability. We are your Trust.

We're proud that in 2015/16 we were able to deliver over \$31 million in programs and services to help bring your ideas to life. This is the result of increased revenues from our investments in sustainable hydroelectric power generation. This support helps you address your priorities as you strive to keep this region a great place to live, work and play.

On the following pages, you'll read about many of these successes. They include initiatives from communities, non-profit organizations, service clubs and First Nations. You'll glimpse how we aid both established businesses and future entrepreneurs. The Trust is here to help move projects forward.



For their commitment, we acknowledge and thank our staff and Board of Directors, the members of our advisory and adjudication committees who share their expertise, and our dedicated and hard-working partners.

Neil Muth, the Trust's President and CEO these past 11 years, passed away unexpectedly in early November. We dedicate this issue to Neil's memory. We will do our best to honour him by continuing to work closely with communities and people just like he did.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Jensen".

Rick Jensen
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Trust CEO remembered

May 8, 1959 – November 9, 2016

Columbia Basin Trust President and CEO Neil Muth will be remembered for his honest and sincere engagement with communities, his leadership and his commitment to supporting the efforts of the people of the Basin.

Neil joined the Trust in 2005. He was born and raised in Trail, and was excited to return to the region from Victoria. That excitement showed in his passion for and interest in every aspect of Basin communities: their projects and their aspirations, as well as the best places to ski, eat and have a cup of coffee.

Neil's accomplishments as President and CEO are many, and his appreciation and respect for the Trust's mission statement are what truly defined his service: by ensuring the Trust built and delivered programs with residents and communities; by seeking out and responding directly to feedback and guidance from communities; and by being flexible and responsive to community needs.

Neil was a friend, a mentor and a leader to so many people. He inspired us all to strive for excellence for the Trust and the Basin.

Snapshots

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

Enjoying a marsh

Located two kilometres south of the village of **Valemount**, the Starratt Wildlife Management Area—known locally as **Cranberry Marsh**—is home to over a hundred bird species, plus moose, deer, muskrat and beaver. With support from the Trust, **Tourism Valemount** has enabled visitors to circle the spongy, fragile marsh by completing a flat, six-kilometre trail, including two 600-metre sections of boardwalk. Visitors can now easily wind their way along the marsh through forests of black spruce and aspen, while enjoying the open vistas of three stunning mountain ranges: the Cariboos, Monashees and Rockies.



Restoring a tradition

Opened in 1898, **St. Eugene Church** near **Cranbrook** is one of the few late-Victorian wooden churches remaining in BC, complete with a towering steeple, buttressed corners, hand-cut shingles and stained glass windows from Italy. Now **ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ**, a Ktunaxa First Nations community, has undertaken major restoration work that has brought the church back to its former glory. With Trust support, it completed the restoration in August 2016.

Launching boats

For decades, recreation lovers have enjoyed boating and fishing on Kootenay Lake. However, recent years have seen a decline in the number of public boat launches on the east side of the lake. To help remedy the situation, the **Boswell and District Farmers' Institute** has received Trust support to refurbish its local **boat launch**. In phase one, it installed a floating breakwater; in phase two, it will rebuild the boat ramp and dock; and in the final phase, it will pave and resurface the parking lot.



Clearing a trail

The **61-kilometre Earl Grey Pass Trail** has been used as an important First Nations travel corridor, a pass for cattle drives and even a mining road. Now it's a rugged hiking route that traverses the Purcell Mountain Range from Argenta on Kootenay Lake to Toby Creek near Invermere. After floods and wildlife took out part of the trail and windstorms knocked down trees at the western end, impeding travel, the **Kaslo and District Community Forest Society** received Trust support to restore the trail. John Cathro, who has worked with local volunteers on the project, says, "This year will focus on major trail rehabilitation and rebuilding at the west side, working as far to the east as possible. Next year, we'll focus on completing the trail work, installing interpretive signage and community outreach." The Kaslo Community Forest Youth Crew will perform the work both years.

ZOE FERGUSON, IZIL LEE ORR



Repurposing a fire hall

The mantra “reduce, reuse, recycle” is practised widely throughout the Kootenays. In **Nakusp**, the **Old Fire Hall Collective Society** has refurbished and repurposed the Village-owned, 65-year-old hall with Trust support. The building now houses a local farmers' market and community kitchen on the main floor, and meeting rooms upstairs. “The farmers' market is very important to the community, both from a food security issue and economically,” says president Rosemary Hughes. “Having a well-stocked, restaurant-grade kitchen allows vendors to cook and process their edible foodstuffs right on-site. There’s even a cold storage area, and future plans call for educational classes to be taught that will help local residents grow their own food.”

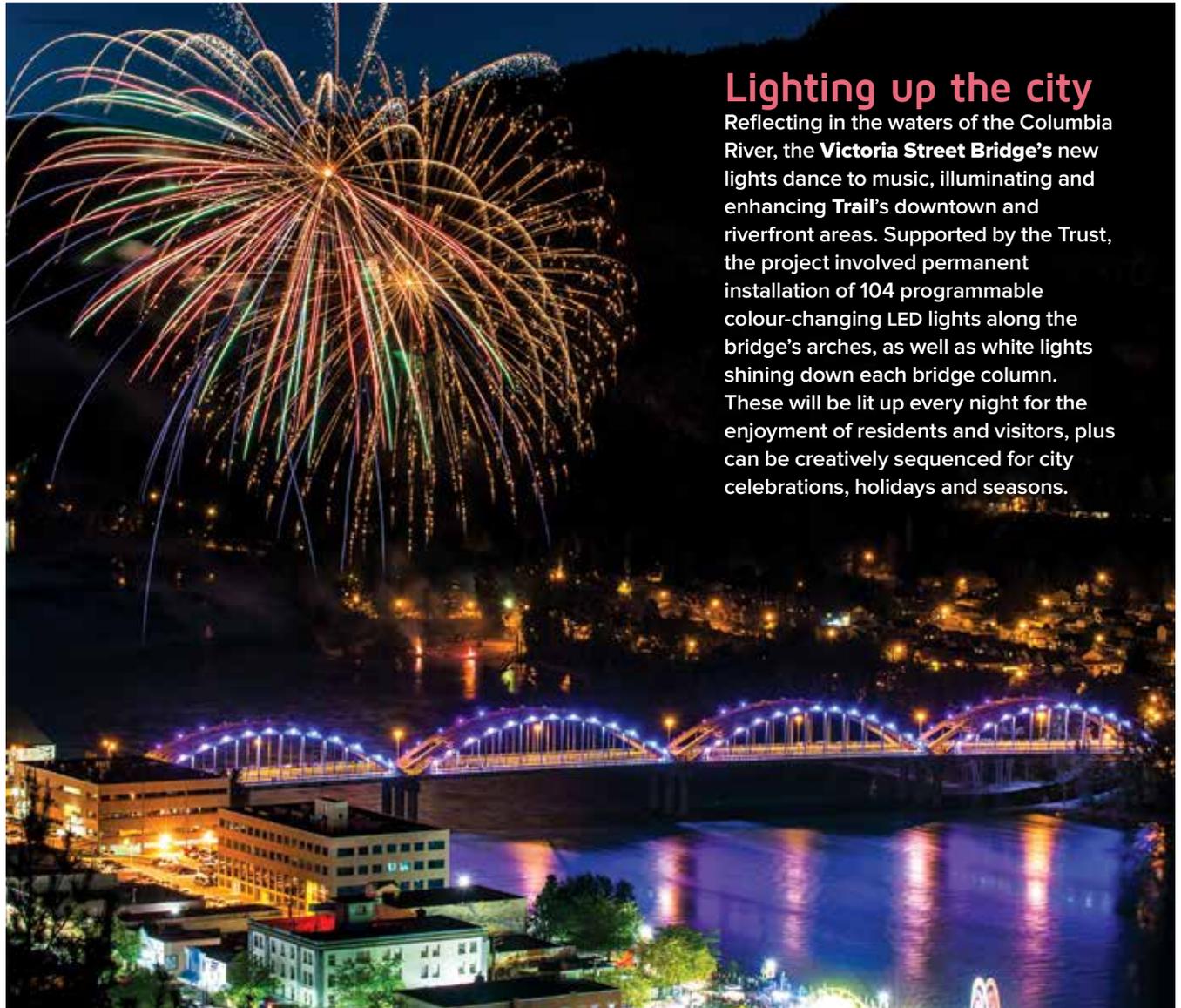
Supporting snowmobilers

Surrounded by mountain scenery that leaves people in awe, Revelstoke is known for some of the best snowmobiling in Canada. The **Revelstoke Snowmobile Club** has now made the area even more appealing by building a **new welcome centre**, which offers warm facilities for sledders, reminds them how to enjoy the backcountry safely and provides indoor storage space for the club’s snow-grooming equipment. It’s also used for board meetings and annual club events. Built with Trust support, the centre is located en route to the Boulder Mountain and Frisby Ridge trail systems.



Good fences make good neighbours

Ranchers and off-road vehicle users sometimes have competing needs. At **McGinty Lake near Kimberley**, the **Meadowbrook Community Association** is working to make sure both groups can enjoy the space without infringing upon the other. Supported by the Trust, the association has replaced and relocated the area’s smooth-wire fence with sturdier barbed wire, allowing native plants to regenerate by the shoreline with minimal disturbance from livestock and off-road vehicles.



Lighting up the city

Reflecting in the waters of the Columbia River, the **Victoria Street Bridge's** new lights dance to music, illuminating and enhancing **Trail's** downtown and riverfront areas. Supported by the Trust, the project involved permanent installation of 104 programmable colour-changing LED lights along the bridge's arches, as well as white lights shining down each bridge column. These will be lit up every night for the enjoyment of residents and visitors, plus can be creatively sequenced for city celebrations, holidays and seasons.

Supporting community

In small towns like **Field**, the **community centre** acts as the main gathering place. Craig Chapman, former board member of the **Field Recreation Advisory Association**, says, "All of Field's major community events are held at the hall: meetings, training sessions, weddings, potluck suppers, dances and major celebrations like the ones on Canada Day and for the Yoho Blow Winter Festival." Supported by the Trust, recent upgrades include a new security system, an energy-efficient furnace and windows, and improved accessibility and acoustics.



LOWER COLUMBIA TOURISM/DAVE HEATH, KAT HADFORD

By the numbers

Key stats about a variety of programs and projects Columbia Basin Trust has supported

405
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING UNITS



Since 2009, we've brought units to 13 Basin communities through affordable housing initiatives with the federal and provincial governments, student housing initiatives with local colleges and local housing organizations.

105,000
HECTARES



Thanks in part to our support of \$5.4 million since 1998, land trusts like The Nature Trust of BC and Nature Conservancy of Canada are conserving unique ecosystems in the Basin.

\$720
MILLION



The value of our investment assets, including hydro power projects, private placements and market securities, continues to grow.

12,100
HOUSEHOLDS



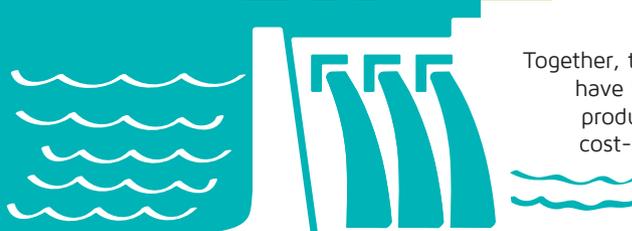
We're collaborating with local Internet service providers, the regional districts of Central Kootenay, Columbia Shuswap, Kootenay Boundary and East Kootenay and the Ktunaxa Nation Council on a project to bring new or improved access to high speed in the Columbia Basin Boundary region. The project is also supported by the federal Connecting Canadians Program and the provincial Connecting BC Program, and will be completed in 2018.

300 STUDENTS
EMPLOYED



We've helped Basin businesses hire 300 students in the past year through our two wage subsidy programs: School Works and Summer Works.

785
MEGAWATTS



Together, the four power projects we co-own have the combined capacity of 785 MW, producing enough clean, renewable and cost-effective energy this year to power approximately 280,000 homes.

838
SUITES



We've partnered with local investors to own eight seniors housing facilities throughout the Basin. Operated by Golden Life Management, these facilities offer a range of support services.

Taking advice to heart

A Columbia Basin Trust program supports non-profit organizations with expertise and advice

Non-profit groups are the backbone of Columbia Basin communities. In 2015, Columbia Basin Trust launched its new Non-profit Advisors Program, offering information and expertise in board governance, strategic planning, human resources and financial, legal and administrative management.

More than 300 non-profit organizations from across the Basin have reached out for advice, support and resources. This includes over 100 that have completed the free assessment and worked alongside an advisor free of charge to discuss that organization's strengths and challenges, and what steps it can take to operate more efficiently.

Financial fix

Based in Revelstoke, the **North Columbia Environment Society** promotes sustainable living and protection of the natural environment. It was formed in 1999 to address environmental issues facing Revelstoke residents, and its members believe that the social, economic and environmental aspects of community life need to be considered equally.

Spokesperson Jody Lownds says the society accessed the Trust's program to deal with challenges around financial management and strategic planning. "The advisor we worked with made us really think about the ways our society has been operating and potentially better

The Trust advised Revelstoke's North Columbia Environment Society on financial management, says the society's spokesperson, Jody Lownds.



ways to do things. She worked with us to obtain two consultants for the areas we needed the most assistance with.”

Now, with a new bookkeeping system and financial management policies in place, Lownds says the future of the society looks bright.

Goal-setting

In Sparwood, the volunteer-run **Sunset Ridge Ski Society** sets and maintains cross-country ski trails, encouraging participation in this healthy sporting activity that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and fitness levels.

Chairperson Shelly Hume says the society went to the Trust to figure out better ways to meet the needs of Sparwood residents. After undertaking a free assessment with an advisor, it received several resources and suggestions in a report. The program also enabled the society to access a facilitator for a strategic planning session that focused on how to make best use of the society’s resources.

“The program helped us develop a community survey for both members and non-members, which helped us set some goals for the future,” says Hume. “Most importantly, we set priorities for 2016 to 2018, with concrete goals identified in governance, facilities, programs, membership and community partnerships. The advisor was able to recommend other services we were not aware of.”

Going for governance

The Trail and District Chamber of Commerce supports and encourages growth and development in the local business community.

Executive Director Audry Lochrie recognized the value that the Trust’s Non-profit Advisors Program could provide. “With only a small board and no budget, we needed governance training before any strategic planning could be undertaken.”

After meeting with an advisor and completing the assessment, the chamber acted on a recommendation for governance training. Lochrie praises the efforts of the governance consultant, who “really nailed all of our issues. She identified the steps we needed to take before even looking at a strategic plan. Six months later, I’m happy to report that we have doubled our board and are ready to develop our three-year strategic plan.”

Strategic future

Since 2009, volunteers at the **Little Mittens Animal Rescue Association** have been rescuing stray and feral cats and kittens in and around Golden—up to 200 animals a year. Fundraising efforts have allowed the association to build a permanent shelter and offer several programs to the community, including the Trap-Neuter-Release Program, low-income spay/neuter voucher program and pet foster program. But the society was looking for continued funding development and wanted to set goals for a sustainable future.

Audry Lochrie, Executive Director of the Trail and District Chamber of Commerce, says governance training by a program consultant was key to developing a strategic plan.



Executive Director Alannah Knapp contacted the Trust for support. “Each board member was asked to think individually about our personal goals for the rescue and how we wanted to move the organization forward,” she says. “The facilitator was able to break these ideas down into a plan that I don’t think we ever would have been able to see for ourselves.”

Since that meeting, the Little Mittens board has met with a strategic planner—also supported by the Trust—to further cement its strategic goals.

Says Knapp, “I feel as though this service was able to get us organized in a way we did not have the means to do previously.” ●

► ourtrust.org/npa



LIVE, WORK AND PLAY

Strengthening the Columbia Basin now, and for the future

It's easy to fall in love with the Columbia Basin. You may have lived here all your life. You may have left for a while and been drawn back. You may have arrived as a tourist and felt compelled to stay. You may have moved here to grab an opportunity.

No matter why you're here, there are so many reasons to feel at home. We have vibrant communities, amazing cultural and heritage assets, and welcoming and enthusiastic people. Our businesses and industries are strong and varied. And we have epic outdoor spaces that offer tons of ways to relax and play.

Read ahead to hear from three people who have been captivated by the region. You'll also read more about how Columbia Basin Trust is working with residents to address the region's challenges and strengthen the places we love.

Together, we're making this an even better place to live, work and play.



Caleb Moss,
Bacchus Books
and Café.

LIVE

Some 44 years ago, Caleb Moss's parents were travelling through Canada. Their vehicle broke down. They were from California, but found themselves stuck in the beautiful Basin. Like so many of us are, they were in awe of the location and decided to make Golden their home.

Today, their son is still a resident of Golden. Although he attended university in Vancouver, Victoria and Seattle, and has worked in big cities, he has now resettled in his original community. "It's just easier here," he explains, "and a better place to raise my kids."

This is the reason many of us live here in the Basin. As residents, we can raise our families with an active sense of community. We have good schools, with average class sizes lower than the provincial average. We have over 150 social service organizations, providing

services like literacy, counselling, housing and food security. We can navigate streets without congestion. We can easily play in nature. We can volunteer and make a difference.

Moss now owns Bacchus Books and Café on Golden's downtown stretch, a thin strip of a yellow building with a patio fronting the Kicking Horse River. He has also entered local politics—as a town councillor and Golden's appointee on the Columbia Shuswap Regional District—to help strengthen the local quality of life.

In these roles—as well as being a recipient of a Trust grant to self-publish poetry—Moss understands the value of the Trust's contributions to small communities. "They enhance regional government's ability to make small communities more livable," he says. "And there's really nowhere else that has that."

CLAIRE DIBBLE



People of all ages see Golden as a desirable place to settle down.

Live better in the Basin

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Basin residents have varied housing needs, from wanting to buy a reasonably priced home, to seeking affordable rent, to requiring a temporary, caring place to stay. The Trust helps communities address their affordable housing priorities, creating 405 units since 2009. It's a priority for us to increase housing in the region.

AGRICULTURE

Residents want a resilient and vibrant agriculture sector in the region, with access to Basin products. The Trust is focusing on agriculture production in the Basin and will support producers by helping them improve access to: agriculture advisory services, existing capital and financial tools, infrastructure, markets, land and a workforce.



H & R Orchard, Creston.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY

Over the past year, the Trust has supported many projects that focus on children and their families, including enhanced child- and family-based programs in Crawford Bay and

Valemount, an after-school arts program in Elkford where children are paired with high school youths, and new and improved equipment and play spaces for children in Fernie and Windermere. Next year, we'll be

focusing on implementing activities to support early childhood educators and child care providers.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

We are proactively engaging with communities to identify roles the Trust can play to help address opportunities and challenges. Through the Common Agenda initiative, for example, a group of engaged and dedicated residents in Nakusp have worked together with the Trust to find a community direction and common vision. The group is now working on a plan, and members are feeling positive about the future.

EDUCATION

Basin residents want to deepen their knowledge and talents, build new skills and contribute to their communities. We support

school-based programs about entrepreneurship and finances, and about environmental stewardship, plus help people of all ages improve their literacy skills. We also offer bursaries for post-secondary students and help unemployed and underemployed people obtain short-term training.

FIRST NATIONS

Indigenous peoples have been in the Basin for more than 10,000 years, including the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc, Sinixt and Okanagan First Nations. The Trust is engaging with First Nations communities to understand their needs, deepen our relationships and explore ways we can work better together.

SENIORS

Seniors contribute to their communities by volunteering, passing their knowledge on to others and being a vibrant part of their families and the greater economy. They also want to live safely and independently in their home communities. The Trust co-owns eight seniors housing facilities in the Basin and



The Trust supports seniors in many ways.

“I am seeing seniors reach out for help with something far greater than transportation needs. More than anything, they are wanting independence and the ability to participate in their communities, and transportation is the key to accessing this.”

– Dana Burgess, West Kootenay Seniors Transportation Coordinator

supports many seniors-focused community projects. These may involve adding elevators and improving accessibility to seniors halls or improving access to transportation.

NON-PROFIT SUPPORT

Non-profit organizations work hard to make our communities better places to live. Their work is broad, including running museums and libraries, teaching families to grow their own food, educating about violence against girls and women, and offering training about protecting and restoring our wetlands. Sometimes, non-profits need a hand too. The Trust has helped more than 300 registered non-profits increase their capacity and become more sustainable and more efficient through our new Non-profit Advisors Program.

YOUTH

Youth want to be involved, have things to do and have a voice in their communities. The Trust launched the Basin Youth Network to support 28 individual Community Youth Networks throughout the Basin to help communities meaningfully engage with youth and address youth priorities.



Basin Youth Network Summit participants.



Heidi Romich,
The Heid Out
Restaurant and
Brewhouse.

WORK

Heidi Romich has travelled and lived in various places around the world, including Austria, the Bahamas and Malaysia. But despite this worldly background and her international experiences in the food and beverage industry, it's her hometown of Cranbrook where she decided to build her business.

Wanting to return close to family and seeing an opportunity, Romich and her late husband started Heidi's Restaurant in 1999, then expanded it in 2006. In 2013 Romich revamped it into The Heid Out Restaurant and Brewhouse, adding pub fare alongside fine dining options and starting a brewery from the ground up, which features seasonal artisan ales.

"We make everything from scratch," she says, plus the restaurant sources ingredients locally. "I think this focus is one of the reasons the community has embraced our restaurant." That—and the ambrosial meals created by its five Red Seal chefs, who have completed a rigorous apprenticeship process.

Entrepreneurial opportunities like this abound in the Basin, whether in the

service industry, tourism or high-tech innovation. Plus residents can choose from careers in larger industries like forestry, mining, transportation and more.

Thanks to assets like broadband Internet and the newest in research and development resources, doorways are always open. Businesses, entrepreneurs and other residents are able to balance work aspirations and financial demands with the lifestyles they want.

Even outside of her business, Romich has seen how receptive the Basin is to people seeking employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. For 12 years she's taught culinary arts at College of the Rockies. She says that if program graduates "want to stay in the region, the jobs are definitely here."

Although Romich didn't need Trust support to help her business flourish, she's well aware of the variety and impact of its programs and knows the good it can do in communities. The Trust, she says, is "unbelievable. I can't say enough. I think it's an amazing asset for our whole region."

ZOE FERGUSON

Work better in the Basin

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development is a high priority for residents and communities across the Basin. The Trust developed a plan and has allocated \$20 million over three years to lead and support efforts to advance economic growth, job creation and entrepreneurial opportunity. This will include launching innovative programs and initiatives; acquiring, developing or operating regional assets; and supporting community economic development opportunities. We're already supporting projects like the MIDAS lab in Trail where individuals and businesses can work with innovative materials, test out original products and get help bringing unique ideas and products to market—right here in the Basin.



Opening of MIDAS Fab Lab.

"The MIDAS Fab Lab allows us to train local people on how to use this equipment, which will be a high-demand skill as new technologies change the way manufacturing is being done. We know the potential for economic impact in the region is immense."

– Amber Hayes, MIDAS Project Director



RED Mountain Ventures.

“We can now schedule a videoconference as needed as opposed to when we think the system will have less pressure on it.”

– Christine Andison, Director of Planning and Development, RED Mountain Ventures

BROADBAND

High-speed Internet can improve the quality of life and prosperity in the Basin. It connects citizens, enables businesses to remain competitive, supports education, helps retain youth and augments the delivery of health and government services. The Trust is working with 13 rural Internet service providers to help them upgrade infrastructure and improve service to over 12,000 households. We’re also providing high-speed broadband services in various Basin communities, and looking for opportunities to expand our broadband network.



Waneta Expansion

Fund may be able to help. The fund supports business opportunities that benefit Basin residents in ways like creating jobs, addressing community needs, helping the environment or supporting arts and culture.

INVESTMENTS IN THE REGION

The Trust invests in small business, real estate and hydro power projects in the region. These investments create substantial local economic and employment benefits, plus often advance social, economic and environmental well-being. Last year, we provided \$9 million in new loans to businesses investing in their futures and their communities. We also invest in large projects, like the \$900-million Waneta Expansion in Trail that employed more than 1,400 people, provided nearly 200 apprenticeship opportunities

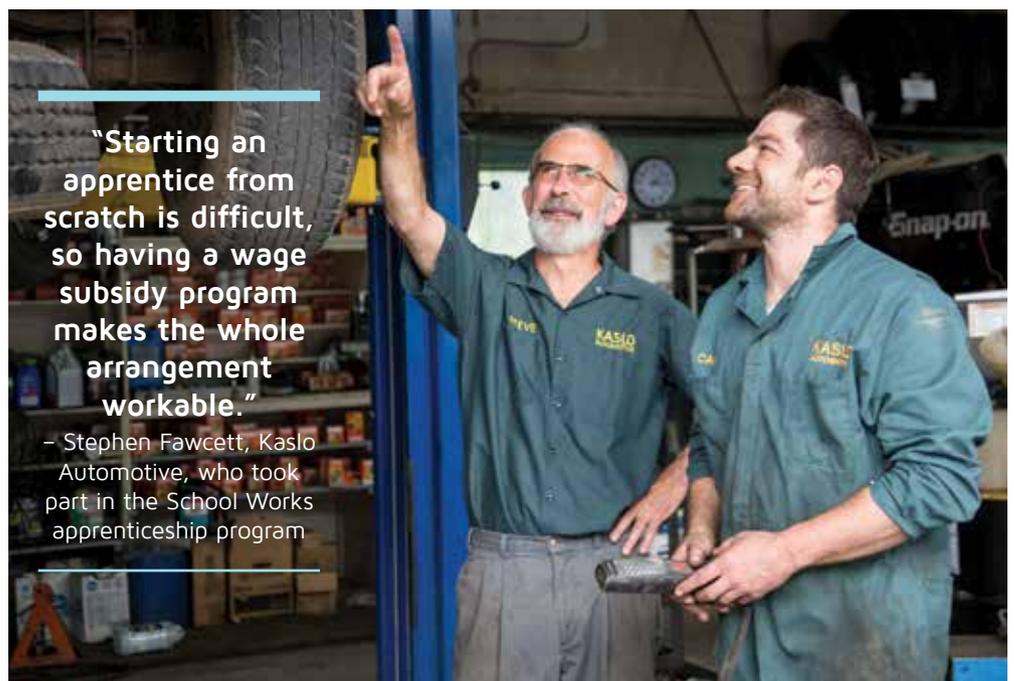
and boosted the local economy by over \$200 million through the purchase of goods and services.

WORKFORCE GROWTH AND TRAINING

Our wage subsidy programs help create jobs and provide meaningful work experience for students and apprentices. Through our Training Fee Support program, Basin residents can get up to \$800 for short-term training that will improve their chances of finding jobs. The Trust also helps local colleges undertake initiatives like improving trades training or offering new in-demand programs.

BUSINESS SUPPORTS

Our Basin Business Advisors program provides Basin businesses and social enterprises with free, one-to-one, confidential business assessment and advisement services and more. The Trust also supported the Kootenay Aboriginal Business Development Agency, which helps Indigenous peoples explore business opportunities in the Kootenays. Also, our wage subsidy programs helped businesses hire 300 students and apprentices over the past year. And if a business or organization needs financial support but isn’t able to secure conventional financing, our new \$2-million Impact Investment



“Starting an apprentice from scratch is difficult, so having a wage subsidy program makes the whole arrangement workable.”

– Stephen Fawcett, Kaslo Automotive, who took part in the School Works apprenticeship program



PLAY

Keeping active is a way of life for Basin residents.

Lucas Myers is passionate about the arts. The 43-year-old was raised in Nelson, then left to formally study theatre in Montreal and New York City. He has since brought his skills back to his childhood city, where he is now also raising a family.

Taking advantage of the bustling local arts scene, Myers is the artistic director of a small theatre company called Pilotcopilot Theatre. He also frequently tours the Kootenays with his productions. It's this culturally welcoming atmosphere that helps make the Basin a great place to play, whether for fun or as a career.

To many people, the most obvious way to play is outdoors. The Columbia River flows through a gorgeous, rich

landscape. The same snow that skiers and snowboarders slide on in winter becomes the water kayakers and rafters use in summer. There are hidden jewels for climbers, and lakes to cool ourselves off in. Sheltered trails weave through stands of cedar, hemlock, spruce and pine.

Basin residents have also made it clear that artistic activities are important. So important, in fact, that they have told the Trust that cultural activities and community spirit stand at the top of what makes our communities great.

“It is really reassuring to see the Trust recognize the importance of the arts,” says Myers, “not just to the cultural community, but to the community in general.”



Lucas Myers,
Pilotcopilot
Theatre.

BARBARA PEDRICK BLEED

Play better in the Basin

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Basin residents want to celebrate the vibrant arts, culture and heritage assets in the Basin. The annual Columbia Basin Culture Tour is one way we do this, showcasing 86 venues this past summer. Our long-standing partnership with the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance builds long-term sustainability for artists and strengthens and supports arts, culture and heritage organizations. The Trust has also supported a range of performance spaces, like Cranbrook's Key City Theatre, Kimberley's Centre 64, Nelson's Capital Theatre and Golden's Civic Theatre. Plus the Trust

recently completed an inventory of built heritage assets in the Basin and researched the existing capacities of heritage organizations to determine the role we will play.

COMMUNITY SPACES

Community events, spaces and projects bring us together, entertain us, inform us and let us share experiences. They get us out of our homes and keep us connected. From the annual Yaqan Nukiy Pow Wow, to Elkford Wildcat Days, to the Lake Windermere Summer Splash, we sponsored more than 240 community events and festivals last year. We also supported larger projects like the new Snowmobile Welcome Centre



Whitetail Lake.



Salmon Festival.



Valemount Bike Park.

“This project is having a positive impact in our community both socially and economically. We have seen a large growth in locals mountain biking—from youth to seniors. Locals are buying new bikes, families are recreating outdoors. It’s been great.”

- Curtis Pawliuk, Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association

outside of Revelstoke and community gathering places like the Columbia Valley Centre, the Salmo and Sparwood libraries and the community halls in West Creston, Nelson's North Shore and Krestova.

ENVIRONMENT

Rivers, lakes, wetlands, forests, meadows and more—residents value a healthy, well-protected environment that supports human and ecological needs. Our natural assets are part of what makes this region a great place to live, work and play. The Trust supports a wide range of projects and activities that maintain and enhance ecosystems, including habitat for fish and wildlife. For example, we are helping to keep invasive mussels from entering our waterways and reducing the impacts of recreational activities around Lake Koochanusa.

RECREATION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Basin residents are seeking to lead active, healthy lifestyles, with access to a variety of amenities. That's why the Trust is focusing on improving access to recreation that helps them toward that goal. For example, our partner PacificSport Columbia Basin delivers programs like Sport for Life. Our Recreation Infrastructure Grants provide funding that helps groups and communities develop infrastructure like trails, playgrounds, soccer fields and pickleball courts. In 2016, the program provided \$4.5 million to 62 projects across the Basin. The Valemount Bike Park was able to construct a number of new trails within the 5-Mile mountain network to expand the number of beginner- and intermediate-level trails available to residents and visitors. ●

Our climate is changing

How the Basin is preparing for a changing climate, from rethinking forest management to improving water conservation



“**W**hen you talk to old-timers, they’ll tell you how the snowbanks used to be higher and winters colder. It’s true—they were. I don’t think a lot of people truly understand the magnitude of the changes we are facing.”

These are the words of Mel Reasoner, a Nelson-based climate scientist who has spent his professional life studying climates past and present. Reasoner keeps close tabs on the Basin’s weather, which is starting to change in the ways that climate change experts have predicted.

One of the main trends is more extremes in weather. Reasoner points to July 2015, when

temperatures in the Nelson area approached 40°C. When lightning sparked a forest fire on a ridgetop north of the city, the unusually hot, dry conditions fueled a blaze that threatened properties and shrouded Kootenay Lake in smoke. In June 2013, a powerful storm hit the Kootenay Lake area, felling trees and delivering record-breaking rainfalls in Kaslo; almost twice the rainfall that normally falls during the entire month of June came down over three days.

Reasoner isn’t alone in understanding that climate change is creating consequences for us all. Communities and residents around the Basin have voiced their desires to reduce

A view of the Duhamel-Sitkum Creek Fire from Gyro Park in Nelson, July 2015.



What does climate change mean to you?



Forest fires, flash floods, receding glaciers, hotter summers: these are some of the

effects of climate change.

By the time today's high school graduates reach mid-life, average seasonal temperatures could be 2.4°C warmer than in 1961 to 1990, with winters up to 15 per cent wetter and summers up to 14 per cent drier.

Already, over the last century, the average annual temperature in the Basin has increased by 0.7°C to 1.7°C, with winters warming more than summers. The amount of rain and snow has increased by as much as four per cent per decade.

Why do such small temperature changes matter? To put it in perspective, Vancouver is on average only 6°C warmer than Golden—and yet the two have vastly different climates. Climate impacts are already showing up in a variety of ways, like timing of snowmelt, changes in seasonal stream flows, increased water temperatures, longer growing

seasons and an increasing risk of floods, droughts and wildfires.

While most valley bottoms in the Basin are currently home to moisture-loving species like cedar and hemlock, these are likely to be replaced over time by drought-tolerant species like ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. In drier, warmer zones like the southern East Kootenay, grasslands may increase. New invasive species may also take advantage and move in.

While these changes will create challenges, they will also most certainly create opportunities and spark innovation. For example, warmer temperatures and longer growing seasons will enable more types of crops to be grown successfully over wider areas; with commercial vineyards now in Castlegar, Trail and Creston, the Kootenays have been identified as an emerging wine region. As one of the sunniest spots in BC, Kimberley has turned its attention to “mining the sun,” and has become the site of the province's largest solar power project, which generates enough electricity to power 200 homes.

greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for and adapt to our changing climate. In response, since 2007 Columbia Basin Trust has actively helped communities learn about and take action on climate change.

A community forest takes action

Looking to meet the challenges and opportunities of a changing climate, the Harrop-Procter Community Forest has adopted a climate change lens to review its forest management practices in a project jointly funded by the community forest and the Trust.

For the forest's manager Erik Leslie, this means considering the projected changes to the

ADRIAN WAGNER, CITY OF KIMBERLEY



The largest solar power project in BC, located in Kimberley.

Making progress

Climate change has wide-ranging implications for many aspects of Basin life and its economy. In response, communities and residents have been working on numerous fronts to adapt to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions

FIRE SMART



Communities are thinning trees in surrounding forests, decreasing the amount of fuel available to fires and restoring the forests' natural resilience and ecological health. The Trust has supported this work in many communities like Fernie, Revelstoke, Canal Flats, Rossland, Kimberley and the ʔAkisq'nuk First Nation. Other groups are also making this a priority, including the Slokan Integral Forestry Cooperative. Based in the Slokan Valley, this community forest is taking a strategic approach to wildfire as part of its forest management practices. It is using leading practices to reduce wildfire risks across the landscape, while also ensuring its forestry operations are both economically and ecologically viable.

WATER SMART



Since 2009, the Columbia Basin Water Smart Initiative has helped communities conserve water. This will be particularly important when hotter, drier conditions increase water demand and reduce water supply. By the end of 2015 many participating communities had reduced their water use, with local achievements ranging from 2 to 39 per cent.

► ourtrust.org/watersmart

CONSERVING ENERGY



The following Trust-supported initiatives focus on conserving energy

and addressing climate change in the Basin:

- Several West Kootenay communities are reducing their carbon footprints thanks to support from the Trust and FortisBC. Over the past year, participating communities worked on their Strategic Community Energy and Emissions Plans, which help them find ways to use less energy.
- The Regional District of East Kootenay, BC Hydro and the Trust have created BC's first regional Community Energy Manager position, which is helping East Kootenay communities conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

► ourtrust.org/conservingenergy

HOT AND BOTHERED



In spring 2016, a group of West Kootenay citizens organized a water, drought and climate change forum in Nelson, supported by the Trust. Called the Water, Drought & Climate Change Forum: Hot and Bothered in the Kootenays, the forum provided a venue for local governments and residents to discuss water and climate issues and potential solutions.

The event sold out weeks in advance as Basin residents and leaders looked for answers on what's happening to the climate and what can be done. "It's time to stop talking about it and start doing something" was heard on many occasions during the event.



Nordic Glacier, 1991.

forest's ecosystems in light of the organization's mandate to protect drinking water and ecosystem values, employ local residents and support community projects from the proceeds of wood harvesting and milling.

"There's been a lot of work done on climate change at the strategic level, but these are very broad strokes. Much less has been done in bringing these strategies down to the implementation level for land managers," says Leslie. "One goal of this project is to develop and test adaptive management tools that other land managers can use, using the community forest as a case study."

Leslie is pleased with what the project has accomplished so far, and the community has expressed strong interest, especially about managing wildfire risks. The community forest has mapped drought hazards, while the local regional district has updated its community wildfire protection plan.

Leslie knows that in the big picture of adapting to climate change, what is learned in this forest over the next couple of years is only the beginning. But it's projects like this that will help our communities and landscapes stay strong and resilient in an uncertain future.

"We are still in the process of building up the sustainability of our forest," Leslie says, "and we know that climate change adaptation and resiliency is critical, not just for future planning, but for planning what we do today."



Nordic Glacier is located in the Selkirk Mountains, northwest of Golden. The glacier has retreated nearly 500 metres since 1990, as shown in these photos.

Nordic Glacier, 2016.

The future of Basin glaciers

Higher up in the mountains, another Trust-supported project is focusing on glaciers and snow. Snow and ice play pivotal roles in the Basin's water resources: water is stored in them during colder periods and released as meltwater during warmer periods, supporting both the environment and human needs.

From 2014 to 2018, the Canadian Columbia Basin Glacier and Snow Research Network (a partnership of universities, industry and government) is monitoring changes to select Basin glaciers and streams. The goal is to better understand how glaciers and snowpacks contribute to our water resources and ecosystems, how they are being affected by warmer winters and hotter summers, and what this means for long-term water resource planning in the Basin.

While glaciers cover less than two per cent of the Basin, their late-summer melt can contribute significantly to downstream creeks and rivers. The largest concentrations of glaciers are in the north of the Basin, and this is where their meltwater contributions to August and September stream flows can be as high as 35 per cent. Melting snow also adds significantly to streams, contributing about a third of the annual flow during summer months. Any major changes to snow and glacial melt patterns will have implications for ecosystems, hydro power, community water supplies and many other water-dependent values.

Making it a priority

The Trust is launching a new Climate Action Program this winter.

Building upon the success of the Trust's earlier Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative and

Carbon Neutral Kootenays, the program will continue to build awareness, increase scientific knowledge about climate change in the Basin and help Basin communities adapt to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

By sharing, collaborating and working alongside leading scientists and climate change experts, Basin communities will be strongly positioned to face the shifts that are already on their way. ●

► ourtrust.org/climatechange



The Harrop-Procter Community Forest is mimicking wildfire by leaving large Douglas fir and larch trees in this harvest block by East Harrop Creek, east of Nelson.

Return on investment

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

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 elsewhere. The Trust has been carefully investing this money to deliver programs and

The Trust's Investment Program is founded on balancing risk and returns to ensure reliable income. But the Trust's investments do more than earn money—they often provide additional social, economic and environmental benefits.

services to Basin residents. The Trust invests in three overarching categories: power projects; private placements, which include 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.

services to Basin residents.

The Trust invests in three overarching categories: power projects; private placements, which include real estate investments and loans to Basin



The Trust works with Basin-based businesses, like the three featured here, to help them grow, provide employment, contribute to their communities and maintain active roles in their local economies.





A strong foundation

CONCRETE AND GRAVEL are literally the raw materials upon which a modern town or city is built. From the foundation of your home to the layers of roadbed neatly graded below freshly paved asphalt streets, refined rock products are a staple of our community infrastructure.

Digging foundations and pouring concrete is in the Dueck family blood. Based in Creston, Marc Dueck and his brother Carl own Sullivan Stone, a full-service ready-mix plant and aggregate supplier. Working in a farming community like Creston, the Duecks take on a wide variety of projects in both urban and rural settings.

In the beginning, Marc operated an excavating business and Carl had a concrete construction company, but eventually the brothers were

ready to expand their businesses. Marc says, “I was going to do a small-scale gravel pit when a local operator offered us the opportunity to take over his concrete business instead.” The Duecks worked with the owner to purchase the business, and Sullivan Stone was born.

Marc admits, though, that the financing end of things needed to be better organized. “We had invested quite a bit of money out of our own pockets as upgrades were needed at the time of purchase. We set up a wash plant, bought a crusher and upgraded our fleet of concrete trucks,” he says. Working with the Trust, the Duecks restructured the financing for Sullivan Stone to allow more direct control and some additional flexibility for their business operations.

Now the concrete plant has received extensive environmental upgrades and a computerized batching system. These leading-edge technologies have helped the brothers greatly improve quality control and strengthen their overall business.

“I was going to do a small-scale gravel pit when a local operator offered us the opportunity to take over his concrete business instead.”

LEE CORR

Marc and Carl Dueck, owners of Sullivan Stone in Creston.

Into the woods

SECOND-GENERATION LOGGERS Dennis and Brian Hoobanoff have seen quite a few changes in forest industry practices since their dad started cutting timber in the 1960s, and they say the changes have had a profound effect on their logging operation. The major change has been mechanization—moving from hand-felling to highly sophisticated machines.

“The forest industry has changed dramatically in the ensuing five decades,” says Dennis. Modernized equipment incorporates computerized monitoring of production and quality, from the felling of the trees to the delimiting and loading on the trucks.

The other noticeable change is where they are harvesting. Hoobanoff Logging is located in Canal Flats, and they have had to adapt to where they can log in the East Kootenay.

“Easy-access timber is limited, so now we’re moving on to steeper slopes that require more specialized equipment and expertise.” It’s equipment that comes with a higher price tag, but that has provided them with a competitive advantage, too.

During this past year, Hoobanoff Logging worked with the Trust on financial restructuring that helped them continue to adapt to changes in the forest industry. This has helped keep jobs local and supported a business in a rural Basin community.

“Right now, we have one feller buncher, two skidders, three excavators and two processors along with a log loader,” says Dennis. Then there’s the cable yarder, used for logging and clearing old growth found on some of the Kootenays’ steepest slopes. This specialized equipment makes an operation more productive. Although Dennis says financing the equipment over four years is “not much different than buying a new car,” the price tag surely is—the average machine costs \$375,000 to \$600,000. To buy a new cable yarder, it’s going to cost \$1.4 to \$2 million.

“Easy-access timber is limited, so now we’re moving on to steeper slopes that require more specialized equipment and expertise.”

By investing in machines that can safely harvest timber in challenging conditions, Hoobanoff Logging has ensured its future success.

Through their decades of operation, Dennis, Brian and their families have seen many changes to the logging and forest industry. Throughout, they have remained competitive, successful and are now one of only a few steep-slope logging specialists in the Columbia Valley.





Order out of chaos

SOAHC ESTATE WINES business manager Trent Winterhalder admits that growing grapes according to biodynamic principles can sort of “make it sound as though we’re into New Age stuff, but we’re not.”

In fact, Winterhalder and General Manager Jamie Fochuk are very, very serious about how the grapes are grown on their 19-acre vineyard just outside of Fruitvale. The name “SOAHC” is, Winterhalder laughs, “chaos spelled backward. You’ll see the word ‘chaos’ referenced quite a bit if you research the literature around biodynamic wine.”

Biodynamic agriculture is a holistic approach that combines intense natural practices commonly found in organic farming with unique preparations intended to stimulate plant and biological life. It uses the natural elements to maintain a united balance of plant, animal and mineral to build strength in plants from the soil upward. These elements are portrayed in the SOAHC logo: air, earth, water and sun/fire.

Despite its name, SOAHC’s progress has been anything but chaotic, however. It planted its first grapes in 2010, and by 2015 was selling over 500 cases of wine with grapes grown at its Fruitvale operation. SOAHC has won 10 medals both nationally and internationally. “Our

The name “SOAHC” is chaos spelled backward. “You’ll see the word ‘chaos’ referenced quite a bit if you research the literature around biodynamic wine.”

wines are sold in some of the best restaurants in Vancouver,” says Winterhalder.

Although the grapes are grown locally, they were being crushed and fermented off-site at a winery in the southern Okanagan. In 2015, SOAHC received a loan from the Trust to help it expand and bring that process in-house.

Now its Fruitvale location has a 4,000-square-foot winemaking facility that houses brand-new premium-quality Italian-made Diemme equipment, barrels and fermenting tanks—enough equipment to handle an almost tenfold increase in production

as more grapes are harvested on the SOAHC property.

Being able to store, crush and ferment the grapes on-site adds another layer of precision to what is already a notoriously rigid discipline. Going forward, “we will simply have more control of the wine-making process,” Winterhalder says. ●

Left: Brian and Dennis Hoobanoff, owners of Hoobanoff Logging in Canal Flats.
Below: Jamie Fochuk, Kim McLaughlin and Trent Winterhalder of SOAHC Estate Wines near Fruitvale.



Working together to strengthen the Basin

WE SUPPORT THE EFFORTS of groups and organizations to develop and deliver programs and services that improve social, economic and environmental well-being in the Basin. We also offer guidance through our own programs and services. This issue of *Our Trust* is filled with examples of the type of work we do and the partners who help us do it. Here in the Basin, one of our strongest assets is the abundance of committed individuals and groups already working to improve their communities. You may already have some ideas about what your community needs, which makes you the best person to make it happen, but you may still require some information or resources.

Let our website guide you through your options for support. Our website has been updated to make it simpler for you to find the information you need.



I have an idea

► Plan your project thoroughly before seeking support. Visit ourtrust.org/idea.



I need funding/support

► Discover which Trust program works best for your needs. Visit ourtrust.org/fund.



I have a grant

► Find answers to frequently asked questions and tell us your story. Visit ourtrust.org/ihaveagrant.



Receive BasinLink in your own inbox!

Learn about community success stories and view upcoming activities and opportunities through our BasinLink e-newsletter, which gets sent to your inbox about once a month. To sign up for our e-newsletter, visit ourtrust.org/basinlink.



Meet our Directors

LEARN MORE about our activities by attending the public session at one of our Board meetings. View the schedule and read highlights and meeting minutes at ourtrust.org/board.

Columbia Basin Trust Board of Directors. From right to left: Larry Binks, John Dooley, Rick Jensen, Am Naqvi, Laurie Page, Wendy Booth, Rhonda Ruston, Jeannette Townsend, Loni Parker, Mike Delich, Vickie Thomas and Gord DeRosa.



Columbia Basin Trust staff.

We want your feedback!



We'd love to hear what you think of *Our Trust!*

Please complete our online survey at ourtrust.org/otfeedback.

Everyone who completes the survey receives a **12-pack of Basin photo note cards!**

Have questions?

Get in touch with us directly:

▶ **1.800.505.8998**

▶ **info@cbt.org**



On solid financial footing

In 2015/16, the Trust delivered over \$31 million in programs and services to Basin organizations and communities that work together to strengthen the region's social, economic and environmental well-being.

The way we support these activities is from the revenue generated through our investments. Over this past year, our investments generated over \$48 million in revenue. The majority of the revenue (83 per cent) comes from our four jointly owned power projects, all of which performed well, including the new Waneta Expansion near Trail. Due primarily to long-term power sales agreements, the Trust's revenues are predictable and sustainable.

Read more about the Trust's performance in our 2015/16 Annual Service Plan Report, found online at the web page below, or call our office to request a copy.

► ourtrust.org/annualreport

Consolidated Statement of Operations For the Year Ending March 31 (in thousands)

	2016	2015 Recast
REVENUES		
Power Projects	\$40,647	\$22,258
Market Securities	2,099	2,558
Private Placements: Commercial Loans	1,722	1,528
Private Placements: Real Estate Investments	1,262	1,069
Short-term Investments	745	946
Other	2,221	921
	48,696	29,280
EXPENSES		
<i>Delivery of Benefits</i>		
Broadband Initiatives	5,096	1,562
Community Initiatives	17,694	6,866
Economic Initiatives	1,347	5,074
Other Initiatives	416	678
Social Initiatives	1,328	2,605
Water and Environment Initiatives	4,941	3,429
Youth Initiatives	720	1,166
Total	31,542	21,380
Corporate Expenses	6,247	6,107
Private Placements: Impairment Loss	-	625
ANNUAL SURPLUS	\$10,907	\$1,168

Return on Investments For the Year Ending March 31

	2016	2015
Power Projects	11.9%	10.7%
Private Placements	5.6%	4.7%
Market Securities	(1.7)%	12.1%

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 US governments began to ask: How can we control the Columbia River to minimize flooding and generate more electricity?

1964 The answer was the Columbia River Treaty, signed in 1964. It allowed two countries to build four dams, creating large reservoirs entirely or partially in BC.

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



Columbia Basin Trust region

The Trust serves the region consisting of all the watersheds that flow into the Columbia River in Canada



THE MAP IS A GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION AND MAY NOT BE TO SCALE



Early 1990s Canadian Basin residents approached the Province of BC and asked it to give funds to the region so Basin residents would get a fair share of the benefits created by the treaty, and 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 support our delivery of benefits activities and corporate operations, the Trust earns money by investing in power projects, Basin businesses and market securities which generate a predictable, sustainable and appreciating income.

Today The Trust continues to support the ideas and efforts of the people of the Basin. We take our lead from residents and communities, offering 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.



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 straight-forward: we exist and act for the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Columbia Basin—now and for generations to come.