A legacy for the people

Columbia Basin Trust is an organization working on behalf of the 170,000 residents of the Columbia Basin to bring benefits to the region most affected by the Columbia River Treaty. Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is the result of the efforts of Basin residents who came together in the 1990s to press the Province of B.C. for recognition of and mitigation for the negative impacts on the region.

“T he initial impacts included the displacement of approximately 2,300 Basin residents from their homes and the loss of 13 communities,” says Josh Smienk, chair of the Board of Directors. “But the region continues to live with the devastation, such as the loss of wildlife habitat, dust storms, fluctuating water levels, and changes in weather patterns as a result of large bodies of water. These issues continue to affect all residents of the Columbia Basin in one way or another.”

In 1995, Columbia Basin Trust was endowed with a $295 million financial commitment from the Province of B.C. or approximately five per cent of the downstream benefits owned by the Province from the U.S. (See below). Of that, $250 million is financing three power project developments in the Basin and $45 million is invested in non-power investments.

The Province also committed to transfer $32 million over 16 years for operating expenses and $250 million to the Columbia Power Corporation (CPC), Columbia Basin Trust’s joint venture partner in power project developments.

“Columbia Basin Trust asked the people of the Basin what they wanted to do with the money,” says Don Johnston, CEO. “Residents overwhelming said they wanted Columbia Basin Trust to invest the money and use only the income earned to deliver benefits back to the residents. This way residents can continue to receive benefits for years to come.”

To date, the return on the investment has provided $8,825,500 in funding to more than 750 projects.

“This funding has supported community hall upgrades, literacy programs, affordable housing for seniors, skills training for youth, wildlife habitat improvements, and cultural events to name just a few,” says Smienk. “The projects directly reflect the community needs expressed by residents.”

“Our intent is to continue to work closely with the people of the Basin to continue to build an organization that will be a legacy of the people for many generations,” adds Johnston.

History of the Columbia Basin

In 1961, Canada and the United States signed the Columbia River Treaty.

The purpose of the Treaty is to coordinate flood control and electrical energy production in the Columbia River Basin in the United States and Canada for a 60-year period.

To do this, the Treaty called for the construction of three storage dams - Duncan in 1967, Arrow in 1968, and Mica in 1973. The Treaty also allowed for the construction of Libby dam in 1973 in the United States. In return for the storage of 15.5 million acre-feet of water, Canada was entitled to one half of the additional power generated at American power plants downstream. These “downstream benefits,” which are owned by the Province of B.C., were split to a group of U.S. utilities for a 30-year period beginning with the scheduled completion of each of the three Treaty dams in B.C. for $254 million. The first 30 years of downstream benefit sales began to expire in 1998. The Province owns the downstream benefits and is now receiving the sales revenues for the remaining 30 years of the Treaty. The Province received $632 million in 2000-2001. Using actual returns from 1998/1999 to 2000/2001 and assuming sales at $40 U.S. per megawatt hour for the balance of the period to 2024/2025, the total allocations to Columbia Basin Trust amount to approximately eight per cent of the total downstream benefits.

Impacts of the Treaty

When the water started rising behind the dams, centuries of history were submerged and 2,300 people living along the Arrow Lakes, and in the Koocanusa, Duncan, and Kinbasket regions were displaced. Before the Treaty was ratified, there had been a lack of consultation with the residents who were to be displaced, even though they were the ones who stood to lose the most from the project.

Communities along reservoirs are now plagued by dust storms during low water. In a drought year, the Valemount boat dock is 20 kilometres from water.

Environmental surveys in the area indicate the flooding was an ecological disaster in terms of terrestrial and aquatic habitat and climate change.

In the early 1990s, the people of the Basin came together to press the Province for recognition of the injustice of this situation.

Local governments in the Basin coordinated their efforts at the regional and tribal council level under the Columbia River Treaty Committee, which first met in 1992. The Committee, in partnership with regional M.L.A.s, negotiated with the Province for the creation of a Trust governed by a board of Basin residents, and an allocation of funding to the region representing a fair share of the ongoing downstream benefits earned under the Treaty, to be managed by Columbia Basin Trust.

On both counts the negotiations were successful, and in 1995, the Columbia Basin Trust Act was created. The Province committed to transfer $295 million to the Columbia Basin Trust.
Columbia Basin Trust is a unique organization that is building a lasting legacy.

Its electrical assets, other endowment capital, and a direction given by the people of the Basin in a truly grass roots process, form the legacy that benefits the people and the environment of the Basin. In the past year, Columbia Basin Trust's asset base has continued to grow from $272 million in 2000 to $420 million in 2001.

This year will see the completion of the Arrow Lakes Generating Station, a project that will harness the Columbia River by bypassing an existing storage dam to generate electricity. Columbia Basin Trust, along with its partner, the Columbia Power Corporation, has placed an offer to West Kootenay Power (WKP) to purchase its electrical generating assets consisting of four dams on the Kootenay River between Nelson and Castlegar. This purchase will have no impact on the consumers of WKP and will return a profit back to the Basin. We expect confirmation of the purchase in the fall of 2001 after going through the B.C. Utilities Commission public hearing process.

As a regional corporation, Columbia Basin Trust will be part of the Province's Core Service Review - a comprehensive and rigorous examination of all provincial programs, activities and business units to confirm the government's core roles and responsibilities.

Columbia Basin Trust will put forward an option to purchase the shares of CPC at the higher of fair market or book value before August 1, 2002.

The Option Agreement will be financed through a 25-year debenture by 2030 with interest at one to two per cent above the rate on the Province's bonds.

Acquiring CPC will give Columbia Basin Trust ownership of the skill sets developed by CPC through the joint ventures and a regional capacity for project development and operation.

Investment in hydro projects will ensure that decisions about the long-term future of the valuable water resource will have our input and be made at home in the Basin.

In Columbia Basin Trust's Board was directed by the people to invest funds and use the profits from the investments for Columbia Basin Trust's delivery of benefits.

As we move from the development to operations stage of these projects, and as our other non-power investments start to show returns, we will see a substantial increase in the income flowing to delivery of benefits in the near future.

Working through the many committed volunteers in our sector committees, Columbia Basin Trust's delivery of benefits continues to represent the vision and dreams of Basin residents.

We are particularly pleased with the Youth and Community Involvement Scholarship Program which sees one graduating student in each Basin community with a high school receive a scholarship for up to $8,000 or $2,000 for each of four years of post secondary education. The award is based upon a high level of involvement in the community.

The lack of snow pack this year and lack of planning in California will mean even more pressures on an already over stressed river system. In the coming year, the Board is focusing on the difficult water management issues facing British Columbia and the Basin in the next few years. We are working with the people of the Basin to ensure local concerns are part of the complex decisions affecting our region.

Columbia Basin Trust opened its new building in Castlegar which is also occupied by our partner, Columbia Power Corporation, and the City of Castlegar. We also opened additional offices in Cranbrook and Golden, and together with our office in Nakusp, will be able to serve the people of the Basin closer to home.

This spring we held community meetings to hear from Basin residents directly about how we are following the Columbia Basin Management Plan. We also received feedback on the many partnerships and programs Columbia Basin Trust has developed, ensuring they are doing what they intended, and finding out how we can make them work even better.

In the past, we did this through a single symposium, but by bringing these meetings closer to home we tripled the amount of people who participated and helped Columbia Basin Trust stay connected to the Basin we serve.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors, CEO Don Johnston, CBT Energy Inc. CEO Ken Epp, staff, our many steering committee volunteers, our delivery partners, our partner Columbia Power Corporation, and all of you who are actively involved with Columbia Basin Trust for the dedication and support enjoyed over the last year.

It is our hope that in 1995 through the Columbia Basin Act, the first couple of years were spent doing comprehensive community consultation, and setting up the policy framework which would drive the work of Columbia Basin Trust.

The Columbia Basin Management Plan, a requirement of the Act, was adopted in July 1997. Since that time, Columbia Basin Trust has been working diligently to develop and implement investment and delivery of benefits programs. In partnership with the Columbia Power Corporation, we have also been working to complete the Arrow Lakes Generating Station and to do the development work on the other power projects in the Binding Agreement.

Columbia Basin Trust has achieved much success in that short period of time. We have successfully implemented the delivery of benefits program and put more than $8 million in benefits into the communities in the Basin. We have established strong working relationships with local governments, delivery agents, and partner organizations.

Our steering committees function through the dedication and energy of over 60 active volunteers. Our investment program has placed more than $34 million in investments within the Basin. These investments are managed in cooperation with a number of partners, including credit unions, Community Futures Development Corporations, and private companies.

Not only are these investments returning capital to fund the delivery of benefits, they are also directly contributing to the economic stability of communities throughout the Basin.

And yet, we face many challenges as we continue to develop. The major challenge we face is to realize the true potential of Columbia Basin Trust.

We continue to build an organization that is well organized and fiscally responsible, while at the same time it must be an organization that is flexible and responsive. We must find ways to work closely with people, organizations and communities in the Basin in a manner that clearly involves them in achieving the greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations that is talked about in our mission statement.

The success of Columbia Basin Trust will be a direct function of the quality of relationships we are able to build through the work described above. In order to do this, we need to create an organization that has clear values, that operates in an open and transparent manner, and that ensures equity of access for all communities in the Basin.

We need to be willing to take risks and to learn from our mistakes.

We need to work with residents and all of our partners to create an organization that is simple, sensible and straightforward.
WORKING FOR THE RESIDENTS
Board of Directors 2001-2002

The Columbia Basin Trust has an 18-member Board of Directors, made up of residents who have chosen to make this region their home. The Regional Districts of East Kootenay, Central Kootenay, Kootenay Boundary, Columbia-Shuswap, and Fraser-Fort George each appoint two people for a total of 10 directors. The Ktunay/Kimbasket Tribal Council appoints two directors and the Province of British Columbia appoints six directors. All Board members must be residents of the Columbia Basin as defined in the Columbia Basin Trust Act. Members of the current Board of Directors are:

Josh Smink
Chair
Balfour

Garry Merkel
Vice Chair
Kimberley

John Bergenske
Skookumchuck

Dieter Bogs
Trail

Greg Dack
Radius Hot Springs

Anne Edwards
M Nyle

Rick Hardie
Fruitvale

Mike Karetshoff
Fort Steele

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The Board currently has two vacant Provincial appointment seats.

Staff
The Columbia Basin Trust has 25 staff working out of four offices in the Basin. The four offices provide greater geographic access to Columbia Basin Trust and its resources. To contact any staff visit our website at www.cbt.org or call 1-800-505-8998. We have also provided information about all the offices on Page 20 of this document.

Cranbrook Office
(back row) Deb Stewart, Accounting Technician/Supervisor; Nancy Boucher, Assistant, Community Liaison; Economic Development: Tammy Perpich, Accounting Technician, Stacy Donald, Reception; Maggie Malmey, Board Liaison; Christina Rezansoff, Accounting Technician; Jane Hutchings, Manager of Operations and Planning; and Patty Brassard, Community Liaison and Economic Development. (Front Row) Don Johnston, Chief Executive Officer; Bob Kysar, Chief Financial Officer; and Stacy Barter, Youth Coordinator.

Nakusp Office
(S to R) Dave Strachan, Manager, Investments; Marilyn Spry, Assistant, Community Liaison; Social; Marilyn Rovers, Information Technology; Rina Greisw, Assistant, Investments; and Doug Seitzer, Community Liaison, Social Sector.

Golden Office
(right) Kindy Goal, Community Liaison, Environment; and (left) Christa H Eilmore, Assistant, Community Liaison, Environment.

Steering Committees
The Columbia Basin Trust has approximately 60 volunteers (on five sector steering committees) who advise the Board of Directors about the types of programs to develop. These volunteers are selected for the diverse skills and backgrounds they bring to each of the committees. Members of the five sector steering committees are:

Social Sector
- Andrew Earnshaw
  Nelson
- Gordon Fletcher
  Trail
- Cathy Gilling
  Revelstoke
- Andrew Jarrett
  Salmo
- Gord Johnson
  Cranbrook
- Rory Lindsay
  Sicamous
- Denise Louie
  Creston
- Gary Ockenden
  Castlegar
- Bobby Roe
  Valemount
- Mary Walters
  Nelson
- Dorothy Wardwell
  Hazelar
- Mc E Williams
  Fernie

Environment Sector
- Bob Campbell
  Invermere
- Patricia Creelman
  Cranbrook
- Kathy
  Eichenberger
- Crescent Valley
- Denise English
  Golden
- Dennis Meldon
  Creston
- Cindy Pearce
  Revelstoke
- Jan Skiber
  Kimberley
- Paul Willis
  Cranbrook
- Kim Bergh
  Nelson
- Scott Cobbe
  Creston
- Craig Hiltman
  Kimberley
- Kay Hohn
  Salmo
- Allan Mazon
  Revelstoke
- Jim McAllister
  Cranbrook
- Geoffrey Nagle
  Golden
- Joe Ranallo
  Rossland
- George Watson
  Kimberley
- T ony Austin
  Kimberley
- Pamela Cinnamon
  Valemount
- Alice Hall
  Invermere
- Trevor Hall
  New Denver
- Jacci H Hamiton
  Castlegar
- Stephanie Judy
  Kootenay Lake
- M arion Kern
  Kimberley
- Al Major
  Golden
- Carol Palladino
  Revelstoke
- Joan Ralston
  Nelson
- Jane Shaw
  Rossland
- Joe Warshawksky
  Fernie

Economic Development Sector
- Corrie Barraclough
  Kimberley
- R Don Boyle
  Cranbrook
- Rob Gay
  Cranbrook
- Paul Hambruch
  Golden
- Bruce Hardy
  Castlegar
- Lee Malleau
  Golden
- Thomas Murray
  Nelson
- Lloyd Sharpe
  Eikly
- Ian Thomas
  Rossland
- Maureen Wedded
  Revelstoke
- Barb Yeomans
  New Denver

Arts, Culture and Heritage Sector
Columbia Basin Trust relies on the members of the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA), an organization of arts council representatives, to determine arts, culture and heritage programming in the Basin. The CKCA Steering Committee consists of:

- Tony Austin
  Kimberley
- Pamela Cinnamon
  Valemount
- Alice Hale
  Invermere
- Trevor Hall
  New Denver
- Jacci H Hamiton
  Castlegar
- Stephanie Judy
  Kootenay Lake
- Marion Kern
  Kimberley
- Al Major
  Golden
- Carol Palladino
  Revelstoke
- Joan Ralston
  Nelson
- Jane Shaw
  Rossland
- Joe Warshawksky
  Fernie
From endowment to the people of the Basin: Understanding COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST’S Model

**ENDOWMENT ($295 MILLION)**

**Investment Income Currently Provides $3.75 MILLION annually to DELIVERY OF BENEFITS**

**$250 MILLION to POWER INVESTMENTS**

The $250 million is committed to finance three power projects in the Basin. The Province of B.C. also committed to transfer an additional $250 million to Columbia Power Corporation (CPC). Columbia Basin Trust's joint venture partner in power projects. Income from power sales is shared 50-50 between CPC and CBT. For more information about these power projects turn to pages 16 and 17.

**COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

$12.9 MILLION over 10 YEARS until 2008

Funding to local governments including the Regional Districts of East Kootenay, Central Kootenay, Fraser Fort George, Columbia Shuswap, and Kootenay Boundary, and the Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council. For more information on Community Initiatives turn to pages 6 to 8.

**SECTOR INITIATIVES**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ($550,000)**

- Basin Business Advocates Program
- Rural Economic Development Program

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING ($200,000)**

- Resources for Family Literacy
- Training Fee Support Program

**SOCIAL ($550,000)**

- Affordable Housing
- Early Childhood Supports Program
- Families Program

**ENVIROMENT ($550,000)**

- Community Environmental Stewardship Program
- Terrestrial Ecosystems Restoration and Conservation Program
- Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration and Conservation Program

**ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ($200,000)**

- Funding Support to Communities
- Capital Funding
- Funding Support for Touring
- Performing/Master Classes Program
- Arts Council Development
- Artbinarts

**BASIN INITIATIVES**

Youth Links
- Youth and Community Involvement Scholarship
- Youth Links

With the advice of Sector Steering Committees, the following strategic programs have been developed to address specific needs in the Basin.

**The Columbia Basin Management Plan**

Under the terms of the Columbia Basin Trust Act, CBT was required to prepare a long-term Columbia Basin Management Plan (the Plan). The Plan sets out Columbia Basin Trust's mission, objectives, priorities, programs, and requirements for evaluation and monitoring.

It is Columbia Basin Trust's mission to support efforts of the people of the Basin to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being and to achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations. The people of the Basin were instrumental in the creation of the Plan. In addition to Symposia held in 1995 and 1997, ongoing focus groups, information sessions, and kitchen table meetings were held throughout the Basin to ensure the Plan was the creation of the people of the Basin. In July 1997, the Board of Directors approved the five-year Plan.

The two functions of the Plan are:
- To invest the capital and manage the assets; and
- To spend the income earned from Columbia Basin Trust's investments to deliver benefits to the region.

These core functions are the basis of Columbia Basin Trust's investment and delivery of benefits programs. In an effort to continue to include residents in decision making, 11 community meetings were held in 2001 to receive input on the current programs undertaken.

Columbia Basin Trust also established ongoing monitoring and evaluation of all programs to ensure the goals and objectives of the Plan are met. Turn to page 19 for more information on monitoring and evaluation.

To receive a copy of the Columbia Basin Management Plan, contact CBT at 1-800-505-3899.
Columbia Basin Trust partners with the five regional districts and the Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council in the Basin to deliver Community Initiatives to residents. Columbia Basin Trust has committed to transfer $12.9 million over 10 years to these partners to help inject money directly into communities for projects they deem important and that might not otherwise be undertaken. Each community or regional district electoral area in the Basin receives a per capita portion of the $7.4 million of Basin Community Initiatives funding. A further $5.5 million is transferred to areas of the Basin most affected by the Columbia River Treaty. Columbia Basin Trust encourages the partners to develop their own unique process for involving the residents of their areas in recommending and selecting projects for funding. The partners have the opportunity to refine how the program is delivered to ensure community participation in project selection and project accountability. Since the program started three years ago, more than 550 community supported projects have been funded through Community Initiatives. Although application deadlines can vary by regional district or tribal council, forms are usually available by March of each year. Contact information and more details about application processes for each regional district or tribal council office are available on Pages 5 to 7.

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SHUSWAP

The Regional District of Columbia Shuswap is not entirely within the Columbia Basin Trust’s mandated area. Only the communities of Revelstoke and Golden are in the Basin and therefore the regional district has assigned the administration of its funds directly to those communities. To apply for funds in Revelstoke contact Debra Wozniak at 1-250-837-5345; in Golden, contact Greg Switenky at 1-250-344-2271.

Bear-proofing Revelstoke

Project Proponent: B.C. Conservation Foundation
Project: Bear Aware Program
Funding: $10,500

Conflicts between bears and humans are down in Revelstoke thanks to a public education program that helps bear-proof communities. "The Bear Aware Program helps people reduce the risk of having bears in their community," says Paula Couturier, co-ordinator of the Revelstoke Bear Aware Program. "Bears are attracted to fruit trees, garbage, compost, animal feed, barbecues and garbage, compost, animal feed, and more. When these are managed properly it’s less likely a bear will be attracted to the area."

Funds from Community Initiatives are being used to hire a Bear Aware co-ordinator in Revelstoke from June to November, peak months for bear activity. In a two-year period ending in 1995, 56 nuisance bears were killed in the Revelstoke area. Compare that with figures that show 19 bears were killed in a four-year period (ending in 2000) after the Bear Aware Program started, and there’s no doubt the program is working. "It would be very difficult to deliver this important education program without the Columbia Basin Trust," says Couturier, who notes other local funders include Parks Canada, the Regional District of Columbia Shuswap, the City of Revelstoke, Bear in Mind Gifts, and Sota Instruments.

This program, which started in the Columbia Basin, has become a provincial program guided by the B.C. Conservation Foundation and is now delivered in communities across the province. For more information on Bear Aware visit www.bearawarebc.ca on the Internet.

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER-FORT GEORGE

Only the community of Valemount is located within the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George in the Columbia Basin. For this reason, all funds allocated to this regional district are administered by the Village of Valemount. To apply for funds in Valemount contact Silvio Gislimberti at 1-250-566-4435.

Interpretive Centre planned for Valemount

Project Proponent: Village of Valemount
Project: Interpretive Centre
Funding: $50,000

The Village of Valemount, at the northern most part of the Basin, is working with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, to develop an interpretive centre on the main highway into town. With funding from Community Initiatives, and other funding partners, the Village has acquired three acres of land that will become home to the Valemount Interpretive Centre. When built, the centre will offer tourist information, natural and cultural exhibits, meeting and exhibit space, picnic areas, trails, a concession stand, and more. "We feel the interpretive centre will help preserve the area’s river culture, introduce visitors to the natural and recreation opportunities, offer a number of education benefits, and it will help diversify the local economy by encouraging the tourism sector," says Silvio Gislimberti, economic development officer for the Village of Valemount. "It will also be a place for local artists and entrepreneurs to showcase their talents."

B.C. Conservation Foundation $10,500
Illecillewaet Greenbelt Society $8,000
Family and Youth Resources $20,000
Revelstoke Nordic Ski Club $8,250
Revestoke Arts Council $15,000
Revelstoke Hospital Auxiliary Society $10,000
Revelstoke Community Skills Centre $10,000
Revelstoke Community Childcare $7,024
Family and Youth Resources $20,000
Friends of Mt. Revelstoke $15,000
Columbia Mountain Institute $9,000
Revelstoke Figure Skating Club $4,500
Big Eddy School and Community Group $1,800
Revelstoke Cycling Association $11,500
Columbia Mountain Institute $2,500
Revelstoke Blues Society $3,500
Selkirk Saddle Club $5,000
Golden
Golden Dolphins Swim Club $2,000
Whitehorse Ranch Team $2,500
Golden Snowmobile Club $20,000
Golden Family Literacy $16,500
Golden and District Historical Society $10,000
Rotary Club of Golden $10,000
Golden Junior Rockies Hockey Club $4,000
Rotary Club of Golden $44,300
Golden Flying Site $30,000

Valleymount is in the Robson Valley which is home to both the Fraser and Columbia River headwaters. And the centre will showcase the importance of both river systems to the social, cultural, historical, environmental and economic well-being of the area.

The next step is to secure funds for the construction of the centre which promotes hope will bring more visitors to the area and more local jobs.
Bus service keeps Valley connected

Project Proponent: Fernie Women's Resource Centre
Project: Centre relocation and public transit in the Elk Valley
Funding: $24,299 ($13,267 for the bus service)

Bus service in the Elk Valley will run for another year thanks to a partnership between Columbia Basin Trust, the municipalities of Elkford, Fernie and Sparwood, and Kootenay Traf, which operates the bus service.

"Transportation is a basic need for many people living in the valley," says Debbie Johnston, co-ordinator of the Fernie Women's Centre, which helped get the buses running in 1999.

Thanks to funds from Community Initiatives, and other funding partners, the Elk Valley Connector has been running five days a week and makes two daily trips through the 70-kilometre long valley, carrying a group of riders who rely on the service.

"There's a lot of potential for this bus service to grow and continue to support the people who live in the valley," says Johnston. "And we're thrilled that we've managed to pull it together, along with our partners."

Regional District of East Kootenay has a project proposal application package available for people interested in applying for Community Initiatives funding in this area. Applications are usually available by March each year. Deadlines for applying are near the end of April. Interested groups should contact Elaine Knowlson at the Regional District of East Kootenay at 1-888-478-7335 or 1-250-489-2791 to receive an application package.

Passing down Ktunaxa traditions, language

Project Proponent: Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council
Project: Youth/Elder Mentor Awards
Funding: $4,000

The Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council (KKTC) is helping to recognize youth who have shown an interest in traditional knowledge. In the 2000-2001 winners of the Youth Elder Mentor Awards were Lindsay Whitehead from the St. Mary's Band who practices traditional hunting and shares the food with elders in the community and Jason Louie from the Lower Kootenay Band who was recognized for his work learning and teaching the Ktunaxa (do na ha) language.

There is a real shortage of young people who speak the Ktunaxa language, which is threatened with extinction," says Gwen Phillips director of health for the KKTC. "And the language is key to understanding traditional knowledge."

"The language is important because it gives us our identity; it's unique just as we are as a Nation. I didn't realize this until I was almost an adult," says Louie. "Now, I think that the language should be a priority for all of us or else it will be lost. It's often difficult for youth to learn it; they are already going through a lot and some of them have to get over their shyness around the language. We're too comfortable with English. It's not so bad for the little kids like the ones I work with. I make learning fun and they like the challenge but we need to find new ways to get the other young people involved."

Funds from Community Initiatives are used to send award winners, along with an elder, to the Aboriginal Achievement Awards in Canada.

Regional District of East Kootenay
The Regional District of East Kootenay has a project proposal application package available for people interested in applying for Community Initiatives funding in this area. Applications are usually available by March each year. Deadlines for applying are near the end of April. Interested groups should contact Elaine Knowlson at the Regional District of East Kootenay at 1-888-478-7335 or 1-250-489-2791 to receive an application package.

Projects Funded 2000-2001

Total Funding Over 10 Years (Basin Community Initiatives and Affected Areas combined): $3,427,210

- **Electoral Area A**:
  - Elkford Rod and Gun Club $1,400
  - Electoral Area B
  - Baynes Lake Parks and Recreation Society $1,889.97
  - Elkto Cemetery Board $29,300
  - Galloway Curling Club $10,470
  - Granmore Recreation Centre $1,000
  - Granmore Recreation Club $2,000
  - Sand Creek Senior Citizens $17,254.82
  - Sand Creek Community Church $6,675

- **Electoral Area C**
  - Bull River Bar-B-Q Ranchers Society $10,000
  - M'ayok Community Association $28,000
  - Steepwater Recreation Association $14,046

- **Electoral Area E**
  - Kimberley Rocky Mountain Riders $1,100
  - Waa and District Historical Association $1,000
  - Waa and District Lions Club $6,900

- **Electoral Area F**
  - Fernie Women's Resource Centre $2,500
  - Kimberley Public Library $10,000

- **City of Cranbrook**
  - City of Cranbrook CycleWalk Trail $167,564.34
  - Key City Theatre Society $7,900
  - Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 24 $4,012.66

- **District of Elkford**
  - Elkford 50+ Club $506.17
  - Elkford Public Library $4,377.87

- **District of Invermere**
  - Invermere Public Library $1,000
  - Lakeview Manor Society $5,000
  - Windermere District Historical Society $3,000

- **City of Kimberley**
  - Kimberley Community Skills Centre $2,000
  - Kimberley Family Literacy $4,000
  - Kimberley Rocky Mountain Riders $1,100

- **Projects Funded 2000-2001**
  - The Community Legacy Component $10,000
  - A matching capital grant to support the construction of community social/cultural/recreation facilities.
  - The Community Initiative Component $5,000
  - Support local community groups in promoting and hosting local events that offer an opportunity for residents to participate in activities, not possible without financial support.
  - The Youth/Elder Mentor Component $4,000
  - Encourage intergenerational relationship building (See featured project.)
  - The Awards of Excellence Component $2,050
  - Acknowledge community members who have demonstrated a personal commitment to the preservation of the Ktunaxa language and culture.

- **Combined RD&E Funding**
  - Cranbrook Boys and Girls Club
  - District of Sparwood Youth Park $4,610.43
  - Sparwood Senior Citizens Society $4,914.89

- **District of Sparwood**
  - District of Sparwood Youth Park $4,610.43
  - Sparwood Senior Citizens Society $4,914.89

- **City of Kimberley**
  - Kimberley Rock Bay barbecue Ranchers Society $10,000

- **Combined RDEK Funding**
  - Cranbrook Boys and Girls Club
  - Books for Babies in the Columbia Valley
  - Village of Radium Hot Springs $225.14
  - Electoral Area A $1,370.11
  - Electoral Area G $2,628.55

- **Cranbrook**
  - Cranbrook Planned Parenthood $2,628.55

- **City of Elkford**
  - District of Elkford $6,952.90
  - District of Sparwood $4,952.00
  - Electoral Area A $2,655.10

- **City of Fernie**
  - City of Fernie $2,500.00
  - District of Sparwood $2,467.77
  - District of Sparwood $4,747.00

- **City of Sparwood**
  - District of Sparwood $4,952.00
  - Electoral Area A $2,655.10

- **District of Sparwood Senior Citizens Society $4,914.89

- **Electoral Area B**
  - Friends of Fort Steele $2,300.00
  - District of Sparwood $1,000.00
  - Electoral Area B $1,055.23
  - Electoral Area C $1,000.00
  - Electoral Area E $400.00

- **Electoral Area C**
  - Joseph's Prairie Film Society $1,219.46
  - Electoral Area E $200.00

- **Electoral Area D**
  - TLC - The Land Conservancy of BC $1,000.00
  - Electoral Area E $2,467.77

- **Electoral Area E**
  - City of Invermere $2,500.00
  - District of Invermere $2,500.00
  - Electoral Area C $1,000.00

- **District of Invermere**
  - Electoral Area C $1,000.00
  - UCV Big Brothers and Sisters $1,035.11

- **District of Invermere**
  - Electoral Area G $6,020.66
  - Village of Radium Hot Springs $162.53

- **District of Sparwood**
  - Electoral Area B $1,035.11
  - Electoral Area G $6,020.66

- **District of Sparwood Senior Citizens Society $4,914.89

- **KIMBASKET/UCKABACK TRIBAL COUNCIL**

The Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council has established four programs it annually funds through Columbia Basin Trust's Community Initiatives. For more information on the programs listed below, contact Tribal Council at 1-250-489-2464.

Elk Valley Connector driver Wayne Brown welcomes new riders.
## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY

The Regional District of Kootenay Boundary also is not entirely within the Columbia Basin Trust’s mandated area. Communities in the Columbia Basin are Trail, Rossland, Fruitvale, Warfield, M’entonre and rural areas around these towns and cities. To apply for funds in these areas contact Elaine K umar at 1-800-355-7352 or 1-250-369-9148.

### Book keeps local history alive

**Project Proponent:** Beaver Valley Public Library  
**Funding:** $30,000

Funds from the Columbia Basin Trust have guaranteed people in the Beaver Valley a place in the history books - their own history book that is.

“People come in to the library looking for local history and we just don’t have the resources,” says Chief Librarian Diane Kniess. But that all changed when Columbia Basin Trust funded a local history project for the Beaver Valley and area.

Local researcher Anna Reeves conducted more than 100 interviews, collected more than 350 photos, and prepared a 250-page report entitled Tracks of the Beaver Valley and Pend d’Oreille.

“We’ve already lost some of our history and I’d encourage all communities to start recording theirs. You can’t start too soon,” says Kniess, adding this local history collection will likely be of most interest to people who want to learn more about their local heritage.

(See featured project) (Photo top) The first school in Fruitvale 1907-1910. The school’s location was where the police station used to be on Eastview Street, before it went to Davis Street.

(Photograph right) The Pend d’Oreille river before being dammed. Photo taken in 1939 before the new railroad bridge and Waneta dam were built.

### REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

The Regional District of Central Kootenay’s process for applying for Community Initiatives funding varies throughout the region. Deadlines for applying also vary depending on the community or electoral area. Interested groups should contact Audrey Mackerie at the Regional District of Central Kootenay at 1-800-268-7325 or 1-250-352-6665.

### New playing fields for sports fans

**Project Proponent:** Helen Zelemek Memorial Park  
**Project:** New playing fields  
**Funding:** $45,000

People in Nakusp and area have a new slow-pitch diamond and soccer pitch, thanks to the local recreation commission, Nakusp Nixed Slow Pitch Society, VSA Highway Maintenance, the Village, local contractors, Columbia Basin Trust, and people who volunteered their time and services.

Project Manager Gord Marshall says the Helen Marshall was able to turn an old field of weeds into an impressive playing field. “It really enhances the area,” says Marshall, adding there are at least half do a dozen slow-pitch teams in the small community, and hundreds of local kids and adults who play soccer.

“We can raise about $4,000 a year through our annual slow-pitch tournament, so it has been able to turn the help of the Columbia Basin Trust and others,” says Marshall.

The new park is located behind the Nakusp and District Sportscomplex on Eighth Avenue. There will be an official opening ceremony in 2002.
Cultural diversity flourishes in the Basin

Project: Yahk Youth Puppeteers

Funding: $850

Students embrace theatrical legends

Yahk Youth Theatre group performing with one of the giant puppets.
Social

Encouraging the development of healthy children

Early Childhood

Supports Program

Funding: $287,000

The Early Childhood Supports Program assists families in significantly enhancing the skills and resources needed to help children reach healthy maturity. The program increases the ability of communities to work together to reduce the risk to children under the age of six years and increases awareness about the value of supporting children in their earliest years.

Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services has been the delivery agent for the Early Childhood Supports Program for the past two years. “Providing support to families with young children and encouraging the development of healthy children can help prevent future problems for children,” says Louise Wall, administrator of Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services. “The Columbia Basin Trust is giving communities the opportunity to have a positive impact in early childhood development.”

Project Proponent:
Shuswap First Nations Band
Project: Aboriginal teachings
Funding: $47,928

The Shuswap First Nations Band in Invermere is one of 10 projects that is an example of how this program is benefiting children. The Band received $47,928 through the Early Childhood Supports Program in 2000 to integrate aboriginal teachings and local culture into the daily routines of children at the local day care. The day care staffed two volunteer Elders who passed on the traditions of their culture to the Band’s children. Some of these teachings included traditional language, cooking, and use of native plants. Funding also assisted with capital costs of purchasing playground equipment.

The Early Childhood Supports Program will continue through until 2002-2003. All successful projects must demonstrate that they will provide significant benefit to the residents of this region.

Contact CBT Community Liaison Doug Switzer at 1-250-265-9936 for more information on how to apply for funding in 2002-2003.

Environment

Restoring, conserving the Basin environment

Aquatic Ecosystems

Restoration and Conservation Program

Funding: $150,000

The Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration and Conservation Program funds aquatic habitat restoration, conservation, research and monitoring, and assessment in the Columbia Basin.

The Environment Sector Steering Committee selected the Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership (CKFRP) to deliver this program in 2000-2001. “CKFRP is dedicated to the renewal and enhancement of fish populations, fish habitat and aquatic ecosystems and we are pleased that Columbia Basin Trust has recognized this significant environmental issue,” says Kenton Adreashuk, stewardship co-ordinator, H#atbat Conservation and Stewardship Program (Fisheries and Oceans Canada).

For more information, contact CBT Community Liaison Kindly Goal at 1-250-344-7015 or visit CKFRP website at www.ckfrp.com.

PROJECTS FUNDED 2000-2001

Salmo Family Support Program, Salmo $15,965
Kimberley Gymnastics Club Preschool Program Enhancement $3,000
Parent Group - Early Learning Canada, Valemount $6,970
Capital Project Early Childhood Supports Centre, Slocan Valley $24,000
Shuswap Children, Invermere $47,928 (See featured project)
Kootenay Children’s Festival, Cranbrook $2,300
Caterpillar and District Family Resource Centre, Castlegar $33,486
Family Literacy Programs in the Basin (various communities) $54,000
Regional Child Care Council Project, West Kootenay $27,000
Childcare Planning in the East Kootenay: A Blueprint for the Future, East Kootenay $19,373

Lower Sand Creek Fish and Fish Habitat Assessment
Funding: $14,168

The Lower Sand Creek Fish and Fish Habitat Assessment project was one of several projects funded under this program that addressed maintaining healthy aquatic ecosystems. The project involved identifying and characterizing the preferred habitat for salmonids and burbot and conducting a quantitative fish habitat assessment. This assessment included habitat mapping and characterization, channel assessment to evaluate fish habitat conditions, channel geometry/morphology, identifying historical impacts, critical habitat, and limitations to fish production.

The project was documented in a technical report, including recommendations, associated cost estimates for potential mitigation/restoration, and enhancement measures.

“Without the cooperation of both the Lower Kootenay Band, Goat River Residents Association, and additional funding from Fisheries Renewal B.C., this initiative would not be possible,” says Kenton Adreashuk, stewardship co-ordinator, H#atbat Conservation and Stewardship Program (Fisheries and Oceans Canada).

In addition to renewing funding for the Early Childhood Supports Program through to March 2003, Columbia Basin Trust launched the Families Program in 2001. The Families Program supports activities and projects that provide resources to maintain and strengthen the health and safety of families in the Basin.

A Youth Program is scheduled to begin funding projects in 2002. Information on the Youth Program will be available in the early part of 2002.
# Magic's happening for school students

**Ecosystem Awareness Education Program**

**Funding:** $50,000

Columbia Basin Trust’s Ecosystem Awareness Education Program aims at promoting a greater understanding of Columbia Basin ecosystems to school-aged children. Columbia Basin Trust’s program sponsors the Magic Basin Field Trip Ecosystem Awareness Program, an East Kootenay Environmental Education Program (EKE) project.

Capitalizing on the popularity of J.K. Rowling’s “Harry Potter”, the field trips provide elementary school children aged 9-13 years (Grades 4-7) throughout the Basin, the opportunity to discover Basin ecosystems through a dynamic, enriching experience that complements classroom curriculum. The program offers teachers of Grades 4-7, a curriculum-based program that can be linked to the Integrated Resource Package topics for Life Sciences.

"The biggest impact the program has on students is building their awareness of ecosystems, teaching them stewardship ethics, and respect for their environment," says Lee-Anne Walker, project co-coordinator and interpreter for East Kootenay Environmental Education Program. "The field trip connects children with their environment and it is very exciting to watch their reactions when they actually touch, see, and experience an ecosystem in their backyard."

During the 2000-2001, 4,475 elementary school children took part in EKE’s Magical Basin Field Trips to wetlands, grasslands, forests, and old growth forests.

With the help of knowledgeable interpreters from around the Basin, students are introduced to natural functioning ecosystems by participating in nature’s magic tricks, scavenger hunts, dip netting in a wetland, and micro hikes in the forest.

"The opportunity for students to go outdoors and experience the ecosystems first-hand is one of the best parts of the Magic Basin Field Trip," says Gail Pidgon, a Grade 4 teacher from Frank J. Mitchell School. "This program is a perfect fit with the curriculum and the interpreters use interesting strategies, activities and games to engage students."

The Magic Basin Field Trip is funded in partnership with Columbia Basin Trust, the Vancouver Foundation, and with early seed money from Tambo’s Environmental Fund.

For more information on the Magic Basin Field Trip Ecosystem Awareness Program contact EKE at 1-250-427-9325 or visit www.ekes.org on the Internet.

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**Preserving natural wildlife environments**

**Terrestrial Ecosystem and Restoration Conservation Program**

**Funding:** $150,000

As part of the Columbia Basin Trust’s Environmental initiatives, the Terrestrial Ecosystem and Restoration Conservation Program helps realize the goal of maintaining healthy ecosystems in a naturally functioning state and to improve the functioning of those that have been altered and degraded.

A variety of terrestrial projects are funded through this program including wildlife habitat enhancement, terrestrial ecosystem research, and wildlife species monitoring/research.

The Environment Sector Steering Committee is in the process of developing a long-term strategy that will provide future direction for terrestrial program funding by Columbia Basin Trust.

**Project:** Restore monitoring of cougar ecology

**Funding:** $5,000

In 2000-2001, Columbia Basin Trust, in partnership with Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program and BC Environment, funded a cougar ecology and predation study in the South Selkirk Mountains. Costs $14,000.

"The goal of this study is to develop and implement measures to reduce or reverse the losses of caribou and mule deer due to cougar predation in the South Selkirk Mountains," says Ross Clarke, project co-coordinator.

"The first part of this study involves monitoring and researching cougar population and growth, habitat assessment and use, prey selection, and general ecology."

Cougars are tracked, radio-collared and checked for general health conditions. As predators of caribou and mule deer, the study looks at the long-term effects this predator-prey system has on the terrestrial ecosystem.

**Preserving natural wildlife environments**

**Community Environmental Stewardship Program**

**Funding:** $100,000

Columbia Basin Trust’s Community Environmental Stewardship Program promotes environmental stewardship, public education and awareness, and community involvement. The program helps build understanding, abilities and skills for informed decision making through education and active involvement in stewardship activities in both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

**Project Proponent:** Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society

**Project:** Restoring fire-maintained ecosystems

**Funding:** $14,000

The Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society felt there was a need to increase public awareness and education of restoring fire maintained ecosystems. Seventy years of active fire suppression in the Rocky Mountain Trench resulted in an invasion of conifers and changes to the ecology of this zone," says M aurice H anson, co-coordinator. "The greater the public understanding of the fundamentals of restoring fire maintained ecosystems, the greater the support that can be expected."

The goal of this project included raising awareness among the public and special interest groups about forest fires and prescribed burns, and the effects these have on forest health, native plant species and grasslands. This project encouraged the public to become actively involved, empowered, and educated in terrestrial ecosystems in their community.

The Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership (CKFRP) was the delivery agent for this program during 2000-2001. Project proposals are evaluated, awarded, and monitored through a process designed and managed by the delivery agent and approved by the Environment Sector Steering Committee.

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**PROJECTS FUNDED 2000-2001**

Slashing in preparation for wildlife enhancement burn in Cranbrook $40,000

Prescribed burn to increase grassland forage and habitat in Skookumchuck $27,700

Northern Leopard Frog Recovery Fish Inventory in Creston $21,000

Upper Elk Enhancement, Elk Valley $5,000

Salmon River Duck Inventory, Selmo-Tyral $7,000

Restore monitoring, East Kootenay Lynx, Golden $3,000

Skatattoo Enhancement, Glade $3,000

Roedford/Valérie, Roedford $7,500

Slashing in preparation for wildfire enhancement burn at Bute, Kimberley $20,000

Prescribed burning in Wildfire Enhancement Program Lower Kootenay, Creston $5,000

Field trip to BC Wildlife Park, Kimberley $5,000

Prescribed burn to maintain ecosystems.

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For more information on the Magic Basin Field Trip Ecosystem Awareness Program contact EKE at 1-250-427-9325 or visit www.ekes.org on the Internet.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New building system is ‘dome sweet dome’

Kootenay Product Development Fund

**CBT Contribution:** $283,750

The Kootenay Product Development Fund (KPDF) is a $500,000 investment funding program, managed by the Kootenay Association for Science and Technology (KAST). The program has been designed to assist Columbia Basin companies in the development of technology-based products and processes. Small to medium-sized Canadian companies or corporations, with less than 50 employees, which are carrying on the majority of their business in the Columbia Basin region, are eligible to apply. Qualiﬁed applicants must have a developed business plan prior to the start of the pre-application stage.

Columbia Basin Trust and the Provincial Government provided seed money to establish the fund. Read on for an example of a Basin company which is using this fund to help expand an innovative product.

Company: Altus Engineering

Product: Dome-shaped building system

Imagine a lightweight, wooden dome. Then imagine a manufacturing plant right here in the Columbia Basin and more around the world. That is the plan, according to Salah Eldeib, vice-president of Altus Engineering in New Denver.

This growing firm is developing a unique dome-shaped building system that is destined primarily for the American market for use as schools, homes, emergency shelters and more. KAST, through the Kootenay Product Development Fund, has invested in the project.

“The longest piece of wood we use to make the dome is 14 inches,” says Eldeib adding, “We’ve been able to use scrap wood from Slocan Forest Products and the manufacturing costs are half of what I expected.” Altus is developing four prototypes and has hired seven people so far. It is working with the Natural Resources Canada and the University of British Columbia to develop this new building system that is destined primarily for the American market for use as schools, homes, emergency shelters and more. KAST, through the Kootenay Product Development Fund, has invested in the project.

“The financial support...was very important because it made it easier to attract other investors and helped get things started,” says Eldeib.

For more information on the Kootenay Product Development Fund and how to access the loan funding, contact KAST at 1-250-362-7400.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A notion of an idea

Basin Business Advocates Program

**Funding:** $440,000

The Basin Business Advocates Program was introduced in October 2000 to assist businesses by providing access to a business advocate who offers free counseling and advice. The business advocates are a team of experienced business people from a variety of backgrounds who work one-on-one with businesses.

The program includes completion of a business assessment report, outlining key issues and recommendations for the business. A specialized consultant may be contracted on a business behalf to address the needs identified by an advocate. Monica L’Heureux, owner of The Wooden Thimble, worked with a Golden business advocate after hearing about the program from a friend.

“I wanted to get some professional advice about expanding my business,” says L’Heureux. L’Heureux moved back to Golden and opened The Wooden Thimble in 1997 after completing her diploma in Fashion and Design Technology from Kwantlen College.

The Wooden Thimble began as a fabric store and custom sewing shop and has since turned into a quilt shop offering fabric, notions, PFAFF sewing machines, and quilting courses. After completing the initial business assessment, the business advocate recommended a local consultant to prepare a complete business plan.

“I had changed the focus of the store quite a bit since 1997,” says L’Heureux. “The business plan was extremely valuable in helping me re-direct and re-organize, as well as see the complete financial picture of my business. I had consulted with a lot of experience in retail, had lots of energy, and was really enthusiastic about my business.

“Overall, this program was a very positive experience," adds L’Heureux. "If my business would have had to pay for this advice, it just wouldn't have happened.”

The Basin Business Advocates Program is delivered by Steele O’Neil and Associates in Cranbrook.

Business owners in the Columbia Basin interested in participating in the program are encouraged to contact Steele O’Neil and Associates at 1-250-489-4180 or CBT Community Liaison, Patty Bosser at 1-250-365-6633.
Basin Initiatives is another of Columbia Basin Trust’s three main funding envelopes. It is intended to be responsive to needs which are Basin-wide and beyond the funding criteria of the other two initiatives. In addition to the programs funded below, Basin Initiatives has funded Columbia Basin Trust’s ongoing partnership with the Royal B.C. Museum’s Living Landscapes Columbia Basin project. More information on Living Landscapes, which explores and preserves Columbia Basin’s cultural and natural heritage, is available on the Internet at www.livingbasin.com.

A wealth of information

In 2000, Columbia Basin Trust contributed $150,000 in funding to the Basin Information Network (BIN) initiative. The BIN is a vision of an association of Basin-based organizations acting together to provide free, centralized, universal access to information about the Basin for all residents and organizations. While the BIN might collect, store, point to, and disseminate information, it is about empowering individuals, organizations, and communities to make informed decisions about their development by providing tools necessary to share, access, and understand information about the Basin. Columbia Basin Trust is working closely with educational institutions, economic development agencies and the private sector to explore the many opportunities a Basin Information Network would create.

Columbia Basin Trust has funded the BIN for the following reasons:

- The Columbia Basin is a region with limited resources. Organizations or individuals cannot afford to duplicate each other’s work. By creating BIN, duplication is minimized.
- Organizations have limited resources. They can’t afford to spend extra money or time tracking down and obtaining information needed to make decisions.
- Organizations have limited resources. Creating a BIN can potentially act as a single point of entry for information sharing. Organizations can share data once with the BIN, thus minimizing the resources spent on sharing. Likewise, people looking for Basin information will have only one place to go.
- Organizations with a lot of data are already entering into data-sharing agreements with each other. By moving this process into a quasi-public organization, a BIN can promote the values of equal access for all.
- Organizations would like to be more efficient and effective. By collecting the flow of information around a community via a central information agency, organizations can significantly reduce if not entirely negate information waiting periods.

For more information about the BIN, contact CBT Information Technology Director Matt Wenger at 1-800-505-8998.

Youth Links 2000 Orientation Crew.

Youth Links 2000 participants

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<td>Trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Bold -</td>
<td>Castlegar</td>
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Advancing telecommunications

Columbia Basin Trust is actively involved in an effort to bring affordable, advanced telecommunications services to every community in the Basin. The Columbia Mountain Open Network (CMON) Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, created by a partnership of organizations, working to improve the state of telecommunications in the region.

Executive Officer Jeff Roberts. “There are few aspects of life in the Basin that cannot be improved through the use of an advanced telecommunications system. The region’s economy, education system, healthcare, government services, opportunities for youth, and even the environment will be enhanced with the provision of improved telecommunications services.”

The Columbia Mountain Open Network vision is to create a community-controlled network that offers data communications services at prices competitive with those in the large urban centres.

Some of the benefits to communities with advanced telecommunications are:

- Increased access to online services and information.
- Improved personal communications, with faster and more reliable connections.
- Better healthcare, with the ability to communicate quickly for remote diagnosis.

CBT Funding: $642,000 (to date)

During its first year, CMON plans to:

- Establish a Board of Directors that reflects the interests of residents, businesses, institutions, and community groups throughout the region.
- Complete a detailed engineering study and business plan.
- Obtain the necessary licensing and permits to build the network.
- Raise the funds to build the network.

Youth make a difference

Columbia Basin Trust annually awards 20 Youth and Community Involvement Scholarships to graduating students in the Basin who demonstrate a high-level of involvement in their communities.

Each of the recipients receive a scholarship valued at up to $8,000 or $2,000 per annum for four years. The scholarship is awarded to a student from each of the 20 Basin communities. The graduates must be registered at any post secondary institution.

Youth and Community Involvement Scholarship

Funding: $40,000
Recipients: 20

The Youth and Community Involvement Scholarship assists Basin graduates in pursuing post-secondary education/training and rewards and encourages the involvement of young people in their communities.

To be selected for this award candidates must:

- Demonstrate extensive involvement within a Columbia Basin community (exemplify community spirit).
- Display a focused effort towards improving a sense of community.
- Be eligible and have applied for acceptance at a post secondary institute.
- Currently attend school within the Columbia Basin.

The deadline to apply for a 2002 scholarship is March 15, 2002. Keep an eye on Columbia Basin Trust’s website or your local paper, or inquire at your school in February for more information about applying.

Building capacity in communities

Columbia Basin Trust has partnered with the Vancouver Foundation to support the development of new community foundations in the Columbia Basin.

The Endowment Support for Community Foundations Program encourages the development of registered community foundations in the Basin.

Endowment Support for Community Foundations

Funding: $100,000

Upon meeting the requirements of the program, a Basin foundation can receive $5,000 per year, for two years, in matching funds from Columbia Basin Trust and the Vancouver Foundation.


Contact a Community Liaison in your area at 1-800-505-8986 for information about this program.
VENTURE CAPITAL

Resort offers year-round excitement

Company: Kicking Horse Mountain Resort
CBT Investment: $5 million

Columbia Basin Trust invested in the first development phase of Kicking Horse Mountain Resort near Golden in 1999.

On Dec. 8, 2000, Columbia Basin Trust Board of Directors Chair Josh Smienk attended Kicking Horse Mountain Resort’s official opening. The inaugural ski season for the resort kicked off with approximately 2,500 people in attendance.

The resort, which is located 14 kilometres from Golden, offers over 4,000 vertical feet, the second highest in Canada. In the winter, skiers and snowboarders enjoy a 22-minute ride to the top of the mountain in the high-speed Golden Eagle Express Gondola. During the summer season, the gondola continues to transport hikers and mountain bikers to several beginner, intermediate, and advanced alpine trails.

Kicking Horse also provides direct access to area activities including heli-hiking, parasailing, hang-gliding, whitewater kayaking and rafting, sports fishing, climbing, and golfing.

The resort’s first winter season was very strong with approximately 42,000 visitors to the mountain and an estimated 26,000 through the summer season.

Continuous enhancements are being made to the $250 million Kicking Horse Mountain Resort. A new central reservation system, two new luxury suites situated at the top of Canada’s highest restaurant, the mountain’s first ski-in/ski-out accommodation, and several other real estate options for couples and families will be available in time for winter 2001-2002.

When the winter season starts on December 14, visitors will enjoy 26 new ski and snowboard runs, bringing the total number of runs to 68.

To learn more about Kicking Horse Mountain Resort visit its website at www.kickinghorseresort.com.

For more information on venture capital investments, contact Dave Strachan, manager, investments, at 1-250-265-9935.

VENTURE CAPITAL

Destination course destined for success

Company: St. Eugene Mission Golf Resort
CBT Investment: $6,765,000

The St. Eugene Mission Golf Resort on the St. Mary’s Reserve near Cranbrook is a championship, 18-hole course that is receiving rave reviews. It is also one of many projects Columbia Basin Trust has invested in throughout the region.

“In only our second season we have surpassed projections and have been recognized as one of the finest golf courses in Western Canada,” says General Manager Michael Smith. Columbia Basin Trust invested $6,765,000 in the 7,007-yard, par-72, course.

Today the course employs 75 people on a full-time seasonal basis, and has resulted in a number of tourism spinoffs that come from attracting more people to the area.

Increased business for local hotels and restaurants is just one of the benefits that have resulted from the opening of the St. Eugene Mission Golf Resort.

The golf course is part of the Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council’s overall vision for economic development, which includes adding a hotel and casino, scheduled to open in May 2002. (CBT will not be involved in the casino).

“This project will create careers, diversify the economy and it will be a source of long-term income that will be used by the five Bands that make up the Tribal Council,” says Elder Ponte, project manager.

For more information on the St. Eugene Mission Golf Resort visit its website at www.golfsteugene.com.

VENTURE CAPITAL

Heating up the technique of drying wood products

Company: HeatWave Drying Systems
CBT Investment: $3.5 million

Columbia Basin Trust has invested $3.5 million through equity and debt in HeatWave Drying Systems in the West Kootenay.

The funds are helping this innovative company develop its radio-wave, dry-kin technology to the next stage of business growth and development.

HeatWave has developed a drying technology that improves efficiencies and lowers drying costs for a range of products, including large dimensional lumber and timbers. This new drying technology can also be applied to agricultural products, pharmaceuticals and other products that require low moisture levels.

For more information about this technology visit the HeatWave Drying Systems website at www.heatwave.com.
REAL ESTATE

Columbia Basin Building opens

Columbia Basin Trust officially opened the Columbia Basin Building in Castlegar May 11, 2001. Approximately 100 people attended the opening to tour the new 30,000 sq. ft. building, which is now home to Columbia Basin Trust's Castlegar office, as well as the offices of Columbia Power Corporation, and the City of Castlegar Council Chambers.

The building, which cost $4 million including tenant improvements, is a key part of Columbia Basin Trust's investment portfolio.

Columbia Basin Trust extends its sincerest thanks to the following individuals and companies for their hard work on the construction of the Columbia Basin Building.

B.C. Buildings Corporation - Ben M insuk, Brent Wame, Jim McLean
Project Manager - Vic Van Isle, David Berisha
Construction Manager - Vic Van Isle, Stewart DeFeo
Columbia Basin Trust - Dave Strachan
Fairbank Architects - Allan McLeod
Consulting Engineers: EMCO Engineering Ltd. - Electrical
M atte Collett, Yoneda Associates Ltd - M echanical
M SS Engineering Ltd. - Structural
Vic Van Isle Construction Ltd. - General Contractor

LOAN SYNDICATION PROGRAM

The Loan Syndication Program provides businesses in the Basin with the capital needed to help strengthen local economies. Through this program, credit unions share commercial loan opportunities, and associated risks and returns with Columbia Basin Trust. CBT's participation in any one loan syndication is up to a maximum of 50 per cent of the total amount loaned by a credit union. Syndicated loans start at $250,000. To date, Columbia Basin Trust has advanced $6,475,000 to this program. The overall annual rate of return to the Columbia Basin Trust for this program is 8.92 per cent. For more information about accessing the Loan Syndication Program, contact a credit union in your area.

Program helps finance new hotel

Travelers to Golden can now stay in a new three-level, 60-room Ramada Ltd. Hotel that offers an indoor pool, hot tub and a high-speed internet connection.

This addition to Golden's list of hotels opened in September of this year and is already receiving calls from tour operators and has several long-term, corporate bookings for its two-bedroom suites.

"We expect that skiers coming to the area will also be good for business," says co-owner Bhajan Rai.

Construction of the project began in April 2001 and employed about 75 people. When the hotel is operating at capacity in the summer, up to 20 local people will be hired.

Rai and partner Mike Dhami financed the development of the hotel through a three-way loan syndication involving Columbia Basin Trust, the Revelstoke Credit Union and the Columbia Valley Credit Union.

"This type of partnership allows credit unions to service deals of this size and nature and that means local money stays in the community," says Kashmir Dhillon, commercial loan officer at the Revelstoke Credit Union.

"This is a safe and sound investment with minimal risk."

REGIONAL LENDING PROGRAM

The Regional Lending Program helps viable businesses in the Basin with both expansion and start-up financing. Columbia Basin Trust's contribution to this lending program, which is offered through Community Futures Development Corporation, enables CDFC to increase loans to $250,000. To date, Columbia Basin Trust has advanced $3.5 million to this program.

For more information about accessing the Regional Lending Program, contact a CDFC office in your area.

Clear sailing for area business

Business: Sunshine Houseboats

When local entrepreneurs Brant and Dianne Cullum got into the houseboat business three years ago they had never been on a houseboat.

Today they operate 10 charter houseboats on Lake Koocanusa and by next year their fleet will be up to 13.

"People thought we were crazy," says Cullum, one of the investors in Sunshine Houseboats. "Now we get 2,000 people coming to houseboat each year and it keeps growing."

With a financial loan from the Regional Lending Program, a partnership between Community Futures Development Corporation in the Basin and Columbia Basin Trust, Sunshine Houseboats purchased another boat - the "Eagle" - which will strengthen and diversify this floating business.

"Now we can offer a time share houseboat to interested investors, as well as our charter and other services," says Cullum. "We really appreciate that Columbia Basin Trust, together with CDFC, has shown the foresight and is willing to work with small businesses like ours."

Since it started, Sunshine Houseboats, based in Cranbrook, has more than doubled its fleet, increased its business almost seven times, and hires five people full-time during the summer.

Next year the company expects to hire up to eight people, add a restaurant to the operations, and offer U.S. international boating to its clients on Koocanuse more than 400 kilometres of shoreline.

"We are on the frontier of tourism on the lake," says Cullum. "And tourism will surely become a predominant industry in the area."

For more information about Sunshine Houseboats visit the website at sunshinehouseboats.com

Columbia Basin Building located at 445 - 13 Avenue in Castlegar.

Photo by Keith Cardriver

Columbia Basin Building located at 445 - 13 Avenue in Castlegar.

Total Square Footage - 30,000
First Floor
City of Castlegar Council Chambers - 3,143 sq ft
Parkade - 18 parking stalls
Second Floor
Columbia Power Corporation - 9,896 sq ft
Third Floor
Columbia Basin Trust - 5,114 sq ft

Unobstructed space 4,730 sq ft
Total Rentable Area 23,193 sq ft

Project Timeline
May 1999 - Project conception
June 2000 - Construction began
April 2001 - Building opened

Total Project Cost - $4 million including tenant improvements

Sunshine Houseboats is set to expand its operations next year.

Photo courtesy Sunshine Houseboats
CBT establishes power subsidiary

In September 2000, Columbia Basin Trust incorporated a new energy subsidiary, CBT Energy Inc. (CBTE), to develop and manage energy and power related projects for the purposes of creating long-term income, and bringing economic, environmental, and social benefits to the Columbia Basin.

The structure and purpose of CBTE is to ensure Columbia Basin Trust energy policies include direction from outside experts in the energy field and access to critical industry knowledge to become adept in a rapidly evolving and uncertain energy market.

CBTE’s mandate is to develop an organization which supports the mission and vision for the Columbia Basin Trust in the energy area. To achieve this mission, Columbia Basin Trust is moving towards the incorporation of the activities of its subsidiary power companies into CBTE’s operations.

The consolidation of the subsidiary companies under CBTE will enhance the ability of Columbia Basin Trust to seek, and capitalize on, unique business opportunities in the energy industry.

"CBTE is a significant energy player within the region and can contribute to, and enhance, the diversification of the energy industry in BC..." says Ken Epp, CBTE interim chief executive officer. CBTE is working to equip itself to fully operate in deregulating energy markets and to prepare for potential market structure changes in British Columbia.

CBTE’s first priority is to ensure the timely completion, in concert with Columbia Power Corporation, Columbia Basin Trust’s joint venture partner in power projects, of existing energy projects on pages 16 and 17.

Secondly, Columbia Basin Trust recognizes that long-term success is also dependent on an entrepreneurial view to developing new business opportunities that expand the scope of Columbia Basin Trust’s business portfolio.

The new market provides opportunities for corporations to be creative in providing business solutions between power providers and power users.

In the future, CBTE foresees a portfolio that encompasses provision of energy from various sources and services to customers that maximize benefits from the market while containing risks.

CBTE is building the needed tools to be able to evaluate and rank new opportunities rigorously at minimum cost and risk, as well as the infrastructure needed to execute these opportunities.

Brilliant Dam - expanding the investment

In 1996, Columbia Basin Trust and its joint venture partner, Columbia Power Corporation (CPC), made their first investment and acquired the 125 megawatt Brilliant Dam on Kootenay River north of Castlegar.

Like all investments made by Columbia Basin Trust, the Brilliant Dam will become a source of long-term income that will support Columbia Basin Trust’s delivery of benefits across the Columbia Basin.

Since acquiring the Brilliant Dam, Columbia Basin Trust and CPC have undertaken a series of capital improvements to both the dam and the powerhouse.

A proposed expansion project will add 100 megawatts of generating capacity by utilizing water not needed by the existing 60-year-old powerhouse, and see a new powerhouse built on the east shore of the Kootenay River, just downstream of the existing dam.

The expansion also involves the construction of a new water intake channel and exit. Construction is scheduled to start in 2002, after the project has undergone an Environmental Assessment Review.

When approved, construction will create direct employment in the area and provide a number of environmental benefits such as improving downstream fish and aquatic habitat.

By reducing the amount of water spilled over Brilliant Dam each year, the project will serve to decrease the amount of air that is trapped and forced into water at the toe of the dam.

This in turn will reduce levels of total gas pressure that can be harmful to fish for many kilometres downstream.

As a second important environmental benefit, an independent study has concluded that the Brilliant Expansion will lower greenhouse gas emissions by offsetting the need for power generated by fossil fuel elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest.

Output: 100 M W, 600 GWh/h
Cost: $125 million-$150 million (estimated)
Schedule: Construction 2002 - in service 2005
Jobs: 450 person years (estimated)
Columbia Basin Trust, along with its joint venture partner Columbia Power Corporation (CPC), are building a 170 megawatt power station at the Hugh Keenleyside Dam near Castlegar.

When complete in 2002, the Arrow Lakes Generating Station will produce enough electricity to supply nearly all West Kootenay homes and small businesses.

“Power sales resulting from this joint venture investment will give Columbia Basin Trust a long-term source of income that will be used to support our delivery of benefits which bring social, economic and environmental benefits to the 170,000 people who live in the Basin,” says Josh Smienk, chair of CBT’s Board of Directors.

The return on this power investment has already begun.

The Arrow Lakes Generating Station project is putting more than $53 million in wages and more than $20 million in other spending into the regional economy during the four-year construction period. At its peak, the project employed more than 400 workers, most of them local.

The Arrow Lakes Generating Station will also result in a number of environmental benefits including the creation of new fish habitat and improvements to downstream aquatic habitat.

For more information about the Arrow Lakes Generating Station, or any of the power projects on these pages, visit CPC’s website at cumbriapower.org.

### Arrow Lakes Generating Station

- **Output:** 170 M W (2 units), 760GW/h
- **Cost:** $250 million
- **Schedule:** In Service 2002
- **Number of People Employed During Construction:** Approximately 400

- Water enters the powerhouse through a 1,500-metre long approach channel upstream of the dam.
- Two 85-megawatts turbines will run in the powerhouse.
- Water returns to the Columbia River downstream of the dam.
- A 48-kilometre transmission line, under construction, will connect the project with the B.C. Hydro grid.
- The Arrow Lakes Generating Station is the first of three power development projects planned by the joint venture partners. The other two projects would see generating capacity expanded first at the Brilliant Dam and then at the Waneta Dam.

### Waneta Expansion Project

Columbia Basin Trust and Columbia Power Corporation (CPC), are planning a third project together which would see construction of up to a 380 megawatt generating station at the Waneta Dam on the Pend d’Oreille River near Trail.

In 1994, Columbia Power Corporation purchased the rights to expand generating capacity at Waneta from Cominco Ltd., the dam’s owner.

Scheduled for completion in 2008, following an Environmental Assessment Review, the Waneta Expansion Project will provide ongoing revenue to Columbia Basin Trust, while creating jobs, as well as economic and social benefits for people in communities across the Columbia Basin.
Financial Highlights

Residents can contact the Columbia Basin Trust at 1-800-505-8998 to receive a copy of the complete Audited Financial Statements for fiscal year 2001, which were published in Columbia Basin Trust’s Annual Report 2000-2001 to the Provincial Government. You can also visit CBT’s website at www.cbt.org/annual_report.htm to download a copy.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT MARCH 31, 2001

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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2001

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<td>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</td>
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Micro Enterprise Loan Program

CBT Contribution: $25,000
The Micro Enterprise Loan Program through Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) of the Central Kootenay was a pilot project to help create employment, increase income, and provide independent living for lower income individuals. Loans are available from $200 to a maximum of $5,000. Columbia Basin Trust put in 30 per cent (or $25,000), the Province through the former Ministry of Community Development Cooperative and Volunteers, Community Capacity Building Program provided 50 per cent and CFDC the balance. CFDC Central Kootenay also contributed the investment capital. For more information contact Tom M urr, loans officer, CFDC in Nelson.

Recipient: Ariah’s Edible Creations
For a Slocan Valley mother of three, local organic ingredients and a supportive family, mixed with $4,000 from the Micro Enterprise Loan Program, is a recipe for success.
Ariah Desilets invested the money she was loaned and bought enough bulk ingredients and other essentials to start her own wholesale food business that makes vegan, wheat and dairy free samosas, soups, burritos, and more.

The foods are sold at three local retailers, but in a few months she hopes to make Ariah’s Edible Creations more widely available in the Kootenays, the province, and in Alberta.

The money from the program helped her get started and she says, “It’s allowing me to make a better living. I’m also showing my kids that there are possibilities and you can make things happen.”

For Desilets, running her own business means she can work a schedule that suits her physical limits. “Because of scoliosis, a curved spine, I can’t work eight hours in a row, but in time I hope to become more of a director in the business and less of a vegetable chopper.”

Desilets uses space at the Kootenay Baker in Nelson to prepare her food products, but one day she hopes to establish a commercial kitchen in the Slocan Valley to share with other local food wholesalers.

For now she’s gearing up to package her foods for a wider market and take advantage of the image of the Kootenays as a place with clean air, water and healthy food.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Mixing a recipe for success in Kootenays

Recipient: Ariah’s Edible Creations

Photo by Ursula Heller
A strategy for the future of the River

Columbia Basin Trust recognizes the economic losses and environmental effects of dam construction in the region due to the Columbia River Treaty. Columbia Basin Trust has a task force working to develop a strategy to help ensure the management of water issues related to the Columbia River Treaty takes account of the region's interests in a range of values.

The Water Management Task Force strategy includes:
- Developing educational materials on water management for Basin residents, Board of Directors, and staff.
- Being an advocate for playing a role in decisions about regional and cross-border international water management.
- Working to improve water reservoir and dam management practices to optimize a wide range of benefits including fish and wildlife, power generation, and recreation.

The final phase, which is still underway, involves meetings with the Board of Directors, staff, sector steering committees, and partners during the winter of 2001 to review and refine the Phase 1 findings and to confirm the usefulness of the initial recommendations.

The objectives of the monitoring and evaluation project are to examine whether Columbia Basin Trust is delivering programs consistent with the Columbia Basin Management Plan; to examine whether the decision-making processes and administrative procedures put in place for delivering programs are consistent with the Plan; and to provide a framework for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the activities, says CEO Don Johnston.

The meetings were held in 12 communities around the Basin mostly during May 2001. The communities visited were Sparwood, Cranbrook, Invermere, Golden, Revelstoke, Nakusp, Creston, Kaslo, Nelson, Trail, Jaffray, and Valemount.

Approximately 300 people attended the meetings, which were designed with two objectives in mind:
- To create an opportunity for community members to learn more about Columbia Basin Trust and to talk with staff and directors. The community meetings included an open house with displays and brochures on all aspects of Columbia Basin Trust as well as some of CBT's partners and project proponents.
- To provide an opportunity from a monitoring and evaluation perspective, to get feedback from project proponents who had received project funding.

The meetings renewed our connection to the residents of the Basin and from the accounts of the people who attended they appreciated the opportunities to talk to us,” says Johnston. “And we were able to identify some key policy and operational areas, which need to be addressed to ensure we continue to be responsive to the residents of the Basin.”

The final phase, which is still underway, involves the development of a monitoring and evaluation system to assist Columbia Basin Trust and its partners with ongoing decision-making and renewal of plans. A final report on the monitoring and evaluation processes will be available to residents later this year.

To get a copy, call Columbia Basin Trust at 1-800-505-8998 or visit one of our offices. A downloadable version will also be available on the website at www.cbt.org.