CBT may sell power projects to BC Hydro

The Columbia Basin Trust’s (CBT) Board of Directors announced on September 30 that it has approached the Province with a request to sell CBT’s interests in power projects to BC Hydro. CBT’s power interests include a 50% share in the Arrow Lakes Generating Station, the Brilliant Dam, the Brilliant Expansion Project and the rights to the Waneta Expansion Project. Proceeds from the sale of power projects, anticipated to be approximately $260 million, would be invested from CBT in a diversified portfolio to create greater certainty of cash flow as well as to protect the assets for the people of the Basin. CBT anticipates there will be a rapid increase in the delivery of benefits budget as early as the next fiscal year, where current plans call for $5 million in delivery of benefits. A diversified portfolio could double CBT’s delivery of benefits program in the next fiscal year, and provide significantly more flexibility.

“The over the last three years, the provincial government and CBT have discussed restructuring of the Columbia Basin Trust and its interests in power projects in a way that makes sense for the region,” said Josh Smienk, CBT Chair. “CBT has always consulted with residents of the Basin and this time is no different,” says Josh Smienk, CBT Chair. “As soon as we heard that the BC Hydro Board of Directors had approved this idea in principle, we released it publicly, and now we are working hard to receive residents input. We want to maintain our accountability to the people of the Basin and in doing so, continue to involve residents in changes affecting CBT.”

“One of the issues our Board faced during the three-year Core Services Review Process was thinking about CBT in the long term,” continues Smienk. “We looked at many options and this one has benefits which will protect the future of CBT and create a lasting legacy, plus it will increase our ability to provide additional benefits to the region. The Board has the responsibility to look at the BC Hydro option seriously and therefore wants input from Basin residents.”

The CBT board has yet to make final approval on the sale and will consider input from residents gathered during upcoming public meetings before doing so. Community meetings will be held from 7 - 9 pm as follows:
- November 9, Prestige Inn, Nelson
- November 10, Best Western Terra Nova, Trail
- November 12, Kuskanas Lodge, Nakusp
- November 16, Regent Inn, Revelstoke
- November 17, Golden Senior Centre, Golden
- November 18, Prestige Inn, Cranbrook
- November 19, Park Place, Fernie

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CBT’s financial advisors have repeatedly pointed to the risk of concentrating assets in one sector of industry. In the current situation, a major incident at one of CBT’s power facilities could create a situation where CBT would have to curtail the Delivery of Benefits programs for a prolonged period of time. With a more diversified portfolio, CBT can better anticipate consistent income levels and plan more effectively for the delivery of benefits to Basin communities. The board has also been concerned that involvement in power production had the potential to compromise CBT’s ability to act in an advocacy role when it comes to water use and other water issues facing the Basin.

The decision for CBT to sell its interest in power assets to BC Hydro is the culmination of a three-year review where a number of options were looked at.

During this period, the government has continued to live up to its funding obligations under the Financial Agreement signed in July 1995. The Province has reaffirmed its commitment to make the final equity investment due under the Financial Agreement on April 1, 2005, and to continue to provide $2 million per year for operating costs until 2010.

CBT has discussed with government the original intent that CBT would be independent of government. If the power project sale goes ahead, the Province has agreed to provide up to $5 million to residents of the Columbia Basin that would be outside of government’s books and control, to be invested in the Basin consistent with CBT’s ongoing mandate. The Province has also agreed that some of CBT’s annual income could flow outside of government in addition to the $5 million.

The BC Hydro Board of Directors has also provided approval in principle for the transaction. BC Hydro would also acquire Columbia Power Corporation’s interests in the power projects to consolidate ownership of public sector hydropower projects under a single Crown corporation. BC Hydro would assume responsibility for Columbia Power Corporation staff to ensure continuity for power project construction and management.

The proposed transaction is subject to due diligence by BC Hydro over the next three months, and final approval by the CBT Board, BC Hydro Board and the Province.

CBT’s interests in power projects to BC Hydro represent a significant portion of the Basin’s potential energy resources. CBT’s power assets are concentrated in the Arrow Lakes generating station, the Brilliant Expansion Project, and the Waneta Expansion Project. Proceeds from the sale of these assets would allow CBT to focus on its core mission of improving quality of life for Basin residents.

From an historical perspective, it must be understood that CBT was not created to be a power company,” Josh Smienk, CBT Chair

Whatshan Centre keeps growing

Youth apprentices spent this summer helping complete construction of cabins at Whatshan Lake Retreat Centre, north of Edgewood, B.C. The Centre is a project of the Doukhobor Heritage Retreat Society and is dedicated to all peace-loving people in the community, the province, Canada, and the world. The Society was helped this year with funding from Columbia Basin Trust’s Community Development Program. This money helped enable the youth apprentices to be paid apprenticeship wages. For the full story, see page 5.

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST report to residents a legacy for the people of the Columbia Basin

Input sought

Public meetings to address potential sale of power assets to BC Hydro

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) invites residents of the Basin to attend community meetings to discuss the proposed sale of CBT’s power assets to BC Hydro. CBT is visiting seven communities across the Basin in early November to consult with Basin residents about the potential changes.

“CBT has always consulted with residents of the Basin and this time is no different,” says Josh Smienk, CBT Chair. “As soon as we heard that the BC Hydro Board of Directors had approved this idea in principle, we released it publicly, and now we are working hard to receive residents input. We want to maintain our accountability to the people of the Basin and in doing so, continue to involve residents in changes affecting CBT.”

“One of the issues our Board faced during the three-year Core Services Review Process was thinking about CBT in the long term,” continues Smienk. “We looked at many options and this one has benefits which will protect the future of CBT and create a lasting legacy, plus it will increase our ability to provide additional benefits to the region. The Board has the responsibility to look at the BC Hydro option seriously and therefore wants input from Basin residents.”

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- November 19, Park Place, Fernie
A message from the CEO, Don Johnston

“Thank you to all of you who have worked with CBT in one way or another during the last year.”

The Columbia Basin Trust publishes the Report to Residents once a year. If you are interested in having your project highlighted next year, please call Rachel Elkey, CBT Communications at, 250-426-1103. CBT is always looking for photos of funded projects. If you have photos that you would like to appear in this Report or on the CBT website, email relkey@cbt.org.

Answering your questions - CBT’s potential sale of power assets

What are the proposed changes to Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) that I have recently read about in the paper?

The Columbia Basin Trust Board of Directors has approached the Province with a request to sell CBT’s interests in power projects to BC Hydro.

CBT’s power interests include a 50% share in the Arrow Lakes Generating Station, the Brilliant Dam, the Brilliant Expansion Project and the rights to the Waneta Lakes Generating Station, the Brilliant Dam, the Brilliant Expansion Project.

What are the advantages to CBT and Basin residents of this new proposal?

With the proposed transaction:

a. CBT can focus its efforts on its core mission to deliver benefits to the region most adversely affected by the Columbia River Treaty.

b. CBT will no longer have to fund and resource CBT Energy Inc. and its Board.

c. The Delivery of Benefits program will be doubled in next fiscal year.

d. CBT will receive cash for its 50% share of the power project interest, which it will invest to provide income or capital to finance new projects and activities in the region.

e. CBT will have greater flexibility with available cash than it had been restricted to investing only the income received from the power projects.

f. CBT will continue to manage its capital in a manner that protects the endowment for the long-term benefit of the region.

g. CBT will be less vulnerable to possibilities of loss if its investments are not heavily weighted in one industry sector.

h. CBT will continue to have input into water management issues in the region.

One of the initiatives we have undertaken over the last couple of years is a review of the Columbia Basin Management Plan (CBMP). The CBMP, created with the involvement and input of many Basin residents, has been updated and we expect the new CBMP to be ratified by the board sometime this fall. The draft CBMP is available on our website and we invite you to take a look and to provide us with any comments you might have. One thing you can be assured of is that we remain committed to the original mission to support the efforts of people working in Basin communities and to work in partnership to respond to the issues of today and of tomorrow.

Thank you to all of you who have worked with CBT in one way or another during the last year. We look forward to the year ahead and I hope you will enjoy reading this Report. It is important to us to ensure we Report regularly to the residents and we invite your feedback on this Report and on the work of CBT.

Will these changes affect the way the CBT funds its grants and service programs?

No, the Columbia Basin Trust will continue to remain accountable to the residents of the Basin through its legislated mandate that is supported by the mission stated in the Columbia Basin Management Plan.

Why is government reversing its direction of January 16, 2004 that CBT should establish a subsidiary power Board?

The Province and BC Hydro are responding to a request from the CBT Board to look at the sale of power projects.

As part of government’s January 16, 2004 direction, the CBT Board was directed to retain an experienced individual or firm to prepare a detailed transition plan to pursue operational efficiencies and potential for shared services between CBT and Columbia Power Corporation. After reviewing financial, mandate, and governance issues associated with putting in place a power subsidiary, it became apparent to the CBT Board that greater independence and cost savings, and greater clarity of mandate for CBT could be realized by the CBT and Basin residents if the power operations were sold to BC Hydro.

Isn’t this new proposal to sell power assets just more evidence of the government interfering with the Columbia Basin Trust as the government did last fall with changes to the Board of Directors?

Government did not, and has not, changed the mandate or funding of CBT. All CBT Board members must be Basin residents, and continue to be guided by Basin residents’ priorities as set in the Columbia Basin Management Plan.

The legislative changes last fall were done simply to adapt to changing, accounting rules that might have resulted in a significant write down for government. No changes will be made to CBT’s legislation as a result of this new proposal.

If the power project sale goes ahead, the Province has agreed to provide up to $5 million to residents of the Columbia Basin that would be outside of government’s books and control, and to be invested in the Basin consistent with CBT’s ongoing mandate, very similar to the Northern Development Initiative under the BC Rail partnership deal. The Province has also agreed that some of CBT’s annual income could flow outside of government in addition to the $5 million.

If CBT kept the power assets, wouldn’t they appreciate in value? Isn’t this just a way for government to reduce the benefits to Basin residents by keeping the appreciated value and selling assets to BC Hydro at a reduced amount?

Transfers between Crown corporations such as this one occur at book value and will neither benefit nor hurt the government’s books. The due diligence over the next two months will, in part, verify that this is fair value for all parties.

The cash that CBT will receive for its shares will be invested, and these investments will also appreciate in value. If CBT makes wise investments, it can earn similar returns as it would have from its share of the return on the power projects. The CBT Board can also choose the level of risk and return it wants from its investments.
Power assets have to be maintained and operated, and profits or losses are made based on market demand. CBT has determined that the value realized from the sale of the power projects can be invested on behalf of Basin residents and that prudent investment of the money received as a result of the sale will allow CBT to realize substantial dividends. The proposed transaction would also mean that CBT will be able to increase its Delivery of Benefits program budget much more quickly than under the current scenario.

How much money is CBT expecting from the sale of the power assets?

Current estimates are that the 50% share value of the assets that would be provided to CBT is equal to approximately $260 million. The government has committed to complete all of the financial commitments made to the CBT and the Basin in 1995. This includes $25 million on April 1, 2005, and $2 million per year up to 2010 to offset the CBT’s operating costs.

What is the value of CBT assets - power and otherwise?

The purchase price and the final instalments made to the CBT and the Basin in 1995. It is anticipated that the sale price will be around $260 million. Government has clearly stated its intention to complete all of the funding commitments called for in the 1995 Financial Agreement, including $2 million per year to 2010 to offset the CBT’s operating costs.

Will CBT make investments without government approval?

CBT will remain a Provincial Crown corporation. The Province therefore has a responsibility to ensure that investments made are prudent and in the interests of taxpayers and Basin residents. Further, because government consolidates the books of all crown agencies in its fiscal plan, any gains or losses incurred by CBT are reflected on the government’s bottom line as well. However, the CBT Board has been tasked by government to make decisions about investments that will best benefit the region within the broader perspective of its legislated mandate. This will not change.

If the power project sale goes ahead, the Province has agreed to provide up to $5 million to residents of the Columbia Basin that would be outside of government agreements major dams and generating facilities. The decision to build dams and flood areas of the Basin was made a long time ago. BC Hydro already owns and manages major dams and generating facilities on the Columbia River system, and sells the power output from them. It is in BC Hydro’s best interests to ensure that Basin residents are supportive of their work, and they are committed to building strong relationships with Basin residents. Even while CBT held a 50% share of the power projects, it was as a joint venture partner with the Province (through its agent Columbia Power Corporation). Any decisions regarding the power projects had to have concurrence of both parties and had to be consistent with the provincial energy policy and other government policy direction.

Has CBT conducted any public consultation around this proposal?

The CBT Board has the mandate and fiduciary responsibility to represent the interests of Basin residents with respect to CBT’s financial and investment matters. CBT has a history of consulting with Basin residents and consultation will continue through this process. Residents are invited to provide input through CBT’s community meetings to be held from 7-9 pm at the following dates and locations:

- November 9, Prestige, Nelson
- November 10, Best Western Terra Nova, Trail
- November 12, Kuskanax Lodge, Nakusp
- November 16, Regent Inn, Revelstoke
- November 17, Senior Centre, Golden
- November 18, Prestige, Cranbrook
- November 19, Park Place, Fernie

Alternatively, residents can provide input through regular mail, or through CBT’s website at www.cbt.org.
Accelerating high-tech industry in Nelson

Unique program offers valuable counselling to Basin businesses - for free

**WHAT DO proton beams, cyclotrons, and dipole magnets have in common?** If you guessed “particle accelerators,” you’re right. But what do particle accelerators have to do with Basin business? They are designed and made by Dehnel Consulting in Nelson.

Owned by Morgan and Patricia Dehnel, the company has designed and engineered high-tech items used in computer chip manufacturing and scientific research for nine years. Now, thanks to services provided by the CBT’s Basin Business Advocates Program, Dehnel Consulting is also manufacturing some of those products.

Last year, Morgan Dehnel knew his company needed a solid market assessment before he could risk expanding it. Looking for professional advice, he requested services of the CBT’s Basin Business Advocates Program. “It’s difficult for a small business like ours to access funding for anything other than research and development,” he says. “But with the support of the B.B.A. Program we were able to get some solid market information, which is what we really needed to take the risk.”

Fast forward to autumn, 2004; Dehnel Consulting recently completed its first contract to supply parts to Canada’s National Particle Accelerator Lab, TRIUMF, in Ottawa. Economic benefits are spilling off to other Kootenay businesses as well. Dehnel Consulting contracted Kootenay-based machine shops to manufacture the parts. “Beaver Falls Machining fabricated about two dozen technically challenging parts for a negative hydrogen ion source we supplied to TRIUMF,” says Morgan Dehnel. “This is an area we have to do research and development in. It’s an emerging market, the subject of the Basin Business Advocates market assessment.”

Basin Business Advocates is a fan-tastic program,” adds Dehnel. “It really helped us take a step in the direction of achieving our financial goals.”

Delivered by Steele O’Neil and Associates in Cranbrook, the B.B.A. Program is in its fourth year and has helped more than 600 businesses so far.

“The Basin Business Advocates Program is unique in Canada,” says Barb O’Neil, of Steele O’Neil and Associates. “Because it’s free and because it’s intensive. I don’t know of any other program as involved as this. The advocates become like a partner in the business for awhile.”

Two full-time advocates provide counselling services to businesses in the region — Deanne Monroe in the West Kootenay-Creston-Nakusp-Revelstoke area, and Jill Bain in the East Kootenay-Valemount area. “Basin Business Advocates assess the business, research, counsel on critical issues, and prepare a written report of recommendations for the client. Counselling services are free and the program makes a generous contribution towards the cost of specialized consulting.”

Contact Barb O’Neil, Steele O’Neil and Associates, Program Manager, at 1-250-489-4180 or 1-877-894-5939.

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**CBT unveils new Water Initiatives website**

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST is going live with a new website, a comprehensive clearing-house of information useful to anyone who wants to know more about water.

“We are starting at the grassroots level with water education in the Basin,” says Kindy Gosai, Manager of CBT’s Water Initiatives. “Our aim is to build understanding about basic things. Where the water comes from, how it is managed, where it goes, and more complex things, like global water shortages and the renegotiation of the Columbia River Treaty which could impact all Basin residents and could occur as early as 2024.

Web resources about water, although available in some form from environmental groups, BC Hydro, Environment Canada, and the BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Development, have not before been assembled into a website that supplies such a range of information.

“One of the important aspects of the website is the partnership we have developed with other organizations,” says Gosai. “We have enjoyed a real collaboration with those who have information about water: Government, private sector, and other organizations such as the Northwest Power and Conservation Council of the United States have all helped.”

The website will bring all the data together through links, maps, and sections on everything from local to global water issues. Although useful to scientists, biologists and the like, the site is streamlined enough to be navigated by school kids.

“We are trying to design a simple, easy to use format,” says Gosai. “Useful to schools, lay people, scientists, municipal counselors; all Basin residents will be able to find water information pertinent to them.

One of the most significant water issues in the Columbia Basin is the renewal, termination, or renegotiation of the Columbia River Treaty (CRT), and this is precisely why the efforts are being made now to educate Basin residents about Basin water issues. “In order for the communities and residents of the Basin to be educated about the renegotiation of the CRT, the CBT has committed to build peoples awareness and understanding of Basin water issues,” says Gosal. Recognizing this is a long-term goal, the CBT has already set in motion a number of water-related initiatives projects CBT has undertaken. CBT’s goals are to work with Basin residents to build an understanding of and capacity to deal with water related issues, to support the development of a network of organizations working on water initiatives, and to strengthen the participation and influence of Basin residents in water related processes in the Basin.

**Driving into a new career**

**CAROL MORTON** is used to driving; she’s spent just over a year with BC Ambulance Service as a part-time paramedic, driving and attending. But she needed something more to further her career.

“I’m a part-time paramedic,” says Morton. “Being a paramedic is my first choice for a career, but it doesn’t pay enough right now. I would need to move to a bigger call centre.”

Even though Morton is still going to work as a paramedic, this fall she will also take on a career as a school bus driver and is looking forward to the career advancement. “I like driving and I like kids,” says the mother of two children, “I might even be driving my own kids on the bus.”

Morton had to see Airbreake and Class 2 Driving to qualify as school bus driver. She completed the courses in August. After some additional courses through the School District, Morton is ready to make her first appearance as a school bus driver in early October and is really looking forward to it.

“I am glad to be able to support my family doing something I like to do,” she says. “This job is perfect for me right now.”

Morton received $350 through the CBT Training Fee Support Program to help pay her course tuition. The Training Fee Support program promotes access to education or training for Columbia Basin residents.

This bursary program is delivered through 15 Employment Assistance Service centres currently providing education and training planning advice to Basin residents. The program is in its fourth year. A maximum grant of $500 may be used to pay all or part of tuition or course fees for short-term training essential to employment. Funds are paid directly to the education or training institution on behalf of the student.

“So far this year the Training Fee Support Program has helped 286 people to further their training,” says Jean Terlesky, CBT Community Liaison. “Quite often people just need one piece of the puzzle to get the job they want. Maybe it’s a First Aid course, a driving course, Traffic Control or even a computer course.”

For more information about the Training Fee Support Program, contact your local Employment Assistance Service Centre.
New CBT program aims for flexibility

Whatshan Lake Retreat Centre is a prime example of the type of project funded through the Columbia Basin Trust's Community Development Program. It is for the benefit of the community, it is run by volunteers and community members, and it is not covered by government programs. Most importantly, it needs all the help it can get to succeed.

“The Community Development Program was created to respond to the needs of Basin residents for more flexible funding streams,” says Josh Smienk, CBT Board Chair. “We recognize that different groups and projects need different levels of assistance. Sometimes the CBT acts as a facilitator, sometimes as a convener. This program is a new approach to responding to the needs of residents, and a step beyond simply being a funding organization.”

“CBT is dedicated to supporting communities,” says Smienk. “Sometimes that means helping them to identify the strengths and assets they already have, and giving them the support they need to build on those assets, to build on their capacities, whether this is financial or other support.”

The mission of the CBT includes the drive to help Basin residents create a legacy of increased social, economic and environmental well-being. Ultimately, the goal is to achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations.

The CBT Community Liaisons (See page 14) are instrumental in helping residents access funding in the Community Development Program. It is recommended that groups interested in a grant through this program, or any of CBT’s programs, approach a Community Liaison before writing or submitting a formal proposal.

“Our Community Liaisons are here to assist Basin residents in accessing funding through CBT,” adds Smienk. “They can help applicants clarify whether a project will be eligible for funding.”

“The best thing to do to find out if your idea meets the eligibility requirements for the Community Development Program is to meet with a Community Liaison,” says Smienk. “Or you can visit the website, where the eligibility criteria is listed.”

For more information on this program or further information on CBT, visit www.cbt.org, or contact a Community Liaison in your area.

Report to Residents
2003-2004
Published by Columbia Basin Trust
Phone: 1-800-505-8998 or 1-250-365-6633
Fax: 250-365-6670
www.cbt.org
Editors and Writers Rachel Elkey and Trish Barnes
Contributing editors Aimee Ambrosone and Jane Hutcheson
If you have any questions or comments on Columbia Basin Trust’s Report to Residents or to request additional copies, please contact Rachel Elkey, CBT Communications at 1-250-426-1103.
CBT sincerely appreciates the assistance of all the organizations and individuals who helped in the creation of the 2003-2004 Report to Residents.
The Columbia Basin Trust is a Crown corporation created by an act of the BC Legislature in 1995 to support efforts of the people of the Canadian Columbia Basin to create a legacy of economic, social, and environmental well-being and to achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations.

Whatshan Retreat Centre continues to grow

More than twenty years ago, 15 Doukhobor families acquired land at Whatshan Lake, just north of Edgewood, BC. Initially, the Castlegar-based families weren’t looking for recreation. “At first, we were thinking of making money; there was virgin timber on it,” says Elmer Verigin, President Doukhobor Heritage Retreat Society #1999 (DHRS). “But after we saw the waterfall and this beautiful piece of property we agreed we should buy it to leave in perpetuity for the public.”

The families decided a retreat centre would fit the bill, and construction of the main building began in 1995. This year, a hundred people can dine in Whatshan Lake Retreat Centre’s main building.

There are eight cabins and 176 campsites and the Centre itself is a two-story octagonal structure with windows and decking all around. An acoustical main stage is under construction to house the Annual Whatshan Lake Music Festival. “It’s a lot more than people expect,” says Verigin. “Our society is comprised of tradespeople; millwrights, machinists, welders, and carpenters. Professionals in our midst attend to financial and legal matters. Structural and architectural designs were created by our members.”

The past two years, the Doukhobor Heritage Retreat Society has run a Youth Apprenticeship program for graduating students from J.L. Crowe Secondary in Trail. The students spend the summer building cabins and are paid apprenticeship wages. The highlight of the season for many apprentices is when contractors visit the job site looking to hire.

“This year eight of the 14 youths have found jobs through the apprenticeship program with opportunities open to the remaining apprentices,” says Verigin.

Other youth who benefit from the Centre are those involved in the West Kootenay’s counseling program Freedom Quest. Proceeds from the Whatshan Lake Music Festival help subsidize this group, as well as supporting other youth camps.

The DHRS #1999 is a charitable society and anyone can apply for membership. An offspring of the Doukhobor Cultural Association, the Society was created to oversee the Whatshan Lake Retreat Centre development. The #1999 in the Society’s name marks the 100 year anniversary of the arrival of the Doukhobors to Canada in 1899. The families who started the Society, most of whom are still involved in the project, dedicated the Whatshan Lake Retreat Centre to all peace-loving people in the community, the province, Canada, and the world.

The DHRS received $40,000 from CBT through the Community Development Program for help with the Student Apprenticeship Program in 2004.

For information about the Centre, contact Bill and Penny Penner, Managers of Whatshan Lake Retreat Centre at 1-250-269-7246 or e-mail at whatshann manager@hotmail.com.
Increasing literacy in the Basin one family at a time

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iteracy is a broad-based community issue that affects people’s lives on a daily basis. Strong literacy skills are required to compete for jobs and participate as informed citizens in a democracy.

A recent survey of adult literacy concluded that approximately 44 per cent of adults in British Columbia have difficulty reading and writing on a daily functional basis.

“In economies that are shifting to higher skill jobs and new technologies, these results are dramatic,” says Jean Terlesky, a CBT Community Liaison.

Recently, Berens River Co-op Community Food Centre and the International Children’s Reading Association (ICRA) announced a literacy project called ICRA Berens River for children ages five to 12. This project will support children to develop rich literacy skills and experience the joy of reading through book clubs, writing clubs and other projects. The project will begin in the fall of 2009.

The project is funded through a grant from ICRA and community fundraising.

CBT works together with the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) to increase literacy in the Basin. CBT provides funding, $180,000 this year to CBAL, which then delivers a broad-spectrum Resources for Family Literacy program to people throughout the Basin.

Mother Goose, Books For Babies, and Volunteer Readers are a few of the successful initiatives that the Resources for Family Literacy program offers readers young and old. Mother Goose, for example, has become extremely popular amongst new parents. Rhymes, songs, fingerplays and stories are taught to parents and children over a period of several weeks.

These and other programs run year-round in Golden, Windermere Valley, Kimberley, Cranbrook, Elk Valley, Creston, Castlegar, Trail, Nakusp, Slocan Valley, Nelson, and Revelstoke.

For more information about literacy programs in the Basin, contact the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, at 1-250-265-4185 or 1-250-542-3210 or visit the website at www.cbbl.org.

LITERACY FACTS

• More than 40 per cent of adults in BC have low literacy skills.

• Literacy skills of parents directly affect their family’s income, health and overall quality of life.

• Twenty per cent of recent high school graduates lack sufficient literacy skills to access post-secondary education.

• Literacy skills, like muscles, are maintained and strengthened through regular use...in other words, “use it or lose it.”

Kids learn lots about nature the Wild Voices way

By Deborah Griffith, Heritage Presentation Officer, Parks Canada

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O YOU live in the Columbia Basin? Are your kids coming home with these symptoms: excitement, enthusiasm, yearning to be outside exploring more?

They may have come down with the Wild Voices for Kids (WVKF) bug on one of the program’s many field trips. Perhaps they caught the bug while listening to First Nations Elders at the local archaeological dig; maybe it was paddling a voyageur canoe back in time to the days of David Thompson that did it; it could have been observing wolves at the Northern Lights Wildlife Wolf Center in Golden; then again, it could also have been snowshoeing to identify wildlife tracks in winter, walking through beautiful forests, grasslands or wetlands to learn about ecosystems, or spotting all kinds of birds and butterflies.

For six years the Wild Voices for Kids program has connected students to the natural and cultural history of the Columbia Basin.

Inspirational students to become effective and responsible stewards of the land is the goal. By enlisting local experts to lead fun educational field trips or give in-class presentations the program keeps the experience interactive and current.

Approximately 3,600 students last year enjoyed 144 presentations and field trips in Rocky Mountain School District No. 6. The children learned about mountain goats, bighorn sheep, wolves, bears, kokanee, bats, owls, golden eagles, butterflies and moths, song birds and wetland birds, cougars, buffalo, and other mammals.

They also learned about geology, ethnobotany, greenways connections and animal corridors, fire, forest, wetland, and grassland ecosystems, and water quality.

Heritage presentations taught kids about David Thompson’s travels in the area, traditional First Nations’ games, and musical songs about the miners, settlers, and local places in the Columbia Basin.

The program is supported by funds from Columbia Basin Trust, Columbia-Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership, and is delivered by Columbia-Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership, and Tembec, with administrative support from Kootenay National Park (Parks Canada) and School District No. 6.

Rhymes, songs, fingerplays and stories are taught to parents and children over a period of several weeks.

These and other programs run year-round in Golden, Windermere Valley, Kimberley, Cranbrook, Elk Valley, Creston, Castlegar, Trail, Nakusp, Slocan Valley, Nelson, and Revelstoke.

For more information about literacy programs in the Basin, contact the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, at 1-250-265-4185 or 1-250-542-3210 or visit the website at www.cbbl.org.

LITERACY FACTS

• More than 40 per cent of adults in BC have low literacy skills.

• Literacy skills of parents directly affect their family’s income, health and overall quality of life.

• Twenty per cent of recent high school graduates lack sufficient literacy skills to access post-secondary education.

• Literacy skills, like muscles, are maintained and strengthened through regular use...in other words, “use it or lose it.”

Fernie moms form support group

Photo: Camilla Merritt

MOST Thursday mornings a group of 15-30 moms get together in the Fernie Library to talk about the big questions: how to be a better parent and how to raise happier kids. There are tons of books on the subject but reading about the challenges of motherhood is not the same as talking them over with friends.

“It’s the support network that’s important, it can be a lifeline for people,” says Camilla Merritt of the Meet Other Moms Society (M.O.M.S.).

The group began running the weekly meetings in 2001 to provide support, advice, encouragement, and companionship to other mothers.

“Parents of newborns were finding enough support, but once their children passed that stage, there really was nothing in the community for them,” says Merritt. So Diane Jones organized a public meeting at the Fernie Community Hall to which all Fernie and area mothers were invited. The women decided to form a support group and the M.O.M.S. was born.

Guest speakers have included the Public Health Nurse, Betty Lou Carsen, and a dietitian, a psychologist, a chiropractor, and a yoga teacher.

“The aim is for the parents to get a bit of a break, so we hire child care workers while our meetings are in progress,” says Merritt. “The parents are in one room and the children are in another room, but they can interact at any time.”

Solid friendships have been formed. “Being new to an area, and a new parent, can be very isolating for women,” says Merritt, a teacher and mother of a young daughter, who just moved to Fernie from Britain.

M.O.M.S. operates on a shoestring budget, and has found innovative ways to generate the money needed to pay the child care workers. They publish the monthly M.O.M.S. Newsletter and distribute it around Fernie, selling ads to local businesses.

“All one hundred copies disappear over the month,” Merritt says. “It’s got classifieds and recipes and a report on what the group is doing.”

This year, the M.O.M.S. received a $6,250 grant from CBT. “Thanks to that, we will be able to set up some valuable activities for the children to do,” says Merritt. “We can make this program even better.”

For more information about M.O.M.S. contact Emma Eustace at 250-423-2035 or e-mail treble@monarch.net.

This project received funding through CBT’s Families Program. This was the last year of the four-year program.
How the funding is distributed

In 2003-2004, Columbia Basin Trust provided $5,863 million in funding to the following projects and services in the Columbia Basin. For more information on funding opportunities or description of the programs CBOT offers, visit the website at www.cbt.org or call 1-800-305-8998.

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Funding Support to Communities Through Community Arts Councils

Arrow Lakes

Arrow Arts Collective - Arrow Arts
Collective - Revitalization $3,000
Arrow Lakes Historical Society - Archival
Protection $870
Arrow Lakes Youth Society - Arrow Lakes
Youth Society Summer Theatre $2,000
Bette Fahlman - Youth Watercolor Classes
$780
Greg Turner - Five Song CD $500
Mirror Theatre - Fathers Day Dinner
Theatre $600
Music in the Park - Entertainment
Wednesday evenings in July and August
$1,200
Nakusp Quilting Club - Improve Skills
$1,000

Castlegar and Area

Castlegar and District Public Library -
Tweed Create $2,400
Kootenay Family Place - Music and Youth
$1,400
Kootenay Gallery of Art, History and
Science - Find the Gallery $2,000
Kootenay Performing and Visual Arts
Society - Concerts at Kincaid Park $850

Columbia Valley

Kurt Rechel - Root of the River CD $1,250
Judy Smith - Lake Windermere Players
$2,750
Columbia Valley Arts Council Performing
Arts Committee - Travel Subsidy $1,750

Cranbrook and Area

As the Crow Flies - Small Town Music
$1,000
Friends of Fort Steele - Heritage Costuming,
Winter $1,000
Kootenay Chamber Orchestra - Musical
Tales $1,800
Poetry on the Rocks - Poetry on the Rocks
$1,750
Paul Reimer - Iron Expression Exhibition
$970
EK Music Teachers Association - Beethoven
Recital and Workshop $825

Creston and Area

Creston and District Museum - In the
Playroom $780
Creston Art Walk - Artlink $1,000
Creston Valley Prospectors - Gold Panning
Demo $710
Creston Valley United Artists Guild - Story
Book Mural $1,265
Luanne Armstrong - Blue Valleys $1,745
Creston Art Club - Advanced Pastel
Workshop $965

Fernie and Area

Allan Phillips - The Picarriels Papers $800
Don Barnett - The Fernie Centennial $1,700
Erika Conrad - Impressions of the
Kootenays $1,000
Fernie and District Historical Society -
Fernie, Our Century $1,000
Jennifer Lavallee - Native Legends $1,000

Golden and Area

Caleb Moss - Angst Theatre $1,000
Don Konrad - Kootenay Sketchbook $1,500
Marcia Smith - Creating Artists Workshop
$1,000
Kimberley and Area

Al Weisheid - Sullivan Mine Illustrated $500
Grant Smith - Birds of the Rocky Mountain
Trench $1,500
Kimberley Summer Theatre School -
Kimberley Summer Theatre Society $620
Kootenay Chamber Orchestra - Musical
Tales $500
Martinana - Creative Kids Arts Program
$1,000
Poetry on the Rocks - Poetry on the Rocks
$1,075
Sandra Warner - Kimberley ABC Book
$1,500

Nelson and Area

Anne DeGrace - Treading Water $1,600
Hiromoto Ida - Please Dad $2,700
Jeanette Walding - Shapeshifter Series
$1,100
Nancy Doohan - Kokanee Salmon Children's
Book $1,700
Nelson and District Museum Society -
Collections Storage $800
Shenando - CD Recording $800

North Kootenay Lake Area

David Hart - The Herreshoff Chapbook
Project $1,600
Rik Valentine - Kaslo Youth Movie $1,500
Dob Borsos - Every Story Tells a Picture
Audio Component $520
Yvonne Boyd - New Techniques $500
Mavis Stainer - Restoration of Ainsworth
Cemetery $500
Brian Cullen - Video Production of Sound
Poetry $270
Kaslo Concert Society - Jack McDowall
Memorial Concert $750

Revelstoke and Area

Ariadne Sassafraz - Colours to Dye For
$2,000
David S. Walker - Landscapes of the
Kootenay Basin $1,250
Revelstoke Blues Society - Revelstoke Beats
and Blues Festival $2,183
Wendy Wright - A Visual Story of
Revelstoke $1,175

Rossland and Area

Columbia River Writers - Columbia River
Writers Chapbook $450
Guy Simard - Mushka Project $2,750
Kim Deane - Spirit of Christmas Craft
Day $2,550
Rossland Gold Fever Follies - Can Can
Costumes $350
Rossland Mountain Film Fest Society -
Workshop $900
Rossland Studio Artists - Brochure $2,000

Salmo and Area

Cindy Lee McGhie - Murals for Ymir $2,400
Salmo Family Literacy - Alphabet Garden
$850
Salmo Public Library Association - Local
History Readings $800
Ymir Arts and Museum Society - African
Drum and Dance $450

Slocan Lake

Hidden Garden Gallery Society - Artist
Show and Lecture Series $1,100
Slocan Lake Gallery Society - Opening
Support $300
Valhalla Summer School of Music -
Children's Program $500
Luceema Elementary Secondary Parent
Advocacy - Writers and Readers Festival
$1,000

Stoneman Valley

Benchgrass Boys - Record, Promote CD
$700
Helen Sheloff - Independent Doukhobors
$1,000
Mythmaker Productions - Cycle of the
Dragon $1,800
Rita Moir - The Captivity Ring $700
Sharon Block - Increase Skills $500

Springwood and Area

Mt. View Elementary - Mt. View
Elementary Goes to the Theatre $1,135
Department - Cultivating the Arts $2,700
Tammy Clowers - Demo Recordings $1,000

Trail and Area

Columbia River Writers - Columbia River
Writers Chapbook $500
Kootenay Chamber Orchestra Association -
Opera Night $750
Rock Wall Enthusiastico - Rock Wall Project
$1,750
Trail and District Public Library - Set the
Stage: Read $1,000
CFDC of Greater Trail - Trail Festa Italia
$750
Trail and District Choral Society Trail
Harmony Choir - International Choral
Festival $875

Valleymount

3 Valley Metis Association - Rawhide Rattle
Workshop $230
Valleymount Arts and Cultural Society -
Cultural Awareness Publication $1,035
Valleymount Community and Children's
Centre - Concerts Concert $2,000
Valleymount Historic Society - Museum Rack
Cards $1,500
Valleymount Suzuki Parents - Valleymount
Suzuki Resource Center $500

Capital Funding

Centre 64 - Gallery Renovation $3,000
Creston and District Historical and Museum
Society - Storage Renovation $2,000
Revelstoke Art Group - Lighting $3,000
Rotary Club of Nakusp - Curtains and Rail
$1,000

Touring

All Riley - Wayward Book Tour $1,400
Catherine Fisher - Greeting the History of the
Land $2,000
Deb Borsos - Every Story Tells a Picture $800
Miriam Huchet - Moon Dreaming: A
Chukchi Tale $1,800
Ahuna Cameron - Oracle Improv $2,000

Mentoring

BC Music Teachers Association
Trial, Rossland - Celebration of Romantic
Music $400
Kimberley Critique Club - Weekend
Workshop in Water Media $1,000
Kootenay Region Indigenous Arts Festival -
Splitting the Sky $1,000
Langham Cultural Centre - Artists in
Residence $1,000
Luceema Elementary Secondary Parent
Advocacy Council - Writers and Readers
Festival $1,000
McKay School of Dance - Modern Dance
Workshop and Classes $1,000
Nelson Fine Arts Centre - Digital Design
Development Workshop $1,000
Poetry on the Rocks - Spoken Word Poetry
Workshop $500

Valleymount Arts and Culture Society - Ken
Ferris Workshop $400
Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts -
Faculty Honourarium Fund $700

Arts Council Development

Cranbrook and District Arts Council - Board
Development Series $2,000
Nelson and District Arts Council -
Development and Planning $800
ArtsSmarts in Schools - Matching
Funding with ArtStarts in Schools $15,000

Basin Cultural Conference

2004 Conference $35,000

Basin Best Visual Art Tour

Showcase Basin Visual Artists in a Basin-
Wide Tour $21,000

WATER INITIATIVES

Trail and District Chamber of Commerce -
BC River's Day Celebration $1,000
Community Splash Water Speakers Event
5,000
Greater Trail Community Arts Centre -
Friends of the Columbia Planning Day $2,000
Golden and Area Community Economic
Development Society - Golden Mountain Run
Off Festival $5,500
East Kootenay Environmental Society -
Kimberley Water Conservation Educational
Project $8,100
Revelstoke Arts Council - Revelstoke Arts
Council Wonder of Water Initiative $3,000
Ktunaxa K’inbasket Treaty Council - Water
and the Circle of Life Video Documentary
$5,000
Wonder of Water - Wonder of Water $5,000
Wonder of Water - Wonder of Water
Educational Component $1,107
Wonder of Water - Wonder of Water, Phase 2
$5,000
Inventory of Water Quantity Data $3,715
Water Initiatives Strategy $10,000
Water Quantity Project, Phase II - Website
Plan & Implementation $5,637
Water Management Advisory Panel $5,637
Canadian Coordinated Approach to
Transboundary Initiatives $1,277
Mountains and Labyrinths Consulting Inc -
Workshop Facilitation $2,204
Northwest Power and Conservation
Council $1,168
VarQ Network Meeting $492

ECONOMIC OPTIONS

CFDC of Revelstoke - Community Forest
Consultant $7,000
Revelstoke Forest Workers Group -
Community Marketing via Television
Exposure $5,100
CFEC of Greater Trail From the Ground
Up - CED Conference $2,500
Selkirk College - Medical Transcription
Centre Development $9,500
Columbia Valley Arts Council - Pynelogs
Community Cultural Centre $20,000
Selkirk College - Regional Innovation Chair
Letter of Intent $11,450
Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce -
Revelstoke Visitor InfoCentre - Satellite
Location $20,000
Baynes Lake Community Society - South
Country's Olde School Gift Shoppe $11,600
Nelson and District Youth Centre - Tools
for Young Entrepreneurs $2,000
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS
Osprey Communications - Bighorn in our Backyard - Communities Working for Wildlife $10,000
Columbia River Greenways Alliance - Columbia River Greenway $10,000
Slocan River Streamkeepers - Community Assessment of Slocan River Ecosystem Phase I $4,965
Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership - Community Support and Project Monitoring $75,000
Lower Kootenay Indian Band - Goose Fish Habitat Restoration and Bank Protection work $22,000
Golden District Rod and Gun Club - Hospital Creek Stewardship Project $10,000
East Kootenay Environmental Society - Mark Creek Recovery Program $15,000
Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers Society - Salmo River Rainbow Trout Radio Telemetry and Population Studies (year 3) $12,520
Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers Society - Salmo Watershed Fish Sustainability Plan $15,000
Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership - Species at Risk Program $50,000
St. Mary Hy Fishers - St. Mary Westslope Cutthroat Trout Telemetry $18,000
The Nature Trust - East Kootenay Conservation Youth Team $20,000
Cranebrook Community Forest Society - Ecosystem Restoration in the Cranebrook Community Forest $10,000
Pandelon Ecological Research Ltd. - Monitoring and Stewardship of Great Blue Herons $10,195
Adama Consulting - Northern Leopard Frog Reintroduction $15,000

TRAINING FEE SUPPORT
College of the Rockies - delivery of the Training Fee Support program $40,726

AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Evaluation - Affordable Housing $6,200

EDUCATION OPTIONS
Air Cadet League of Canada 561 Osprey Squadron - Air Cadet Flight Simulator $250

FAMILY LITERACY
Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy - delivery of the Resources for Family Literacy Program $180,000

LAND TRUST
The Land Conservancy - East Kootenay Conservation Program Coordinator $20,000

BASIN BUSINESS ADVOCATES PROGRAM
Steele O'Neil and Associates Inc. - delivery of the Basin Business Advocates Program

SOCIAL OPTIONS
Lower Columbia River All First Nations' Council - Aboriginal Summer Program $3,500
Golden Community Resources Society - Affordable Housing Website $2,200
Earth and Sky Fabric Design Society - Earth and Sky Fabric Design Renovations $1,000
Trail Family and Individual Resources Centre Society - F.A.I.R. Strategic Planning $673
Canadian Mental Health Association for the Kootenays - Organizational Capacity Building $4,000
Edgewood Community Internet Society - Pilot Phase for Bridging the Broadband

Divide in Edgewood $4,628
Kootenay Boundary Resources Co-operative - Rural Communities Summit - Access Project $9,900
Panderon Ecological Research Ltd. - Wildlife Habitat Relationships Database $15,000

Wildlife-Habitat Relationships Database $10,000

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS
East Kootenay Environmental Society - Bear Aware Program $10,000
Selkirk College - Columbia Basin - Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership - Community-Based Action Program for Shorelines $10,000
Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society - Golden Wildlife Festival of Birds and Bears $5,000
Mount Baker Secondary School - Joseph Creek Environmental Education and Awareness Project $12,600
Friends of West Kootenay Parks - Kokanee Salmon Stewardship Program $10,000
Mt. Begbie Secondary School - Environmental Literacy Project (Greenhouse) $5,000
Friends of Kootenay National Park - Living with Wildlife $5,000

JOINT OPTIONS
Slocan Lake Gallery Society - An Experiment in Off-Season Tourism Development $3,000
Village of Valemount - Community Responses Workshop $5,000
Rocky Mountain Business Development Centre Society - Get That Grant $3,000
Rural Alternatives and Training Society - Journey of the Heart - The Twinning of Slocan and Fuga Island $11,750

CAPACITY BUILDING
VisionLink Consulting - Social Planning Research Phase 2 $9,987

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Rural Economic Development Team - Delivery Partner $65,000

ENVIRONMENT OPTIONS
Columbia Kootenay Tussocks Initiative - Environment Education and Awareness project $50,000
East Kootenay Environmental Society - Magic Basin Field Trip Phase 3 $50,000

BASIN YOUTH IN COMMUNITIES
Mega-Grants
Lucerne Secondary School - After School Study Program $2,000
Columbia Lake Band 604 - Aiskupuk Rediscovery Camp $10,000
Prince Charles Secondary School - Exclamation Theatre $8,000
Fernie Secondary School - Fernie Youth Bike Trail Project $2,700
Langham Cultural Society - Kaslo Youth Movie Project $10,000

West Kootenay Boundary Addictions Services - Keep It Wise $10,000
Youth for Kimberley Society - Kimberley Skateboard Park $5,000
Lardeau Valley Community Club - Ladreau Valley Youth Centre $5,000
Artfarm Society - M.O.R.E. Skills for Youth 2003 $6,000

ANKORS - Bring It Home: Building a Queer Friendly BC Conference - Castlegar and District Community Services Society - Brochure: What’s Going On For Youth in Castlegar $5,000
Nelson Food Cupboard - Canada World Youth Food Security Community Education $4,865
Nelson Municipal Library - Coordinator of Teen Advisory Board $10,000
Nelson District Community Resources Society - Earth Matters Fruit Tree Project $2,500
The Station Youth Centre - Healthy Snacking $2,500

ANKORS - Safe Spaces Project $10,000
We Graham Community Service Society - Leadership Art Project (Mosaic) $2,500
Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society - The Source Bouldering Wall $5,000
Windermere Valley Youth Centre Society - The Summit Café $5,000
Edgewood Community Internet Society - Virtual Museum and Documentary $5,000
Selkirk College - Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy - Social Planning $5,000
West Kootenay Boundary Addictions Services - Next Step: Helping Youth-In-Care Transition to Independent Living $9,000
Arrows Lakes Youth Society - RAD Summer Youth Program: Recreation and Drama $7,000

West Kootenay Boundary Addictions Services - Aboriginal Drum-Making Workshop $5,000
David Thompson Secondary School - BLAST in the Kootenays Student Leadership Conference
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<th>Community Centre Program Development</th>
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<td>Commerce - Creston Visitor Information Centre Summer Operations $2,000</td>
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<td>Boat House and Dock $10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Nelson - Nelson Playing Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of Nelson Municipal Library -</td>
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<td>Mercedes Printer/Reader $2,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nelson and District Museum Society -</td>
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<tr>
<td>and Upgrade of Storage Area $175</td>
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<td>Kootenay Helo-Rescue Society -</td>
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<td>Helicopter Flight Rescue System $10,000</td>
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<td>A1 Car Dealer League of Canada $51,000</td>
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<td>Spokane Squadron - Flight Simulator $2,000</td>
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<td>Fridge Project $360</td>
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<td>West Kootenay Bluegrass Society -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Grass Festival $1,000</td>
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<td>A1 Collinson Elementary School -</td>
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<td>Collinson Playground Project $5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kootenay Lake Sailing Association -</td>
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<td>Mooring Buys at Kootenay Lake Locations $2,000</td>
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<td>Community First Health Coop - Project</td>
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<td>New Denver</td>
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<td>New Denver Family Literacy -</td>
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<td>Slocan Lake Early Learning Society -</td>
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<td>Renovations $15,700</td>
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<td>Passmore</td>
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<td>Passmore Public Hall Association -</td>
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<td>Renovations $3,000</td>
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<td>Procter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunshine Bay Bike Park - Mountain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bike Park $1,000</td>
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<td>Procter Gymnastics Club - Gymnastics</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment Replacement $1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Procter Gymnastics Club Gymnastics -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment Replacement $1,000</td>
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<td>Riondel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riondel Community Garden Club -</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Promoting Good Gardening $1,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riondel Curling Club - Riondel Curling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rink Upgrades $2,400</td>
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<td>Eastshore Garden of Remembrance -</td>
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<td>Memorial Garden $500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robson</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Robson Community Memorial Church -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Removal and Replacement of Foundation $15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pass Creek Regional Exhibition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor Amphitheatre Construction</td>
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<td>$12,000</td>
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<td>Silvertown</td>
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<td>Valhalla Summer School for Fine Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Music School Bursaries $1,500</td>
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COMMUNITY INITIATIVES cont’d

SOUTH SLOCAN
Bonnington Regional Park Society - Bonnington Park Upgrades $5,000
WIN LAW
Winlaw Hall Society - Winlaw Hall Renovations $4,000
WYNNDEL
Wyndel Community Centre - After School Arts Program $2,000

Regional District of East Kootenay
BRISCO
Brisco Recreation Commission - Brisco Community Hall Heating System $5,851

CANAL FLATS
Canal Flats Park Upgrades $2,740
Canal Flats First Aid Association - First Response Unit and Shelter $4,000

CRAN BROOK
Cranbrook Archives, Museum and Landmark Foundation - Canadian Museum of Rail Travel $8,000
Cranbrook Minor Lacrosse Association - Kinsmen Outdoor Arena $42,000
Cranbrook Boys and Girls Club - Young Parent Education Program $2,000
St. Mary’s Catholic Independent School - Building/grounds Improvements $5,000
City of Cranbrook - Cranbrook and District Community Foundation $5,000
Cranbrook Society for Community Living - Physiotherapy/Medic Room Furnishings $10,000
Cranbrook Women’s Resource Society - Regional Youth Initiatives $2,000
East Kootenay Alcohol and Drug Counselling Services Society - P.A.R.T.Y. $18,450
St. Eugene Church Restoration Society - Church Restoration-St. Eugene $10,000
East Kootenay Brain Injury Association - Second Time Around $7,663
Jaffray C Cootenay Chamber of Commerce - Jaffrey Cashmere Improvements $2,144
Jaffray Volunteer Fire Department - Jaffrey Tanker Accessories $1,621

KIMBERLEY
Youth for Kimberley Society - Youth Centre $8,500
Kimberley Summer Theatre Society - Costumes and Signs for Summer Theatre Production $4,000
Kimberley District Heritage Society - Heritage Building Relocation $2,578
East Kimberley Environmental Society - Kimberley Get Bear Smart $1,000
Kimberley Search and Rescue Society - New Vehicle for Kimberley Search and Rescue $7,500

NEWGATE
South Country Emergency Response Volunteer Society - Newwater Gutter Truck and Radios $7,500

SPARWOOD
Sparwood D.A.R.E. Program - Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program - Sparwood $2,000
Sparwood Search and Rescue Society - Equipment for Sparwood Search and Rescue $7,023
Sparwood Food Bank - Furniture for Sparwood Food Bank $320
Elk Valley Coal Discovery Centre Society - Schematic Design of Centre $6,200
Sparwood Public Library Association - Seniors Outreach Program-Sparwood $1,573
District of Sparwood - Youth Leaders $4,000

WARDNER
Wardner Sweepstake Relaxation Association - Wardner and Mayook Hall Improvements and Youth Safety $25,610

WASA
Wasa and District Lions Club - Wasa Community Initiatives Programs $7,281
Wasa Lake Land Improvement District - Wasa H2O $1,000

WIN DERMERE
Columbia Lake Band 64 - Legacy Fund Phase 2: Social Cultural Facilities $10,000

YAHK
Yahk-Kingsgate Recreation Society - Yahk Kingsgate Community Website $1,000
Yahk-Kingsgate Recreation Society - Yahk Kingsgate Firehall Water Supply $11,000

Regional District of Kootenay Boundary
FRUITVALE
Trail Horsemen’s Society - Dressage Arena and Fencing at Trail Horsegrounds $10,000

MONTROSE
Montrose Comprehensive Community Education Resources Centre - Science Camp for Children $792
Montrose Youth Action Team Society - Skateboard Park Ramps and Rails $4,000
Beaver Valley Society for Search and Rescue - Search and Rescue Equipment $6,000

ROSSLAND
4-H Horse Club - Establish 4-H Club $1,500
Rossland Mountain Biking Society - Gravity Fest Mountain Bike Event $3,000
Red Mountain Racers - Phase Two of Ski Training Facility $10,000
Rossland Childcare Society - Renovations $2,500
West Kootenay Snooers Association - Snow-Cat Purchase for Grooming 24 Mile Rec Area $13,619
B.C. Summer Swimming Association - Swim Timing System/Beep Start Equipment $1,300

TRAIL
CFDC of Greater Trail - 1st Annual Italian Festival $5,000
Trail and District Chamber of Commerce - Chamber of Commerce Website Development $5,000
Trail Historical Society - Display Rooms in Trail’s Sports Hall of Memories $7,000
Kootenay-Columbia Retired Teacher’s Association - Education Heritage Project $1,500
Salvation Army - New Kitchen for "Kate’s Kitchen" $5,000
The Rock Wall Project Enthusiastic - Rock Wall Project $5,000
Emmanuel Baptist Church - Transportation Program for Mobility Challenged $1,500
Greater Trail Creative Activities Centre Society - VISAC Youth Creative Activities $2,281

Golden and Electoral Area A of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District
GOLDEN
Abbeefield House Society - Abbeefield House-St. Paul’s Golden Railings $900
Golden Community Resources Society - Environmental Resource Materials and Children’s Workshop $500
Golden Family Literacy - Family Fun Nights $2,000
Golden Kayak Club - Kayak Festival $1,500
Golden Secondary School - Graduation Legacy Fund $5,000
Kicking Horse Gymnastics Club - Preschool and Boy Programming $9,632
Rotary Club of Golden - Kicking Horse Pedestrian Bridge $42,300
Golden and Area Community Economic Development Society - Kicking Horse Revitalization Feasibility Study $10,000
Golden Cycling Club - Mt. 7 Information Kiosk $3,150
Lady Grey Elementary School PAC - Playground Development $25,000
Golden and Area Community Economic Development Society - Towards Golden’s Free Ride Park $20,000

Valleymount and Electoral Area H of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
VALEMTOUNT
Friends of Valleymount - Cranberry Marsh Restoration $5,000
Scurts Canadians - 1st Valleymount - Self-Reliance and Leadership Skills in Youth Through Involvement in Scouts $1,000
Valleymount Senior Citizens Housing Society - Elevator for Golden Years Lodge $10,000
Kamloops Pal Society - Kamloops Pal Park Restoration and Creation $12,220
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 266 - Memories of Our War Heroes $2,000
College of New Caledonia - Professional Development for Small Business $6,000
Village of Valleymount - Valleymount Interpretive Centre $9,000
Valleymount Ambulance Association - Vital Sign Monitor $3,800

Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council
Legacy Fund Phase 2 - Social Cultural Facilities - $10,000
Awards of Excellence - $2,050
Community Initiatives/Youth Elder Mentor $9,000

Youth Community Service Awards
Katrina Rose Ackerman $8,000
Diana Michelle Bell $5,000
Amanda Dawn Bothamley $8,000
Josie Alyse Calle $8,000
Kevyn Bryce Cheremoff $4,000
Jillian Lucinda Evin $8,000
Benjamin Gordon Fischer $8,000
Alison May Gardner $4,000
Keely Jean Kuech $8,000
Erin Joanna Love $8,000
Carmen Alison Moreira $8,000
Julianne Grace Nunus $8,000
Caitlin Mary Bakken O’Connell $8,000
Chrisy Micheline Poirier $8,000
Shauna-Lynne Rose Reiner $8,000
Nadine Landys Robinson $4,000
Aleta May Salmon $8,000
Jaslene Saran $8,000
Heidi Inez Schadeli $4,000
Darya Laleh Shokou $8,000
Karl Donald Vinge $8,000
Aimee Kathleen Ward $8,000

TELECOMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE
Columbia Mountain Open Network Inc. - Community Broadband detailed business plans, Round 2 $150,000

YOUTH MEDIA
Scratch magazine and scratchonline.ca website $30,000

Youth Links
Earth Matters - delivery of the Youth Links 2004 $100,000
Financial Highlights

Residents can contact Columbia Basin Trust at 1-800-505-8998 to receive a copy of the complete Audited Financial Statements, which were published in the 2003-2004 Annual Report.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at March 31, 2004
(in thousands of dollars)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
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<th>2003</th>
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<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS as at March 31, 2004
(in thousands of dollars)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUES</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Power Projects</td>
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<td>Contribution</td>
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<td>Province of B.C.</td>
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<td>................................. $11,328</td>
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OPERATING EXPENSES

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<td>write downs &amp; write offs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delivery of Benefits</td>
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EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES

| ($3,100) | $9,959 |

Investing in Basin real estate
Fernie’s Rocky Mountain Village opens

In 2003, CBT invested approximately $1 million in Fernie’s new Rocky Mountain Village seniors housing complex. The Rocky Mountain Village is designed around the needs of seniors and offers excellent accessibility. The CBT invested a similar amount in the Castle Wood Village complex in Castlegar, completed in 2002.

The facilities are just two of the five built by Pace Setter Developments since it completed construction on Joseph Creek Village in Cranbrook in 1999.

“We partner with Pace Setter because they are a successful development company with a proven track record in this industry both in construction and operation,” says Dave Strachan, CBT Manager, Investments. “Their projects are on time, on budget and provide for returns on investment that meet CBT’s requirement for ‘market rates’ of return.”

Each year, the Columbia Basin Trust invests in Basin real estate, venture capital, reserves and securities, and debt instruments through its Basin Fund. The CBT follows established investment management methodology and uses the portfolio approach to investing. The income earned through these investments is used to benefit Basin residents through other programs.

“These seniors congregate care facilities are meeting a growing demand for additional options for the elderly in our communities,” says Strachan. “They help to improve the quality of life for the elderly. Seniors are no longer required to leave their communities to receive appropriate care and can stay close to family and friends. Couples can stay together as these facilities provide different levels of care depending on the individual’s needs.”

For more information about the CBT’s investment policy, visit your local CBT office or contact Rina Gresiuk, Assistant, Investments, at 250-265-9935.

Two CBT Investment funds explained

The investment objective of the Basin Fund is to maximize the expected rate of return on the assets, subject to preserving the real value of the capital over the long-term with an acceptable degree of risk. Subject to maintaining the real value of the capital over the long-term, the objective of the investments will be to enhance the economic self-sufficiency of the Basin by strengthening and diversifying the regional economy.

The investment objective of the Legacy Fund is to maximize the expected rate of return on the assets, subject to preserving the real value of the legacy capital with a relatively high degree of certainty. Subject to maintaining the real value of the capital, the objective of the investments is to generate income to fund the Legacy Fund and the Delivery of Benefits Program. The Legacy Fund capital currently consists of CBT’s joint venture interest in the Arrow Lakes Generating Station and the Brilliant Dam power projects.

Should the current negotiations with BC Hydro result in a sale of CBT’s interests in the power projects, the capital received from that sale would be invested in a manner consistent with the Legacy Fund policy and objectives as outlined above.

Annual Report released

The CBT’s 2003-2004 Annual Report is now available. Residents are encouraged to obtain copies from the website at www.cbt.org. If you are unable to access it, call 1-800-505-8998 or 1-250-265-6633 to have a copy mailed to you.
Youth Community Service Awards

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST provided Youth Community Service Awards to graduating students in the Basin who showed a high level of involvement in their communities. Each winner was awarded a scholarship valued at up to $8,000 — $2,000 per year for four years. CBT helps these graduates pursue their post-secondary education and training goals, while encouraging young people to become more involved in their communities. This year, two awards were shared. Those students sharing awards are indicated with a *. 

Jillian Lucinda Evin Castlegar
Jillian founded the Global Issues Club at Stanley Humphries Secondary in Castlegar. The club produced special events in support of landmine removal efforts, AIDS awareness, human rights awareness, and sponsored a successful Operation Christmas Child project. Jillian attended the Red Cross Global Issues Youth Symposium in 2002. She is a member of Rotary International’s Interact club; she helped with fundraising and then journeyed to Honduras to help with anti-poverty projects.

Benjamin Gordon Fischer Trail
Benjamin was the Youth Liaison between the Canadian Cancer Society and J.L. Crowe Secondary School in Trail, as well as being a C.C.S. canvasser and volunteer. He volunteers at the Regional Hospital and the Columbia View Lodge long term care facility, and was active in Students Against Drunk Driving (S.A.D.D.). A member of the Trail Health and Environment Committee, Benjamin also helps seniors with daily tasks and students through peer tutoring. He has canvassed for the Kidney Foundation and planted trees with Rotary Club.

Alison May Gardner Lister *
Alison is a long-time member of Creston Community 4-H and has been a BC 4-H Ambassador. She was Vice President of the Prince Charles Secondary School Interact Club and a member of the PCSs Student Body Council. Alison volunteered as a peer tutor as well as a teacher’s assistant. She has been involved in projects for the Creston Museum Society and the Lister Deer Lodge Park and volunteers at Trinity United Church and Senior care facilities regularly.

Kelsy Jean Kusch Nakusp
Kelsy coached the Junior Girls Volleyball team at Nakusp Secondary School for two seasons. Kelsy has also coached Junior Girls Soccer, and is a volunteer assistant referee for Class “A” Senior Boys and Girls soccer. She was also a peer tutor. She volunteers at the Arrow Lakes Hospital by planting and maintaining a garden for the extended care residents to enjoy.

Eriin Joanna Love Invermere
Eriin visited with residents at the Columbia House Extended Care unit each week for two years. She volunteered as an assistant teacher at the Columbia School of Ballet for four years and was a member of the David Thompson Secondary Students’ Council, as well as being a peer tutor in biology. She has canvassed for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Carmen Alison Moreira South Slocan
Carmen has been both Prime Ministers and Vice PM on her Students’ Council. She was also on the Yearbook Committee as an editor and volunteers to maintain the Provincial Volleyball website. She has choreographed a musical at the Capitol Theatre and dances for school ceremonies. Carmen volunteers at local daycare centres and was a peer tutor. She has also volunteered at Nelson Planned Parenthood as receptionist and counselor.

Julianna Grace Nusse Valemount
Julianna has coached basketball, cross-country skiing, and track and field. Julianna was class valedictorian and her public speaking has included representing the D.A.R.E. program as a speaker to elementary students. Captain of the Valemount Secondary Junior and then Senior Girls Basketball teams, she also coaches Boys Basketball. Julianna was involved in yearbook and enjoyed taking a leadership role by representing her school and community at the Encounters with Canada conference in Ottawa.

Caitlin Mary Baekken O’Connell Nelson
Caitlin has spent many volunteer hours with the Revelstoke theatre and the Nelson Community Opera Society, as well as with the Nelson Street Fest. She has stage-managed a variety–show fundraiser event for the HALO Hamper program and also spent time filling the Christmas hampers that were given to needy children. She also put together a book of low-cost recipes for the Nelson Food Coalition to distribute to food bank users. She has also coached Nelson Youth Soccer.

Christy Micheline Poirier Cranbrook
Christy was Cranbrook’s 2003 Youth Ambassador, and was involved in charity events and community fundraisers. She is Cranbrook’s Canadian Cancer Society door-to-door campaign’s Youth Liaison and volunteers for Rotary Cranbrook regularly. Christy was with Mount Baker TV, a secondary school TV program that is broadcast locally through Shaw Cable, and in other Shaw productions. She has coached Girls’ Basketball and refereed basketball for children. She is active in the D.A.R.E. program and has written for SCRATCH magazine.

Shauna-Lynn Rose Reiener Salmo
A member of Job’s Daughters, Shauna-Lynn has helped raise funds for several charities by organizing and taking part in events. She is also a very active member of the Salmo Secondary Student Council and the Salmo Community Advisory Committee. Shauna-Lynn has committed much time to working with special needs children. She has coached girls volleyball and assisted in camping trips for elementary students.

Nadine Lindsay Robinson Revelstoke *
Nadine worked with the Revelstoke Secondary Counter Attack Team to deliver a serious message in a fun way. She was active in Student Council and was Miss Revelstoke, 2003. Nadine volunteered in the Buddy Reading program and as a peer tutor. Also involved in theatre and sports, Nadine has acted in plays and refereed soccer. She helped fundraise for a student exchange to Japan she enjoyed.

Congratulations and best wishes on your future endeavours
Youth Community Service Awards

Aleta May Salmon
Golden
Aleta spent many hours coaching young swimmers with the Golden Dolphin Swim Club. She was a member of Golden Secondary’s Social Justice, Grad and Yearbook Committees, and was a member of the CBT’s Youth Committee. Aleta enjoyed her school’s Leadership Class.

Jaslene Sara
Sparwood
Jaslene’s volunteer efforts for the Canadian Cancer Society, the BC Senior’s Games, the D.A.R.E. program and the 30-Hour Famine have kept her busy. Jaslene was a candlestriper for two years in the Sparwood Hospital. She has coached both throwing (shot put, discus and javelin) and basketball, and sat on Student Council and Grad Committees. She was active in the Sparwood Secondary Environmental Club, of which she was president, secretary and chief recycler.

Darya Laleh Skrenes
New Denver
Darya plays piano for residents of the Slocan Community Healthcare Centre on a regular basis. She was involved in Student and Grad Council, and the Yearbook Committee. Darya was the Youth Activity Coordinator for the Bahá’í Community and has been a volunteer babysitter for several years. She also organized three annual Terry Fox and Milk Runs for the Cancer Society. Darya was an assistant coach and coordinator for Community Soccer, and Captain or Co-Captain of school volleyball, basketball, and soccer.

Karl Donald Vinge
Fernie
Karl has coached volleyball and minor soccer, and who started a Recreational Volleyball Night at Max Turyk Elementary. Elected President of Fernie Secondary’s Student Council, Karl also helped out in the Student Services program. Karl enjoys going to the World Vision 30-Hour Famine in his school and also helped his church community as an Alter Server each week for three years.

Heidi Inez Schadeli
Creston
Heidi volunteered with the Kaminoko Friendship Society by helping organize welcome parties and fundraising events. She is a long-time Girl Guide and has assisted local biologists in Duck Banding projects. A member of the Prince Charles Secondary Youth Interact Club, she helped with many fundraising events; she also sat on Grad Committee and Student Council. Heidi coached basketball and played free violin concerts around her community. She helped nurses with patient care at the Creston Valley Hospital and spent time at the Wildlife Centre building perches, cleaning nesting boxes, and recording data.

Aimee Kathleen Ward
Elkford
A member of Elkford Secondary’s Student Council, Yearbook Club, and CounterAttack Team, Aimee has also volunteered in the community canvassing for the Canadian Cancer Society. She is a dedicated figure skater, was an amateur coach, and has taught CanSkate to children.

Voices raised in song, song rooted in community

ABOUT an hour drive west from Jasper is the Village of Valemount, population 1,195. Valemount sits at the northernmost tip of the Columbia Basin. It’s home to music makers of many stripes including composers, luthiers, horn makers, and a choir director who has founded two choirs.

“One of my main goals has been to make music accessible and enjoyable to all,” says Ariane Nelles, who came to Valemount in 1999, fresh from four years of musical education at the University of Victoria. Nelles directs the Valemount Community Choir and the Valemount Children’s Choir.

When Nelles started the Community Choir in 1993, eight people joined; there are now 30. Since then, the group has held two main concerts a year and has delighted Valemount residents with seasonal caroling. (Nelles founded the Children’s Choir in 2002 after several Valemount parents begged her to offer singing lessons to their children.) However, both choirs survived on such low funds that Nelles was compelled to begin writing and arranging pieces for the choirs to perform. It turned out that more than just one Valemount resident was a skilled choral composer.

“Performing my pieces created a response,” Nelles says, referring to the composers who stepped out of the woodwork with their own music to share. “Keith Burchall was the first local composer to approach me with some pieces he wrote. He became an accompanist. Many others come forward with arrangements and compositions and offers to accompany.”

Unfortunately, we had not been able to pay anyone for their services and so this is what led to the idea of a composer’s concert.”

In preparation for the Composer’s Concert, the Valemount musical community was invited to submit choral works to the Community Choir for consideration for performance. Of the 21 submissions received, six were from children and youth, and 15 were from adults. All submissions were performed at the Composer’s Concert on March 26, 2004.

“We are very proud of the fact that of the $2000 we received, $1950 went right back into the community to pay musicians for their choral works. This was the main objective — to highlight local talent and to pay artists, no matter what age, for their works,” says Nelles. “If our town grows to the potential it is expected, who knows what we will be able to do? Perhaps we will have a small school of music - one can dream.”

All of the pieces by the local composers, as well as other songs by these musicians, are available to other groups for performance. Contact Ariane Nelles at 250-566-4448.

The Valemount Community Choir applied for funding through Columbia Basin Trust’s Arts, Culture and Heritage program. The program is administered by the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA), who partners with community arts councils to deliver funding to artists. In this case, it was through the Valemount Arts and Cultural Society that the funding was delivered.

Each year, the CKCA delivers $200,000 dollars across the Basin.

For more information about the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, and how to access funding through its programs, call 1-877-505-7355.
Community Initiatives — CBT partners with regional governments

The Community Initiatives Program partners with seven local and regional governments in the Basin to fund activities communities deem important, and to support projects that might otherwise not have been undertaken.

Columbia Basin Trust is committed to providing $12.9 million in funding over 10 years to Basin communities through this program. The program is in year seven.

Local governments in the Basin have the opportunity to refine program delivery processes to ensure community participation in project selection and accountability and monitoring and evaluation. The local governments develop their own processes for public involvement in recommending and selecting projects for funding.

The Community Initiatives Program is delivered by the Regional District of East Kootenay, Regional District of Regional District of Central Kootenay, Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, Revelstoke and Electoral Area B of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Golden and Electoral Area A of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Valemount and Electoral Area H of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, and the Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council in the Basin. Time frames for project intake and selection can vary by area, but generally project selection is completed in the spring of each year.

For information on how to apply, contact your regional district or visit the CBT website at www.cbt.org.

Kimberley Search and Rescue buys new vehicle

Kimberley Search and Rescue (KSAR) has recently acquired a 2004 Ford F350 crew cab 4x4 truck for its search and rescue operations through its fundraising and grant seeking initiatives.

“We are very excited about the new truck,” said Jkke Stegeman, acting President of KSAR. “We are responsible for serving an area over 10,000 square kilometres spanning north to Canal Flats and St. Mary Alpine Provincial Park, east to the Height of the Rockies, south to Fort Steele-Cranbrook Airport, and west to the summit of Grey Creek Pass. Within this area a 4x4 vehicle is critical, both summer and winter, to effectively locate, access, and transport injured or lost persons.”

Kimberley Search and Rescue is a group of 42 trained volunteers who respond to requests from the RCMP and others for assistance in locating and rescuing lost or injured persons. KSAR members are experienced in tracking, survival, navigation, rope rescue, avalanche rescue, swiftwater rescue, first aid, and other disciplines.

The purchase of the truck was made feasible through grants, including one for $7,000 from CBT. The grant was administered by the Regional District of the East Kootenay, as part of the CBT Community Initiatives Program.

For further information about the Kimberley Search and Rescue Society, call 1-250-427-4114.

Meet your Community Liaison

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<tr>
<th>Community Liaison</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doug Switzer</td>
<td>Nkup 250:265.9936 <a href="mailto:dswhiter@cbt.org">dswhiter@cbt.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabrina Curtis</td>
<td>Northeast Basin Golden 250:344.7872 <a href="mailto:scurtis@cbt.org">scurtis@cbt.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne Lundeberg</td>
<td>South West Basin Castlegar 250:365.6633 <a href="mailto:wlunderberg@cbt.org">wlunderberg@cbt.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean Terlesky</td>
<td>Southeast Basin Cranbrook 250:426.8816 <a href="mailto:jterlesky@cbt.org">jterlesky@cbt.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Columbia Basin Trust staff contact numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corporate</th>
<th>Golden 250:344.7065 <a href="mailto:kgosal@cbt.org">kgosal@cbt.org</a></th>
<th>250:365.6633 <a href="mailto:bkysac@cbt.org">bkysac@cbt.org</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Don Johnston</td>
<td>Castlegar 250:365.6633 <a href="mailto:djohnston@cbt.org">djohnston@cbt.org</a></td>
<td>Christine Lloyd, Senior Accountant, Castlegar 250:365.6633 <a href="mailto:clloyd@cbt.org">clloyd@cbt.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Hutchins</td>
<td>Castlegar 250:365.6633 <a href="mailto:jhutchins@cbt.org">jhutchins@cbt.org</a></td>
<td>Deb Stewart, Accounting Technician Supervisor, Castlegar 250:365.6633 <a href="mailto:dstewart@cbt.org">dstewart@cbt.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Dorosz</td>
<td>Castlegar 250:365.6633 <a href="mailto:ddorosz@cbt.org">ddorosz@cbt.org</a></td>
<td>Tammy Perepolkin, Accounting Technician, Castlegar 250:365.6633 <a href="mailto:tperepolkin@cbt.org">tperepolkin@cbt.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Dorosz</td>
<td>Castlegar 250:365.6633 <a href="mailto:ddorosz@cbt.org">ddorosz@cbt.org</a></td>
<td>Communications Rachael Elkey, Communications Cranbrook 250:426.1103 <a href="mailto:relkey@cbt.org">relkey@cbt.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracey Amies</td>
<td>Golden 250:344.7065 <a href="mailto:golden@cbt.org">golden@cbt.org</a></td>
<td>Information Technology Marilyn Rivers, Systems Analyst, Castlegar 250:365.6633 <a href="mailto:mrivers@cbt.org">mrivers@cbt.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Kryscak</td>
<td>Chief Financial Officer, Castlegar 250:365.6633</td>
<td>Richard Wake, Systems Analyst / Programmer Cranbrook 250:426.1106 <a href="mailto:rwake@cbt.org">rwake@cbt.org</a></td>
</tr>
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Columbia Basin Trust staff contact numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment</th>
<th>Cranbrook 250:426.8810 <a href="mailto:rgibertson@cbt.org">rgibertson@cbt.org</a></th>
<th>250:365.6633 <a href="mailto:bkmazic@cbt.org">bkmazic@cbt.org</a></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dave Strachan</td>
<td>250:365.9935 <a href="mailto:dstech@cbt.org">dstech@cbt.org</a></td>
<td>250:365.7063 <a href="mailto:cmazic@cbt.org">cmazic@cbt.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rina Gresiuk</td>
<td>Assistant, Investments, Nakusp 250:265.9935 <a href="mailto:rgresiuk@cbt.org">rgresiuk@cbt.org</a></td>
<td>250:365.6633 <a href="mailto:bkmazic@cbt.org">bkmazic@cbt.org</a></td>
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Community Liaisons

(see left)
Small Town Girl — A movie made in Kaslo

Take an English teacher, a local filmmaker and a story idea. Add 26 youth, 22 kids, 29 adults, 12 female Harley riders, six bluegrass musicians, and one cop. Now add extras, props, crew and locations in and around Kaslo and what do you get? A feature length film called Small Town Girl, soon to make the rounds of Canadian film festivals.

Filmed during July and August, 2003, Small Town Girl is an homage to the often underutilized talents of youth. The story follows the dilemma of 15 year old Tess, played by Adjala Thompson-Kurz, who is facing a grim summer. Broke and misunderstood, things begin to turn around for her when she starts a business with the help of friends. They spend a summer full of action, meet lots of local characters and, in the end, Tess learns something about herself.

“Our goal was to involve youth as much as possible in the planning and execution of a feature film,” says Rik Valentine, who created this project with teacher Margot McKague, and who directed and edited the film. “We wanted to create a fun learning experience, and use youth as cast and crew. Rural communities often lack creative activities for kids to do in the summer. But we also wanted to make a real movie with good production values that could stand alone and hold audience interest.”

Valentine and McKague co-wrote the screenplay then suggested the idea of making a movie to students at J.V. Humphries School in Kaslo. The students loved it. A Youth Advisory Committee was formed and helped write grant applications. Seven organizations came through with funding, including CBT, through a $10,000 Basin Youth in Communities Mega grant and $1,500 grant through Arts, Culture, and Heritage, and the Regional District of the Central Kootenay. The Langham Cultural Society became the sponsoring organization.

Valentine says it was daunting to launch the project. “When CBT came on board with a Basin Youth in Communities grant it gave us a big boost,” he says. “They believed we could do it, and that helped give us credibility to attract other funding and support.”

During filming, the cast and crew dealt with everything from noise pollution to forest fires, but shooting continued six days a week until 17 hours of footage was filmed.

With editing complete, the rough cut of the film was screened in Kaslo on June 18, 2004, to good reviews. “The project provided a summer focus for quite a number of youth from Kaslo and the north end of the lake, as well as a few from Queen’s Bay, Harrop, Nelson, and even Nakusp,” says Valentine. “Additionally, the community helped out by doing carpentry or providing props, transport, or premises for shooting locations. This really was a remarkable experience both in terms of what we were undertaking and the amount of community spirit that was generated.”

People came out of the woodwork to help, including experienced actress Tara Frederick who gave acting workshops and a cameo performance as Tess’ Mom. All involved will be looking forward to the film premiere later this fall.

ARTS - Basin Best has another successful tour

Every two years a touring visual art exhibit connects people of the Columbia Basin with work created by Basin artists. Works included in Basin Best 2003 came from the East and West Kootenay regional shows; five pieces by established artists and five by emerging were jury-selected from each.

The exhibit of paintings, sculptures, and other works visited 18 communities over 18 weeks, from June 30 to November 1. Thousands of people saw the works during the tour, displayed in galleries and gymnasiums, community centres and arts council offices.

“There is a real enthusiasm to host Basin Best,” says Laura White, Tour coordinator. “The smaller or more isolated communities are appreciative of the exhibition coming to them. Not having a gallery wasn’t an obstacle. Finding a creative solution resulted in the show being seen by more people than would visit an art gallery.”

“Nine pieces in Basin Best 2003 were sold,” says White. “Which is exceptional.”

A collaboration of the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA) and Basin arts councils, the Basin Best tour is good exposure for striving regional artists. “I would like to thank all the arts councils who have contributed in so many ways to help bring this exhibition to the people of the Columbia Basin,” says Krista Patterson of the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance in Nelson. The CKCA partners with CBT to provide arts, heritage, and culture funding. The Basin Best show is made possible by the two organizations, with cooperation from regional and community arts councils.

The goal of the CKCA is to build long-term sustainability for artists and to strengthen and support arts, cultural and heritage organizations. The CKCA has a great website — www.basinculture.com — that contains a list of all the funded projects of the year.
Columbia Basin Trust

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST (CBT) was created by the Columbia Basin Trust Act in 1995 to benefit the region most adversely affected by the Columbia River Treaty (CRT). The CRT, ratified by the United States and Canada in 1964, led to the construction of three storage dams in the Basin (Duncan, Hugh Keenleyside and Mica) and one in Montana (Libby). The purpose of these dams was flood control and power production in both countries. Most of the benefits of the CRT were enjoyed by areas outside the Basin while most of the negative effects were, and still are, experienced by the Basin and its residents. The people of the Basin came together in the early 1990s to press the Province for recognition of the impacts of the CRT. Local governments in the Basin coordinated their efforts at the regional district and tribal council level under the Columbia River Treaty Committee, which first met in 1992. The Committee, in partnership with elected officials from the region, negotiated with the Province. They had two objectives: 1. The creation of a trust governed by a board of Basin residents. 2. The allocation to the region of funds representing a fair share of the ongoing downstream benefits earned by the CRT, to be managed by a trust. Negotiations were successful and the Columbia Basin Trust was formed. The Columbia Basin Trust received a $295 million endowment by the Province. Of that, $250 million was committed to finance power project construction and the other $45 million is reinvested for the benefit of Basin residents through short-term cash investments, business loans, real estate ownership, and venture capital projects. Additionally, the Columbia Basin Trust receives $2 million per year until 2010 from the Province of BC for operating expenses. The income from the investments is being spent on social, economic, and environmental projects Basin residents develop.

The Columbia River Basin

- The Columbia Basin Trust area makes up 88,000 square kilometres — an area twice the size of Vancouver Island. It supports several small and mid-sized communities with a total population of approximately 170,000 people.
- The Columbia River begins its journey at Columbia Lake near Canal Flats and travels approximately 2,000 kilometres before it meets the Pacific Ocean at Astoria, Oregon.
- The Columbia River Wetlands, located at the headwaters of the Columbia River, is the largest contiguous area of wetland and the only “untouched” free-flowing section of the Columbia River in Canada.
- The formation of the Columbia Basin was complete 40 to 60 million years ago — about the same time dinosaurs disappeared from the planet.
- The Columbia Basin is the fourth largest river basin in North America, exceeded only by the Mississippi, Mackenzie, and St. Lawrence river basins.
- Humans have lived along the river system for more than 10,000 years.
- The Columbia River in Canada provides about 50 per cent of the total hydroelectric power produced in British Columbia.