

REPORT TO RESIDENTS 2009

MAKING CONNECTIONS



Parents and their children at Robson Community School for the Love 2 Learn program delivered by our partner Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy.

Creating a legacy by supporting people and communities

Created by the people, for the people, Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) serves the residents of the Canadian portion of the Columbia River Basin (Basin).

Working closely with people who live in the Basin, CBT assists communities in addressing their needs by:

- focusing on local priorities and issues;
- bringing people together around key issues;
- providing useful, credible, accessible information;
- encouraging collaboration and partnerships;
- seeking ongoing input from Basin residents; and,
- providing resources and funding, including external experts and funding sources.

CBT provides funding and grants through a variety of programs from Arts, Culture and Heritage to Business Advocacy to Environment to Scholarships to Community Development.

In addition, CBT supports regional initiatives such as Affordable Housing, Climate Change, Water Stewardship, Literacy, Youth and Land Conservation.

This work is accomplished via our two core functions: to invest capital and manage the assets of CBT and to spend the income earned from these investments to deliver benefits to the Columbia Basin.

We rely on input from residents, our partners and our advisory committees to help identify and address issues most important to residents of the Basin. Connect with one of our Community Liaisons to share your thoughts or to learn more about our programs and initiatives.

Each year we ask you for your thoughts on what you like about the Report to Residents newsletter and in what areas you would like to see improvements.

Your feedback is important to us and we hope you will see some of your suggestions reflected on these pages, such as captions on all of our photos taken in and around the Basin.

We'd love to get to know your part of the Basin and what living in this region means to you. Enter our photo contest and show us. Winning photos will be featured in CBT publications and on our website. So dust off your camera and start snapping!

And once again, we hope you'll take a moment to fill in the enclosed survey form or log your thoughts online at www.cbt.org/R2R2009feedback. We've added a new question this year about social media: are you using Facebook, Twitter or other? Let us know.

As always, we hope you find our 2009 Report to Residents interesting, informative and a good read.

Enjoy!

INSIDE



SHOW US YOUR BASIN PHOTO CONTEST

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CRAWFORD BAY SCHOOL

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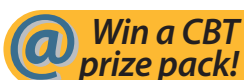
YOUTH FORUM

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WATER SMART

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Win a CBT prize pack!

Complete the enclosed survey form or fill it in online and you'll be automatically entered into the draw. The draw closes October 15, 2009, but your feedback is welcome anytime.
www.cbt.org/R2R2009feedback

Join Us at Our AGM

CBT's Annual General Meeting is an opportunity for Basin residents to meet our staff and Board of Directors as well as learn more about CBT. Join us on:

Friday, September 18, 2009 at 4 p.m.
The Prestige Mountainside Resort
Golden

@ www.cbt.org

1.800.505.8998



View of the Columbia River and Nicholson from Mount Seven, near Golden.

STRENGTHENING THE BASIN

Creation of CBT

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, signed in 1964 between Canada and the United States, created dams that improved flood control and power production; however, the resulting reservoirs flooded sections of highly productive land and cut off access to many areas, traditional First Nations' land were lost, communities were displaced and entire fish and wildlife habitats were destroyed.

Despite the significant changes that occurred across the Columbia Basin as a result of the CRT, there was a lack of meaningful consultation with residents.

In the early 1990s local governments in the Basin coordinated their efforts at the regional district and tribal council level under the Columbia River Treaty Committee to approach and negotiate with the Province.

Negotiations were successful and CBT was formed. A binding agreement was also established which resulted in the following:

- \$276 million for power project investments;
- \$45 million, which CBT used as an endowment; and
- \$2 million per year from 1996 to 2010 for operations.

With a unique mission to support efforts by the people of the Basin to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being, CBT works with residents, communities, local governments and First Nations to achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations.

@ www.cbt.org/about_us

1.800.505.8998

Message from Chair and CEO

Despite the challenging economic climate this year, Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) maintained solid financial results, returning increased revenues which ensured CBT could continue its efforts in strengthening the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Canadian portion of the Columbia River Basin (Basin).

In 2008/09, we increased direct funding benefits to residents and communities by nearly 70 per cent over the previous year, disbursing \$9 million. These were delivered through a range of programs and initiatives, supporting hundreds of community-based projects.

We continue to engage with residents and communities in an ongoing dialogue to understand Basin priorities, and to ensure that together we are meeting needs and being responsive to opportunities. As we continue to advance previously set strategic priorities and turn more of our efforts to implementing strategic plans and delivering tangible results, we recognize our work must also be aligned with the values we share with the people in this region. This year, all of these efforts revealed how we are "making connections".

This theme reflects CBT's role in bringing people, groups, communities and governments together, encouraging collaboration and partnerships. CBT works with these groups to identify and translate their priorities into action. This thread ties the diversity of our projects and initiatives to our broad mandate, connects the people and communities of this region to a common vision and culture based on our shared history, and strengthens our ability to leave a lasting legacy in the Basin.

Using the income earned from our Investment Program, CBT works closely with people who live in the Basin to develop and deliver programs and initiatives that respond to their needs and support communities. Our staff play a key role in delivering on this mandate and continue to provide benefits in their capacity as liaisons to communities, collaborators and conveners, and in their role as links to resources, information, expertise and funding.



GARRY MERKEL
Board Chair



NEIL MUTH
President and CEO

HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past year, we began implementing a three-year social strategic plan with the goal of strengthening the ability of organizations and communities to respond proactively to complex social issues and adapt to change. CBT entered into partnerships that will help non-profits and community service agencies in developing their collective and individual capacity to tackle social issues in their communities. In addition, we made progress on tackling affordable housing issues by supporting housing projects, sharing information and sponsoring community forums with housing experts.

In November 2008, we published a report on social, economic and environmental indicators and trends in the Basin, giving residents access to credible, local information necessary to understand what is happening in the Basin and the possible implications for our families and communities. Over the next year, CBT will be piloting projects which will use this information to support planning and learning in a way that can be shared to assist with future Basin planning.

As part of CBT's strategy to conserve and be stewards of the Basin's natural assets, we supported the efforts of the Nature Conservancy with \$500,000 for the purchase of the Darkwoods property near Creston, the largest financial commitment CBT has made in a land acquisition. This spring, we also provided \$250,000 to help purchase the Valhalla Mile, a 155-acre (63 ha) private property adjacent to Valhalla Provincial Park.

CBT continues to take action on climate change through its Delivery of Benefits activities, supporting Elkford and Kimberley in developing adaptation and resiliency plans to deal with expected climate change impacts in the Basin. We are also supporting local regional districts in their efforts toward becoming carbon neutral in their operations by 2012. The outcomes from these initiatives will be models for communities within the Basin and across rural Canada.

We also continue to work with youth to create and leverage opportunities to actively engage them in our communities and give them a voice for expressing their views, promoting their art and their creativity.

INVESTMENTS

The collapse of the "sub-prime" mortgage market and its ultimate impact on the global economy left few untouched over the past year; CBT was no exception, experiencing both positive and negative impacts.

With the majority of CBT's investment portfolio made up of hydroelectric power projects and the long-term fixed agreements that are in place for the sale of the power, we are able to ensure a steady, predictable income stream to fund our Delivery of Benefits Program and corporate operations. Funds available for Delivery of Benefits activities are expected to continue to grow.

Our newest investment category, Market Securities, experienced a 15.8 per cent loss in value due to negative returns in the equity markets. Making up less than five per cent of the overall investment portfolio, this did not impact our Delivery of Benefits obligations.

THANK YOU

CBT's achievements are a testament to the contributions of our dedicated partners, volunteers, staff and Board of Directors who help build the connections that strengthen our communities. Thank you to you all.



Despite the challenging economic climate this year, CBT maintained solid financial results, supporting Basin residents and communities with \$9 million in direct funding benefits.

Using the income earned from our Investments Program, CBT works closely with people who live in the Basin to develop and deliver programs and initiatives that respond to their needs.

DECISION ON WANETA NEARS



The Waneta Expansion Project is proposed to be built next to the current dam site in Trail (on the left in the above photo).

Expansion project significant investment decision

It's the single largest investment decision CBT has ever faced.

With the potential to create up to 680 person-years of employment over four years, inject in excess of \$50 million into the local economy, generate enough power to supply more than 69,000 homes, and provide an ongoing stream of income to support CBT's programs and initiatives, the Waneta Expansion Project represents a significant opportunity.

"The feasibility of the project hinges on the outcome of negotiations with BC Hydro for an Energy Purchase Agreement and Entitlement Agreement, as well as a viable financing plan that ensures we are able to raise the money required to complete the project," said Johnny Strilaeff, CBT VP of Investments.

The cost to fully develop the Waneta Expansion Project is expected to exceed the cost of all three of CBT's previous hydropower projects combined. This would be a huge financial commitment, particularly in the current economic climate, and CBT is

"The feasibility of the project hinges on the outcome of negotiations...as well as a viable financing plan..."

Johnny Strilaeff
VP, Investments

evaluating the investment opportunity with great care. To assist in developing a financing plan, CBT and joint venture partner Columbia Power Corporation (CPC), have engaged RBC Capital as a Financial Advisor.

If approved, the project will be developed using the same design/build process successfully followed for the Arrow Lakes Generating Station and the Brilliant Expansion Project. CBT and CPC invited qualified construction

and engineering teams to submit proposals for the development. We received positive responses from industry and recently completed an extensive evaluation of the submissions.

"Together with CPC, we are currently working to finalize a contract with SNC-Lavalin who has been selected as the initial preferred proponent to design and construct the Waneta Expansion Project," continued Strilaeff.

"This will be the most significant investment decision CBT has ever had to make. The project has the potential to deliver many benefits to the region; however, like any investment there are risks. In the current economic climate it is critical CBT make the best decision to ensure the long-term stability of the organization."

A decision may be made as early as this summer and depending on the outcomes of the negotiations and financing, the project could begin in the fall of 2009. Regular updates will be provided to residents on the progress of this project.

Quick Facts about the Project on page 15



Board of Directors

CBT's 12-member Board of Directors must be residents of the Basin. The five regional districts and the Ktunaxa Nation Council each nominate one Director and the Province, in cooperation with the CBT board, nominates the other six Directors.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Garry Merkel | Chair, Kimberley |
| Greg Deck | Vice Chair, Radium Hot Springs |
| Mike Berg | Nelson |
| Denise Birdstone | Grasmere |
| Evelyn Cutts | Fernie |
| Kim Deane | Rossland |
| Ron Miles | Cranbrook |
| Jim Miller | Creston |
| Loni Parker | Revelstoke |
| Jeannette Townsend | Valemount |
| Bill Trehwella | Warfield |

@ www.cbt.org/board

Our Mission

Columbia Basin Trust supports efforts by the people of the Basin to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being and to achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations.



Family camping at Whiteswan Lake Provincial Park east of Canal Flats.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Ktunaxa Nation Looking Ahead



SABRINA CURTIS
Director, Planning and Development

Basin residents recognize the value of locally-relevant information. CBT was asked to assist in developing indicators that will inform residents about current local conditions, to ensure that existing information on the Basin is readily available and to facilitate the use of these informational tools in planning and decision-making in Basin communities.

Over the last two years, we have been responding to this demand through its State of the Basin Initiative. In November, we released the 2008 State of the Basin Report, which for the first time transforms information from public sources into indicators specifically for the Basin.

The State of the Basin website hosts the report and the raw data used in it, as well as links to numerous other data sources about the Basin. Staff and technical experts are available to help residents and organizations understand and use these tools.

Over the next year, CBT will be supporting three community pilot projects that will use information to support a planning process and capture learning that can be shared with others to inform future planning.

Given the rapid pace of change in today's society, it is more important than ever to have access to current and reliable information. Explore the State of the Basin Initiative to better understand your community and the Basin, and help us shape the future of this Initiative.

@ www.cbt.org/stateofthebasin

1.800.505.8998

The Ktunaxa Nation Council is planning for its economic and social future by taking steps to ensure its people will be ready to leverage the opportunities presented by self-governance.

Supported by CBT, the Council is in the process of undertaking an extensive First Nations socio-economic study in the Basin, surveying status and non-status Ktunaxa citizens.

The study will obtain baseline socio-economic data, which will be used in strategic planning aimed at building the human capital of the Nation. It will also assist with developing more inclusive and informed social programming, as well as help create more economic opportunities.

Rosemary Phillips, Education & Workforce Strategic Initiatives Coordinator for the

Ktunaxa Nation Council, explained that the idea for this study had been discussed at Council for some time, and the time seemed right to move it forward.

"We are moving forward as a Nation and we want to make sure our people are ready for the possibilities that lie ahead. This means we need to start putting resources into the areas our people need to help them prepare, but we don't have a reliable source of data that encompasses all of our people – we have pieces. This study will give us the information we need to create the most appropriate programming."

The project involves the design of a survey tool to be used in the data collection stage; the development of a promotional power point presentation which will inform the

citizens of the Nation as to the purpose of the survey; training of the team in administering the survey; developing the data capture tool; analyzing the data; and preparing a summary report of the data.

In the short term, the data will be used in developing a capacity building strategy. It will also be available for use by the various agencies in their planning and programming, both internally and externally, for the benefit of Ktunaxa Nation citizens.

The survey will be administered in June, with the enormous challenge of reaching as many Ktunaxa Nation people as possible.

@ www.ktunaxa.org

Working on Child Care

Child care is an issue CBT is hearing a lot about; that's why staff are currently exploring the broader role CBT can play in the child care community.

Last fall, CBT helped support Elk Valley communities in coming together to find solutions for their increasing need for child care.

The East Kootenay Infant Development Society - Children First, conducted a Kids Care Survey, which polled members in Elkford, Sparwood, Fernie and the Regional District of East Kootenay Area A on their perception of the current and future need for child care centres/providers.

The project provided these communities with a credible and current document on the area's child care needs, which will help them in their planning efforts and in applying for government grants for capital projects.

The Community Child Care Needs Assessment Toolkit contains useful tips on how to conduct a credible assessment and is available online for other communities to use.

CBT is pleased to support projects such as the Elk Valley Kids Care Survey and is also looking for ways we can be more proactive in helping families find child care solutions.

@ www.cbt.org/childcaretoolkit



Representatives from Elkford, Sparwood and Fernie Early Childhood Development teams and funding contributors of the Kids Care Survey met in Sparwood on January 15 to learn more about the results of the child care needs assessment IPSOS REID survey. In photo BACK ROW (LtoR): Gail Brown, Kim Bauer, John Eastwood, Jennifer Krotz, Trish Luke, Carmen Murray, Gary Walker, Glen Campbell, Glenn Dobie. FRONT ROW (LtoR): Krista Woodske, Carrie Meyer, Evelyn Cutts, Peggy Gilchrist.



Hills Garlic Festival near Nakusp

Basin residents are passionate about their communities, their environment and the natural beauty and wonder of the land. Basin residents are people who are living just where they want to be.

PHOTO CONTEST: Show Us Your Basin

The Canadian Columbia River Basin is many things. It is valleys, vistas and unique geography. It is rainforests, grasslands and deserts. It is home to reptiles, birds, fish and mammals. It irrigates, it hydrates, it recreates, it generates. We boat, swim, skip rocks, bathe and fish in it. We light our cabins, cottages and lodges by the river's strength.

It is geography, it is history, it is people and it is our future.

The Columbia Basin – with its diversity of people and enterprise, staggering natural beauty, abundant resources – is a special place worth taking care of. We are connected by this shared responsibility.

In its past, present and future, the Columbia Basin is many things. What is it to you? Show us your Basin in photos!

CBT is looking for images that show what the Columbia Basin means to you. Winning photos will be used in upcoming CBT publications and promotional materials, as well as featured on CBT's website. Submit your photos by October 1, 2009 at www.cbt.org/photocontest.



"The Basin's forested mountains and water-filled valleys weave a magic on people that transforms visitors into residents and continually draws back home the Basin Diaspora. Basin residents are passionate about their communities, their environment and the natural beauty and wonder of the land. Basin residents are people who are living just where they want to be."

**Wayne Lundeberg
Community Liaison
Southwest Basin**

"The Basin is geographically diverse pockets full of gems! Travelling through the Basin is what I imagine island hopping to be like. By this I mean that each community has distinctly unique characteristics which create very differing social, economic, environmental and cultural qualities in each place. I love being immersed in this sort of variety - that's what makes the Basin so special and so rich metaphorically."

**Katherine Hamilton
Community Liaison
Northeast Basin**



"It means home. A place where I feel welcome, warm and secure. Where people smile, where I can explore nature, land, communities and so many different stories. It is a sense of wonder and inspiration; kind of like a big hug."

**Jennifer Krotz
Community Liaison
Southeast Basin**



"The Basin is the spirit of its people. No matter how and when they found this incredible region, they all seem to bring a similar spirit of self-reliance and determination, an appreciation of their natural surroundings and a willingness to try anything new. This is reflected in their homes, gardens and in all their artistic endeavours. I think the geography and beauty of the Columbia River and its basin challenges and dares its residents to be unique and creative."

**Lynda Lafleur
Community Liaison Northwest Basin**



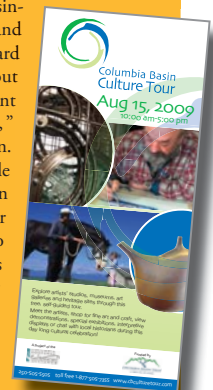
Connect with Basin Culture and Heritage

This summer Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA) will launch a Basin-wide cultural event, funded by CBT. The **Columbia Basin Culture Tour** aims to connect residents with the many talents this region has to offer.

"This initiative has worked really well in places all over Canada and the United States, and we are excited to do it in the Basin," said Jacquie Hamilton, CKCA Chair. "Because our communities are often remote or hidden, and because of this wonderful wilderness we live in, it is difficult for residents to know about everything we have available in the various communities."

This one-day event will take place in various Basin communities on **Saturday, August 15 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**, creating an opportunity for residents to meet and talk with artists, writers, historians, shop for fine art and crafts, and learn more about the region through exhibitions and interpretive displays.

"An event like this can only be done well through a Basin-wide organization and we're looking forward to seeing who is out there in the different communities," said Hamilton. "Whether people stay in their own communities or take a road trip to another, there's something for everyone."



@ www.cbculturetour.com

1.877.505.7355



New construction in Cranbrook looking west toward the Purcell Mountains.

CREATING PARTNERSHIPS

Enterprising Non-profits



AIMEE AMBROSONE
Manager, Planning and Development

In the past year, we have continued to strengthen the social well-being of the Columbia Basin and improve the quality of life in our communities. We are working toward the goals set in our three-year Social Strategic Plan, which was completed last fall. We were fortunate to have many Basin residents provide input into how CBT could strengthen the social well-being of their communities, and we were able to use this input in developing the plan.

We have put together a number of new initiatives that link to the goals in our strategic plan. We began a three-year partnership with the Enterprising Non-Profits program and the Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-op. We were also pleased to partner on a number of affordable housing projects throughout the region, including in Cranbrook, Golden and Nelson.

As an organization, CBT is fortunate to be in a position where we can look at common issues across our region, and work with diverse groups to support the development of solutions to those issues. Over the next few months, we will continue to explore how we can best assist communities with the range of social issues they face, such as the availability of child care.

We also recognize the Basin is currently facing challenging economic issues. We have been working on setting goals for CBT that will allow us to strengthen the economic well-being of the region. Those goals will be part of an economic strategic plan; watch our website for more information in the coming weeks.

@ www.cbt.org/initiatives
1.800.505.8998

CBT entered into a new partnership this year with Enterprising Non-Profits (enp), a program that assists non-profit organizations planning for or operating a social enterprise.

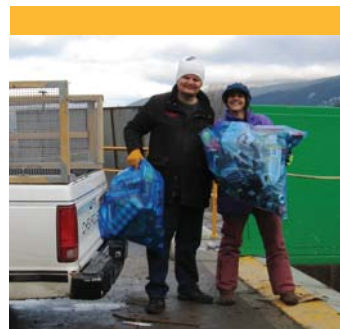
“Non-profits told us they needed a variety of tools and resources to help them become more sustainable,” said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. “enp understands the unique issues facing this sector, and will help Basin non-profits get the assistance and advice they need to be successful.”

enp provides grants of up to \$10,000 to non-profit organizations in BC that are interested in starting or expanding a social enterprise business. CBT will support this program with \$285,000 over the next three years.

“There are a growing number of non-profits who are looking at social enterprise as a business model and we know that when non-profits adhere to business principles they can be successful and sustainable,” said David LePage, Program Manager, enp.

Rona Park, Executive Director for Nelson CARES Society, said her non-profit organization profited immensely from the guidance and support of enp.

“enp can help people explore the idea of social enterprise. As a non-profit you don’t have money sitting in the bank where you can say,



Nelson CARES Society started a successful social enterprise in Nelson called Earth Matters Recycling Service. In photo: Ryan Woiken and Hope Bernhard.

“let’s just try this out and see what happens.” enp gives you the option to explore and to see if your organization is ready for social enterprise or how to get ready,” explained Park.

“I believe social enterprise presents an exciting future alternative for non-profits - we have to be more entrepreneurial,” continued Park. “Creating a social enterprise can give an organization the flexibility and revenue to be able to respond to a broader range of community’s needs.”

Katherine Hough, Vice Chair of Community Council of the BCSPCA East Kootenay Branch attended an enp workshop in Cranbrook intrigued by the program’s “blended return” message (an investment return of financial and social value) and a need for her organization to look at social enterprise to support their projects.

“I was impressed,” she said. “They made it easy to understand how vital every step of the process is and they’re here to assist with every step along the way.”

enp workshops also define the realm of social enterprise, referring to business ventures operated by non-profits that sell goods or provide services in the market for the purpose of creating a blended return. Workshops take place across the Basin and also include a mix of speakers and possible investors, providing an instant network for non-profits.

enp is a partnership of nine funders including: CBT, Coast Capital Savings, United Way of the Lower Mainland, Vancity Community Foundation, Vancity Credit Union, Vancouver Foundation, Western Economic Diversification Canada, Northern Development Initiative Trust and one anonymous funder.

@ www.enterprisingnonprofits.ca

Working on Affordable Housing

One objective identified in CBT’s Social Strategic Plan is to create access to housing expertise in the Basin to assist communities in planning, project management and dealing with housing developments.

CBT realizes it is only as strong as its relationships with others in the community and we have been building relationships with a number of provincial and local groups that support housing in their communities.

Some of the housing projects we funded over the past year include:

- Sponsoring the Nakusp and Area Affordable Housing Symposium, in partnership with Village of Nakusp, BC Housing and Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation.
- Providing \$100,000 to the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) for second-stage housing and support-services project for women in Cranbrook.
- Supporting CMHA and City of Nelson with \$150,000 for the development of a 30-unit housing development for seniors or older adults.
- Contributing \$80,000 towards the College of the Rockies, Golden Campus and the Town of Golden’s undertaking in creating an off-campus, six-student housing facility.
- Supporting an Accessible Housing Forum through the Community Futures Development Corporation in Trail.

@ www.cbt.org/social



CBT increased the number of Youth Community Service Awards from 20 to 45 this year, valued at \$2,000 each.

CBT is fortunate to be in a position where we can look at common issues across our region, and work with diverse groups to support the development of solutions to those issues.

Community ‘hub’ opens its doors

In April the Crawford Bay Elementary-Secondary School, East Shore Fitness Place and East Shore Family Place became a testament to how having a common vision, dedication and cross-community connectivity can make residents in isolated locations realize they can create their own legacy.

For the past five years the communities of Boswell, Gray Creek, Pilot Bay, Crawford Bay, Kootenay Bay and Riوندell have fundraised and campaigned to have a new school and multi-use facility built in Crawford Bay.

Leona Keraiff, along with a group of individuals from each of the six communities, formed the East Shore Community Facilities Committee and set their goal of building a new school and creating a neighbourhood hub that would fill a void in the area’s infrastructure and speak to the residents’ needs.

“It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to receive funding for a new school in the community, and when the opportunity came around we wanted to take full advantage of it. We knew we wanted to make it much more than a school and envisioned something the whole community could share and

participate in and use,” explained Keraiff.

The group organized community forums and held fundraising drives, and with the help and support of local families and businesses, corporate donations, and in-kind contributions from contractors and suppliers, the group raised \$870,000. The Province provided \$12.7 million, for the school while CBT provided \$200,000 toward the multi-purpose centre.

The facility houses kindergarten to Grade 12, a two-storey fitness and multi-purpose centre and a child care and family resource centre. The school is also the first in the province to meet a gold level in LEED standards for environmental stewardship.

“This project was about partnerships,” said Keraiff. “This project made us realize we can look after ourselves and create the facilities that suit our communities’ unique needs so we don’t have to go to larger centres such as Cranbrook or Creston. Being acknowledged by CBT in its funding support validated our efforts for this project and it made us realize that even though it is easy to feel forgotten, we are recognized and we can make a difference for our communities.”

The East Shore Fitness Place and East Shore Family Place will be used for extra-curricular education, cultural and artistic classes, social gatherings and fitness classes. This space will be open to everyone in

the community and will aim to connect multiple generations and residents from the various communities.



An East Shore Community Facilities Committee member celebrates the opening of the Crawford Bay multi-use facility, pictured above.

Business Counselling, Scholarships and Training Programs

Basin Business Advocates (BBA)

BBA provides free one-to-one business counselling on a range of business issues including marketing, sales, financial management, human resource management, succession planning and business expansion.

Community Service Awards

CBT offers Youth and College Community Service Awards – scholarships for Basin residents based on community service rather than academic standing, valued at \$2,000 each.

Training Fee Support

This bursary-style program promotes access to education or training through a one-time \$800 grant. Delivered by employment assistance service centres across the Basin, applications are accepted year-round.

@ www.cbt.org/programs

📞 1.800.505.8998



Basin Literacy

CBT doubled its support for Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) activities to \$1.2 million over the next three years.

“CBT is proud to be able to increase its support and provide certainty and stability to CBAL, allowing them to build effective and quality programs and networks,” said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. “Literacy skills are vital to the health and well-being of our communities and CBAL creates a range of opportunities for residents

to embrace language and learning through literature, socialization and education. We hope this renewed partnership will support CBAL’s continued efforts in achieving greater literacy in this region.”

CBT has been partnering with CBAL since its inception in 2000. Starting with five literacy programs, CBAL now operates 115 successful literacy programs in 16 Basin communities providing residents with access to programs in reading, writing, early language learning, English as a second language support and computer literacy.

“CBAL is very fortunate to have had the

support of CBT in order to build a strong and sustainable literacy framework for communities in the Columbia Basin,” said Ali Wassing, Executive Director of CBAL. “Our coordinators have established strong networks and partnerships to provide the programs and events that educate people about the importance of literacy and support community actions related to literacy. Working together we have been able to help people of all ages realize the impact that even a small increase in literacy can have in their lives.”

CBAL operates programs throughout the Columbia Basin.

@ www.cb.al.org

In Your Community

The **Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Programs** are CBT’s largest and longest running programs. This year the programs will be supporting communities with \$3.3 million, a portion of a three-year \$10 million commitment.

The **Community Development Program** is another community-based granting program. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis and adjudication is done throughout the year.

See what projects are being supported in your community by searching online.

@ www.cbt.org/fundedprojects



Basin youth at CBT's 2007 Youth Forum in Kimberley.

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

CBT Youth Forum Connects Youth from Across the Basin



DANA WELSH
Youth Liaison

I am very happy to be highlighting some of the initiatives that we have been involved in over the past year. The overarching goal of our program is to increase youth engagement in the Basin. This year we achieved a variety of our objectives by supporting Basin youth in developing program and strategies to address their assets and needs, supporting youth skill development, leadership and capacity building, and enhancing the ability of Basin youth to be engaged community members.

We also supported Basin youth in identifying their needs within their community and created an opportunity to do action planning around that vision. It was a theme throughout the year and that culminated in CONNECT, our Basin Youth Action Forum. Another way we worked with young people to develop their community vision is through a youth-led, all candidates forum for the municipal elections in Trail. We had the chance to work with a variety of local government officials to envisage their youth-friendly community.

This past year we sent youth representatives from the local community foundations to the Community Foundations Canada conference in Montreal. Those youth were inspired and motivated and returned to their community foundations with plans for action. We also had the opportunity to be a key part of the BC Rural Summit in Revelstoke.

We strive to encourage youth to be engaged community members throughout all of our initiatives at CBT. We are continually reaching out to communities that have not previously been involved in our youth projects. In this upcoming year we are planning on producing resources that can assist community organizations with their skills in youth engagement, mentorship and evaluation.

@ www.cbt.org/youth
1.800.505.8998

Columbia Basin Trust hosted its sixth Basin Youth Action Forum: CONNECT, from April 3-5 in Roseland. The forum brought together approximately 90 youth from across the Basin to create social networks and to create individual action plans on how to become more engaged through projects in their communities.

"This year was amazing because of the dedication of all participants," said Dana Welsh, CBT Youth Liaison. "The various ways in which they will be able to implement their

learning is so diverse and exciting. Those ideas were coupled with amazing mentors that will really help make things happen."

Throughout the weekend, youth attended workshops to help build their skills in getting started on their community project. Workshop options included writing grant applications, communicating messages, public engagement, facilitating meetings, promotion of a news story using traditional and non-traditional media, and a session on recognizing what is holding participants

back from starting their project and initiating change in their communities.

The event was facilitated by a group called Apathy is Boring, a national non-partisan project that uses art, media and technology to encourage active citizenry, outreaching to a broad demographic of youth about how to be more involved in their communities.

Watch the five-minute video of participants talking about their experience at the Forum.

@ www.cbt.org/2009youthforum

SCRATCH

Earlier this year CBT re-launched its youth-driven magazine, SCRATCH.

The magazine now sports a new size, format and attitude after an extensive evaluation and consultation process with Basin youth.

"SCRATCH magazine provides a forum for youth to share their art, ideas and experiences with each other," said Dana Welsh, CBT Youth Liaison. "The magazine is created by and for youth as a way to examine issues in their lives, and propel their creativity forward through sharing and we are excited that so far this new format has been well-accepted by readers in the Basin."

Basin youth can get involved in the magazine in three ways:

- submit works of art, poetry, photography and editorials on health, travel, community initiatives and volunteerism via CBT's youth website, www.scratchonline.ca;
- get involved with the SCRATCH editorial committee, which reviews and selects feature submissions for each edition; and
- share the magazine with friends and let them know about this opportunity to have their work published.



CBT is also looking for community mentors and reporters to take part in SCRATCH.

"We would love to find a youth reporter who could write articles on topics that interest and inspire youth as well as adult mentors who are willing to volunteer their time to assist youth in producing the best possible articles, art or poetry for submission to SCRATCH Magazine," said Welsh.

@ cbtyouth@cbt.org
1.800.505.8998

CATCH SCRATCH

The 13th issue of SCRATCH magazine is available right now. Read articles written by Basin youth on how to buy a car that won't leave you on the side of a road, family abuse and standing up for yourself, the importance of agricultural education and more. A list of locations where SCRATCH can be found is available online.

@ www.scratchonline.ca



“The skills I learn at workshops and events allow me to be a more effective employee and my involvement on the YAC has made me aware of different methods that I can employ to best serve my local community.” Jordan Osioy, Youth Advisory Committee member

PROJECT HELP

Through Project Help, Mount Sentinel Secondary students are connecting with their community.

From building a bus shelter and attracting local artist Ron Mulvey to creating murals for the inside, to inviting the elementary schools to join them in planting trees alongside the high school’s sun-beaten South side to create a natural environmental cooling system, to cleaning-up highway refuse, to creating mountain bike trails in Beasley, to providing free firewood for seniors - Project Help’s legacies are impressive.

“There’s a tremendous amount of community support,” added Jethro Herring, grade 12 Project Help member. “It’s not that people recognize you, but they will ask questions (about things they’ve seen in the community) and when they realize you were part of that, they’ll thank you for it. Some really notice the bike trails, while others really notice the bus shelters. It’s been good to have this experience and to inspire others and to be able to create change.”

CBT has contributed \$28,500 over three years to support Project Help’s community service initiatives.



YOUTH IN RADIO

In 2008 CBT supported Creston Valley’s CIDO 97.9 FM radio in an exciting project to enhance youth-driven programming.

The CIDO 97.9 FM radio team decided to create a program that would allow youth to participate at all levels of production on the show as a way to:

- expand it’s presence in the youth community;
- teach youth about opportunities in broadcast and entertainment; and,
- empower youth to realize their voices are important and appreciated by the greater listening audience.

CIDO 97.7 FM believes a vibrant community depends on access to a broad range of information, perspectives, and voices and hopes to foster this spirit by telling the untold stories of locals by showcasing local artists and musicians, and by covering issues and events from the perspectives of the citizens involved.

“The station’s goal when setting up this project was to expose local youth to radio media as a career choice, to allow youth to have a voice in community radio, and to provide participants the opportunity to expand their artistic and technical abilities,” said Jackie Fisher, the station manager at the time. “The Program focuses on various aspects of radio media, including show creation, interviewing skills, and technical skill building. It is exciting to see many local youth committing their time and energy to this project.”

Youth Programs

- Columbia Basin Youth Grants
- SCRATCH Magazine
- SCRATCH website www.scratchonline.ca
- Youth Centre Coalition
- Youth Advisory Committee
- Youth Forum
- Telelearning
- Youth engagement knowledge sharing
- Youth Community Service Awards

YOUTH PROFILE



Jordan Osioy has been a member of CBT’s Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) for two years.

Osioy said he joined the YAC after returning from a year abroad. In that time, he realized that while he’s had the chance to travel extensively, he knew little about the Basin.

The YAC consists of 12 members, 15-29-years-old, who meet in various communities one weekend every other month to review grant applications, discuss priorities, and participate in professional and personal development workshops.

“The skills I learn at workshops and events allow me to be a more effective employee and my involvement on the YAC has made me aware of different methods that I can employ to best serve my local community. Since I joined, I find myself more aware of various youth opportunities and service organizations in my community.”

Osioy says his experiences on the YAC has strengthened his ability to better understand and communicate with students in his career at Cranbrook’s College of the Rockies campus.

“YAC is made up of all types of people. Our interests are diverse and part of our strength comes from the fact that we are all so different,” said Osioy. “The ideal YAC candidate should have a willingness to learn, a strong interest in helping their communities and the patience to work with many different personality types and leadership styles.”

YAC is currently accepting applications for new membership. Deadline to apply is June 30, 2009.

cbyouth@cbt.org

www.scratchonline.ca

Help Plan CBT’s Youth Water Forum

CBT is planning to host a Columbia Basin Youth Water Forum. Still in the development phase, the idea is to invite youth from across the Basin to learn about water issues.

Potential discussion topics include the importance of water, the Columbia River Treaty and water conservation.

“Water-related decisions made today will affect the future of the Basin and youth that are engaged in these issues can participate and provide an informed perspective,” said Heather Mitchell, Program Manager, CBT Water Initiatives.

“Basin youth are leaders in our communities and will be instrumental in future decisions; therefore, it is essential they are involved so they can improve and protect water values in the Basin.”

CBT is in the process of forming a Steering Committee to plan the Forum. Interested in joining?

[@ www.facebook.com Columbia Basin Youth Water Forum](http://www.facebook.com/ColumbiaBasinYouthWaterForum)

[@ www.cbt.org/water](http://www.cbt.org/water)

[1.800.505.8998](tel:1.800.505.8998)



HEATHER MITCHELL
Program Manager,
Water Initiatives



Hiker at Eva Lake at Mount Revelstoke National Park.

PROTECTING OUR FUTURE

CBT Launches Water Smart



Being Water Smart

1. Install low-flow water efficient toilets, faucets and showerheads.
2. Repair leaky faucets.
3. Turn off taps when washing your hands, brushing your teeth, shaving or washing vegetables.
4. Take shorter showers.
5. Run dishwasher and washing machines with full loads.
6. Install a timer or an underground sprinkler system. Lawns and gardens only require five millimeters of water per day.
7. Collect rainwater to water your lawn and garden.
8. Sweep or rake your driveway or footpath; don't use the hose.
9. Xeriscape your yard.
10. Keep cold water in the fridge for drinking.

@ www.cbt.org/water

CBT has launched an ambitious program that is targeting a 20 per cent reduction in water consumption by 2015.

Working in partnership with local governments, CBT will develop community action plans to achieve this target.

"Water is the foundation of the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Columbia Basin and moving forward with water conservation efforts is key to ensuring a healthy and sustainable water supply is in place for future generations," said Kindy Gosal, CBT Director of Water and Environment.

Despite the apparent wealth of fresh water in the Basin, increasing human activities, population growth and climate change are



placing pressure on water systems.

In a 2004 survey, Basin residents acknowledged a need for water conservation measures.

Specifically, residents requested information and education on the quantity of water in the Basin, the costs of potable water, and information on the economic and environmental benefits of conserving water.

CBT plans to share water conservation resources, tips and provide support to Basin residents and communities interested in implementing water conservation measures.

@ www.cbt.org/water

Supporting Columbia Basin Wetlands

The Columbia River Wetlands are of international significance; they can be seen from space, they are the only free-flowing section of the 2,000 kilometre-long Columbia River, and they are recognized by the United Nations as a wetland to protect and use wisely.

CBT is committed to being a steward of the Basin's natural assets, that's why we are supporting a unique partnership dedicated to taking a proactive stance when it comes to the Columbia River Wetlands.

The Columbia Wetland Stewardship Partners have received a three-year \$60,000 commitment, which will allow the partners to undertake educational and stewardship activities.

"CBT's financial commitment creates stability and sustainability, allowing us to expand on our activities for residents in the communities surrounding the wetlands," said Bob Jamieson, Executive Director of the Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners. "The group has taken on a wide range of projects to further the management of the wetlands, as well as ensuring local communities and stakeholders are involved in the process."



"CBT is pleased to support this group of local people who are taking responsibility for a natural landscape they care deeply about."

Wally Penner
VP, Community Partnerships

The partnership is made up of 35 groups and agencies including federal, provincial and First Nation agencies, local non-government organizations, tourism and forestry industry representatives, and councillors, mayors and regional district representation from each of the communities along the wetlands.

"The Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners are protecting and strengthening our wetlands while addressing concerns with a positive, community-based approach," said Wally Penner, CBT's VP of Community Partnerships. "That's why CBT is pleased to support this group of local people who are taking responsibility for a natural landscape they care deeply about while involving the greater community in the discussion of how best to do this."

The Columbia Wetlands' 180 km system is one of the largest wetland complexes in the world stretching from Fairmont in the south, to Donald north of Golden in the north, along the Upper Columbia River.

@ www.cbt.org/water



CBT will work with local governments to help communities reduce water consumption by 20 per cent by 2015.

Kayaking on Slokan Lake near the Valhalla Provincial Park.

Over the last ten years, CBT has contributed \$2.25 million to land conservation efforts in the Columbia Basin.

Historic Conservation Efforts



Bear populations will benefit from CBT's conservation projects.

CBT's Land Conservation program ensures that important pieces of land are preserved to provide social, environmental and economic significance to Basin residents for future generations.

This past year CBT announced its largest funding commitment ever to a single land conservation effort, \$500,000 over two-years, in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada toward the stewardship of 136,000 acres known as the Darkwoods in the South Selkirk Region.

"As the largest, single private conservation project ever undertaken in Canada by a non-profit organization, and as the largest financial

commitment CBT has made in a land acquisition, this is an historic project," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "Our investment will help protect and maintain the ecosystems that prosper in that area, while also safeguarding the economic benefits Darkwoods brings to the surrounding communities."

This year, CBT also provided \$250,000 toward the purchase of the Valhalla Mile, a 155-acre private property adjacent to Valhalla Provincial Park. The land has been added to the Park, protecting the scenic, ecological, cultural and recreational values of the area. This project was undertaken in partnership with the Land Conservancy and the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology & Social Justice.

"This is a perfect example of charitable organizations like the Land Conservancy and Valhalla Foundations working with the provincial government (via BC Parks), the regional district, Columbia Basin Trust, and private citizens to develop partnerships necessary to acquiring environmentally significant land," said volunteer campaign coordinator Lorna Visser of the Valhalla Foundation. "We are delighted to see this piece of land added to Valhalla Provincial Park, expanding and helping to complete the park and most importantly, protecting a whole mile of pristine shore line."

CBT partners with the East Kootenay Conservation Program - a group made up of 46 different land conservation, industry and government organizations - to identify land conservation opportunities. CBT supports land conservation activities which are compatible with priorities of Basin communities.

Over the last ten years, CBT has contributed \$2.25 million to land conservation efforts in the Columbia Basin.

@ www.cbt.org/programs



The Valhalla Mile, 155 acres along the Slokan River was added to the Valhalla Provincial Park.



RICK ALLEN
Program Manager,
Environment

In March I started in a new position for CBT as the Program Manager, Environment. It has been a very busy and exciting spring for me learning the ropes, getting the granting program off and running, and beginning to implement CBT's new four-year

Environmental Strategic Plan.

My primary focus was to begin implementing recommendations from a 2008 evaluation of the Environmental Initiatives Program. We streamlined the application process to create a single point of contact for all project applicants and to make it easier for some of the smaller, local groups and organizations to access and take advantage of the available program funding.

In addition, I'll be working toward implementing the Environmental Strategic Plan, developed with input from a number of people and dedicated volunteers on the Environmental Advisory Committee.

CBT is working to achieve the four identified goals: to strengthen Basin-wide ability to meet environmental challenges (community environmental capacity building); to encourage education and awareness for all generations about Basin ecosystems and associated human interactions (knowledge and learning transference); support for positive environmental action with the Basin, leading where appropriate (corporate responsibility and guidance in environmental issues) and to promote understanding of organizational activities to reduce environmental impacts in the Basin (best practice replication).

Our environmental programs include: Land Conservation, Environmental Education and Environmental Initiatives. CBT's efforts have been very successful over the past few years and I look forward to helping groups and individuals continue to make a difference in our Basin communities.

@ www.cbt.org/environment

1.800.505.8998



Columbia Valley Botanical Gardens and Centre for Sustainable Living Community Greenhouse in Invermere.

Sustainable Living Through Innovation

Plant one seedling and you might grow a tree to provide your family with fresh fruit. Plant a few more seeds and your neighbours may get some. But if you bring together a community to plant a few thousand seeds, everyone reaps the benefits of fresh produce throughout the entire year.

Sounds like a big task, but that didn't intimidate the Columbia Valley Botanical Gardens and Centre for Sustainable Living Community Greenhouse in Invermere.

With the support of a \$115,000 grant from CBT, the Community Greenhouse hopes to showcase how to produce food locally and economically. As an educational greenhouse, the facility will host horticulture, climate change and environment, energy conservation, water conservation, resources conservation

and food security courses for residents.

Housed on the grounds of Invermere's David Thompson Secondary School, the greenhouse partnered with the Chef Training Program where students will be involved 'from the ground up' in the production of healthy food choices. The produce from the greenhouse will be served to all students at the high school as healthy lunch options created by the chefs in training.

CBT has been hearing a lot about food security in the Basin; that's why we are exploring the issue further this summer to determine if there is a greater role CBT can play in this area.

@ www.cbt.org/projectsfunded



East Kootenay stream.

ACTING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Communities Adapting to Climate Change Wraps Up Pilot Projects

Communities Adapting to Climate Change is an initiative that aims to help Basin communities increase their resiliency to the impacts of climate change at the local level.

CBT launched the pilot project of this initiative last year, working with the City of Kimberley and the District of Elkford to identify potential impacts and assess local vulnerabilities to climate change, and then develop adaptation strategies.

“This initiative is a learning process: learning about climate change, learning about how your community is affected by the environment and the potential changes in the future, and learning how to work with experts and how to apply research to community planning,” said Kindy Gosal, CBT Director of Water and Environment.

Supported by a Communities Adapting to Climate Change Advisory Committee with members and institutions including First Nations, provincial and federal governments, academic institutions, Basin residents and CBT staff, and by a peer-to-peer Learning Network, the Initiative takes a holistic approach to adapting to climate change in the Basin.

“We couldn’t include every community in the extensive process; the Learning Network was created so any community who applied to participate would still be able to benefit in taking the same steps towards creating climate change adaptation processes and benefit from the experience. Members of the Learning Network can take this information and apply it in their own communities, or use it as a jumping board for how to start their own project to create a community plan,” said Gosal.

CBT is supporting this initiative to help communities plan for their future. As a result of these two community projects, local governments are now thinking about future climate change impacts in their decision making.

Participants have commented they are making a difference and contributing to building resilience in their community and they are able to take action locally, while learning

broadly from two very different approaches taken by Elkford and Kimberley.

Karen Gorecki, Megan Walsh and Jeff Zukiwsky are project consultants for the District of Elkford, and have been working with the District to plan a climate change adaptation strategy and integrating that strategy into the new Official Community Plan (OCP). Gorecki said community response has been supportive.

“The community has been very open to learning about climate change. We found approaching it from the OCP was a good fit, because from that perspective you look at how the strategy will save the town money by risk management, so it opens a dialogue with people that perhaps before you wouldn’t have reached.”

The framework for Elkford’s OCP is coming together and they have clustered the Guiding Principles adopted by Council into four theme areas to organize the objectives and policies: a progressive and engaged community; a vibrant, liveable community; a dynamic living and working landscape; and creating resilient infrastructure and diverse opportunities.

In Kimberley, project coordinator Ingrid Liepa said the initiative provided tools to continue building towards a resilient community and region.

“The project attracted incredible talents to work with us and create tools for us, which will now also be available to other communities in the Basin. It really was about setting the stage to build even more opportunities and it was very valuable,” said Liepa.

Kimberley will also be applying its action plan to its OCP. Liepa said the plan includes short and long term goals and can be divided into four categories: municipal infrastructure; natural hazards; tourism; and actions around water and forests.

Their reports will be online in July 2009.

Watch for new communities to be announced later this year.

[@ www.cbt.org/climatechange](http://www.cbt.org/climatechange)

Our Local Climate is Changing

CBT has made it a priority to help Basin residents understand climate change and how the predicted changes will impact you, your family and your community.

CBT worked with the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium from the University of Victoria and a number of other government and academic institutions to research historical and future predicted climate change impacts in the Basin. More research will take place in the fall.

By understanding what the important local sensitivities are and how you may be affected, you can start to understand how to increase your community resiliency and adapt to these changes.

TEMPERATURE CHANGES

Temperature changes are already affecting the Columbia Basin. In the last century the average temperature in the Basin has increased by 1.5 degrees; most of this warming has happened in the last 30 to 50 years. Summers are getting a little warmer, but winters are getting a lot warmer.

CHANGING STREAM AND RIVER FLOWS

Research shows lower water levels in streams during the summer and higher levels in the winter. Between 1984 and 1995 spring runoff occurred 20 days earlier than it did between 1970 and 1983.

MELTING GLACIERS

Glaciers have shrunk on average 16 per cent based on a 15-year period ending in 2000. The Slokan and Bull River watersheds lost 47 per cent and 60 per cent of total ice area respectively.

MORE RAIN, LESS SNOW

Results from five Basin weather stations show increases in rainfall up to 45 per cent (1913 to 2002). The greatest reduction in snowpack is at lower elevations. Research has shown that between 1950 and 1997 snowpack declined by 20 to 40 per cent in the entire Columbia Basin.

[@ www.cbt.org/climatechange](http://www.cbt.org/climatechange)



Glaciers like the Columbia Icefields in the Columbia Basin have shrunk on average 16 per cent.

Taking Aim at Corporate Emissions

CBT has partnered with the Regional Districts of East Kootenay, Central Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary to develop a Kootenay Carbon Neutral Action Strategy.

The strategy supports local governments and First Nations to reduce their emissions and become carbon neutral by 2012 with three steps: Measure – Act – Lead.

The first step is to measure emissions. This is currently underway for the three regional districts, 29 municipalities, and five First Nations through The Sheltair Group, and the Community Energy Association (CEA). Education is also currently being provided to elected officials and staff on carbon neutrality.

The next step is creating action plans for the regional districts and action templates for the First Nations and municipalities. The most important piece is implementing the plans.

Leading involves acting and taking responsibility for any remaining emissions through offsets.

CBT is acting as a convener and facilitator in a supportive capacity to the regional districts by providing strategic advice, technical expertise, administrative support and funding in the amount \$140,000.

[@ www.cbt.org/climatechange/carbonneutral](http://www.cbt.org/climatechange/carbonneutral)



Temperature changes are already affecting the Columbia Basin and that means changes in the future for you and your community.

“Reduce is the first action in the ‘reduce, reuse, recycle’ mantra. Somewhere along the way we seem to have forgotten that and we’ve just been focusing on the recycling efforts.” Tracey Saxby, Executive Director of Greener Footprints

Creating Change One Person at a Time

Inspiration can be catching. Ideas can spring from an individual starting a conversation with another and finding fuel to add to their cause, which then leads to action. When matched with hard work and a support system, that one idea can become a movement felt across a group, community or region. This is the case of Greener Footprints, a grassroots organization created by Tracey Saxby and Anna Young.

Greener Footprints has been inspiring residents in Basin communities to eliminate the use of plastic bags for the past two years. The organization has been engaging the public, schools, media, retailers and local governments, and ultimately has achieved remarkable success by making connections.

“Reduce is the first action in the ‘reduce, reuse, recycle’ mantra. Somewhere along the way we seem to have forgotten that, and we’ve just been focusing on recycling efforts,” said Tracey Saxby, Executive Director of Greener Footprints. “Our communities need to start reducing waste, and reducing our use of plastic bags is a great first step.”

Saxby and Young started their plastic bag free campaign in Rossland in 2007, taking the idea to the Chief Administrator Officer of Rossland and then to City Council. Before her presentation to council, Saxby rallied support and worked to raise awareness on the importance of one less person using plastic bags.

“Canadians use nine to 15 billion plastic shopping bags every year. The average plastic bag is used for five minutes to carry your purchases home, yet these single use plastic bags can take up to 1,000 years to break down, creating waste management problems, devastating natural environments, killing wildlife, and perpetuating an acceptance of overconsumption as a right,” said Saxby.

When the time came to present her initiative to council, Saxby had credible research and residential and retail support behind her. Council passed the initiative and provided support of \$1,800.

Greener Footprints partnered with the schools and created an art contest to create the community’s reusable bag. Teachers and students were educated about the problems of plastic bags and their impact on the environment.

“As part of this the students drew posters illustrating the problems plastic bags cause, or the alternatives to plastic bags, and we put these posters up

around town. This has been a really cool part of the campaign, because the students are so excited to see their posters everywhere, and of course they encourage their parents to bring their reusable bags to the store too,” said Saxby.

The bags are distributed free to all households and provided to retailers to sell instead of using plastic bags.

One year after starting the process in Rossland, the city had reduced its plastic bag usage by 75 per cent and 95 per cent of local retailers were involved.

“There are such obvious solutions to plastic bags, and it really makes a difference. It just takes a commitment to change your habit. This is something that you can do to make a difference, and you can start today,” said Saxby.

Currently Greener Footprints are active in 16 communities and Saxby is in the process of creating a toolkit for other communities looking to implement this idea. New bags have been designed for 2009, reflective of the individual communities using the bags.

CBT supported this initiative with nearly \$30,000 since 2007.

@ www.greenerfootprints.com

@ www.cbt.org/fundedprojects

Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

1. Install programmable thermostats.
2. Use compact fluorescent light bulbs.
3. Replace outdated appliances and office equipment with EnergyStar approved equipment.
4. Turn off your engine while you wait.
5. Drive less; walk, cycle or carpool.
6. Buying a new vehicle? Consider the most fuel-efficient option.
7. Use a cloth bag.
Let us know you read this here and get a free CBT cloth bag. Call 1.800.505.8998
8. Install timers or use underground sprinklers.
9. Use low-flow shower heads and toilets.
10. Buy locally grown fruit, vegetables and meat.



Three students, Clara, Maya, and Kaiya, creating plastic bag reduction posters at the French school in Rossland. Photo by Michele Desjardins.





INVESTING IN THE BASIN



JOHNNY STRILAEFF
VP, Investments

Over the past year CBT's Investment team has been actively developing the Private Placements portion of our Investment Portfolio. This includes CBT's involvement in real estate, direct

lending to Basin-based businesses, and participation with Basin credit unions in loan syndication opportunities.

By investing in these different areas we are able to generate financial returns, while also connecting with local businesses and communities.

A series of meetings have been held with potential business advocates throughout the Basin to develop a referral network for investment opportunities. By connecting directly with key contacts, we have been increasing awareness of CBT's interest in Basin-based business.

In building these important connections, CBT may become directly involved with financing, or may act as a facilitator, to match business needs with potential financing sources. For example, CBT was approached to assist a small business with funds to meet a growth opportunity. While the investment did not meet our criteria, CBT introduced the business to two other lenders, who together provided the capital to help the business purchase the needed equipment.

[@ www.cbt.org/investments](http://www.cbt.org/investments)

[1.800.505.8998](tel:18005058998)

Building and expanding Seniors' Care Facilities

CBT continued to expand its investments in seniors' care facilities over the past year.

Currently CBT has ownership interest in eight seniors' care facilities in the region, offering a total of 803 living suites with a range of services depending on the needs of residents.

This past January, the doors opened for residents of the new Mountain Side Village facility in Fruitvale. The 53-suite independent living facility offers a caring, safe and welcoming atmosphere for seniors and their families.

In Nelson, CBT is anticipating the completion of Lake View Village later this year. This

facility will make 90 units available to seniors in the surrounding area.

"We invest in these properties not only because they provide positive, long-term value to CBT's investment portfolio, but we also realize that excellent senior's care and housing is a growing concern for Basin communities and we believe this is a way CBT can make a tangible impact for many families," said Johnny Strilaeff, CBT VP of Investments.

CBT recently announced the addition of 33 new units at Castlegar's Castle Wood Village, which will bring this facility's total number of units to 110 – making it the largest independent and assisted living community in the West Kootenay.

All eight facilities are joint-venture partnerships with Golden Life Management and offer terrific amenities and services to residents such as a chef-prepared meals, social activities and entertainment, 24 hour emergency monitoring, housekeeping, transportation, fitness classes, library, a games room, a hair salon and a computer lab.

To reserve a space or to learn more about any of these facilities, contact Golden Life Management.

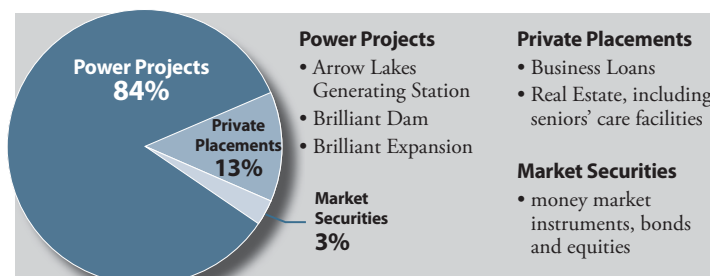
[@ www.goldenlifemanagement.ca](http://www.goldenlifemanagement.ca)

[@ www.cbt.org/investments](http://www.cbt.org/investments)



Mountain Side Village employee Cathy Halifax serves snacks to a visitor and resident.

CBT's Investments



"This new helicopter will mean more business that will sustain me through the recession."

Duncan Wassick
President and CEO,
Dam Helicopters Inc.

CBT's Private Placements investments are made in Basin-based commercial businesses by way of direct ownership (equity) or business lending (loans).

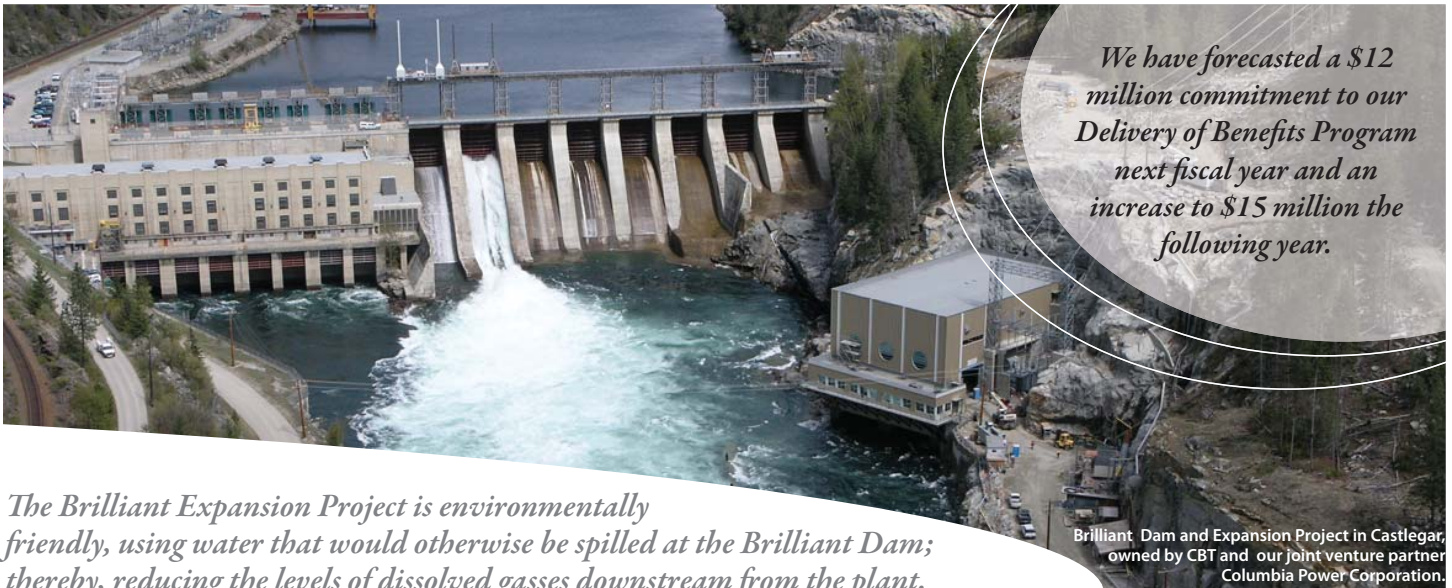
Over the past year CBT has seen a number of great business opportunities. One such investment was in Dam Helicopters Inc.

Based in the West Kootenay, Dam Helicopters Inc. performs a wide range of missions. It is the Kootenay Heli-Rescue Society's partner in rescues, transport and searches; fire fighting; utility work; and sight seeing tours.

This year CBT invested in the business' plan to purchase a new helicopter that would provide more flexibility in the types of services it could provide, increasing efficiency.

"This new helicopter will mean more business that will sustain me through the recession. It also means more air ambulance work and an extra engine that increases the level of safety," said Duncan Wassick, President and CEO of Dam Helicopters Inc. "Without CBT this would not be possible."

[@ www.damhelicopters.com](http://www.damhelicopters.com)



We have forecasted a \$12 million commitment to our Delivery of Benefits Program next fiscal year and an increase to \$15 million the following year.

The Brilliant Expansion Project is environmentally friendly, using water that would otherwise be spilled at the Brilliant Dam; thereby, reducing the levels of dissolved gasses downstream from the plant.

Brilliant Dam and Expansion Project in Castlegar, owned by CBT and our joint venture partner Columbia Power Corporation.

Financial Review and Forecast



CHRISTINE LLOYD
Director, Finance and Operations

This was an exciting year for CBT as we increased direct funding benefits to Basin residents and communities by nearly 70 per cent over the previous year, disbursing \$9 million. We committed \$12 million for Delivery of Benefits activities this year and expect this number to increase in future years.

CBT experienced strong financial performance in 2008/09 with total revenues increasing to \$24.1 million from \$23.4 million in 2007/08. This increase is primarily attributed to an increase in power project revenues.

Operating expenses increased by \$427,000 with most of this increase relating to additional staff resources. In addition to new staff within corporate administration, two new Program Managers were hired

in the Environment and Water program areas, which aligns with our identified strategic priorities.

CBT recorded an unrealized loss on Market Securities of \$2.8 million in 2008/09 due to the negative returns experienced throughout the equity markets. We will remain engaged with our external investment manager and expect a modest improvement to this portfolio in the coming year.

In 2009/10, revenues from Power Project

investments are forecast to increase with all three power projects expected to operate at full capacity. Revenues from Private Placement investments are expected to have moderate growth as two new seniors' care facilities become operational.

Over the past year, we took a number of steps to improve the management of our corporate operations, including the implementation of formal financial management and human resources policies.

CBT continues to have offices located throughout the Basin, which allows our staff to provide support directly to their communities and to connect and act as a resource to residents and groups. This past year our Golden office relocated to a more accessible location in the downtown core of Golden. I encourage you to drop by to say hello and see the newly renovated office.

Over the next year, we will continue working on our internal systems and frameworks, including those related to carbon neutrality, information management, and organization-wide risk management and strategic plans. Our attention to our internal operations will ensure that we are well-placed to return benefits to Basin residents for years to come.

@ www.cbt.org

1.800.505.8998

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as at March 31, 2009 (in thousands of dollars)

Assets	2009	2008
Current	\$25,909	\$40,563
Investments	\$472,538	\$456,695
Other	\$32,112	\$27,257
	<u>\$530,559</u>	<u>\$524,515</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current	\$29,075	\$28,538
Long-term Debt	\$125,497	\$128,246
Net Assets	\$375,987	\$367,731
	<u>\$530,559</u>	<u>\$524,515</u>

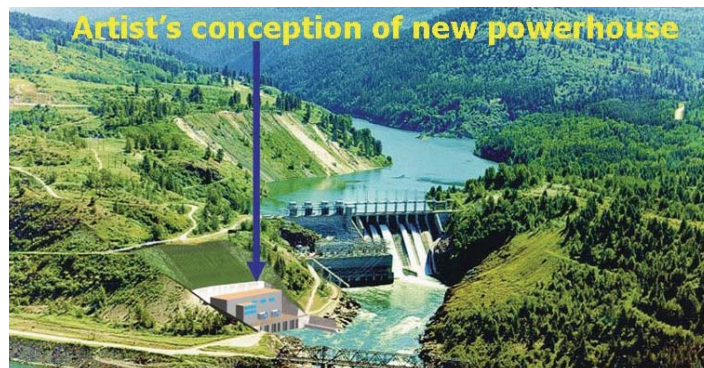
Consolidated Statement of Operations for the year ending March 31, 2009 (in thousands of dollars)

	2009	2008
Revenues	\$24,117	\$23,382
Operating Expenses	\$4,931	\$4,504
	\$19,186	\$18,878
Recoveries	\$804	\$713
Income Before Other Items	\$19,990	\$19,591
Unrealized Loss on Market Securities	\$2,758	—
Delivery of Benefits	\$8,976	\$5,350
Excess of Revenues over Expenses	<u>\$8,256</u>	<u>\$14,241</u>

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Waneta Expansion Quick Facts

- The proposed Waneta Expansion Project includes the construction of a 10 kilometre long, 230 kilovolt transmission line.
- The project is environmentally friendly, using water that would otherwise be spilled at the Waneta Dam; thereby, reducing the levels of dissolved gasses downstream from the plant. The project also generates power with zero greenhouse gas emissions, compared to the 500,000 to 600,000 tonnes that would be produced by burning fossil fuel.
- An Energy Purchase Agreement is currently being negotiated with BC Hydro. This Agreement establishes a price for the energy and would reflect the cost to build the facility, the volume of output, the cost to finance it,



and CBT's and CPC's required rate of return for investment.

- The Entitlement Agreement to be negotiated with BC Hydro establishes a fixed annual

volume of energy and capacity to be provided by BC Hydro in exchange for directing operation of the plant and receiving actual output.

@ www.cbt.org/investments

Our Annual Report provides additional information on our investments, report on performance, and financial statements.

It will be available mid-July.

Watch www.cbt.org or call 1-800-505-8998 to request a copy.





CONNECT WITH US



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Community Liaison
Northeast Basin



Jennifer Krotz
Community Liaison
Southeast Basin



Lynda Lafleur
Community Liaison
Northwest Basin



Wayne Lundeberg
Community Liaison
Southwest Basin



Map representing CBT's region.

CBT exists to strengthen the well-being of the Columbia Basin, and works with the communities of the region to accomplish this. Not all communities are the same, so CBT plays a variety of roles in the region.

Whether at a town meeting, or an arts council, or a social planning network, or over coffee in the kitchen, CBT is interested in meeting and working with the many communities that make up the Columbia Basin.

Community Liaisons work out of each of the Golden, Cranbrook, Nakusp and Castlegar offices. These Liaisons are responsible for developing relationships in their home-base community and the surrounding area.

They help communities access funds, and serve as resources when communities are working through issues and taking action.

Connect with us!

In Your Community

Last year, CBT funded over 800 projects and initiatives throughout the Columbia Basin. All projects and descriptions are available on our website where you can search by your own community.

@ www.cbt.org/projectsfunded

Stay Connected

Subscribe to *BASINLink*, CBT's bi-monthly electronic newsletter which includes:

- Board of Directors meeting highlights;
- recently funded community projects;
- upcoming events and deadlines;
- news releases;
- announcements;
- feature stories on projects and initiatives.

@ www.cbt.org/subscribe

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Win a CBT Prize Pack!

Simply fill in the enclosed survey card or visit www.cbt.org/R2R2009feedback and let us know what you think about the 2009 Report to Residents; you'll be automatically entered into a draw for a CBT prize pack.



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