

Our **trust**

A Report to
Residents in the
Columbia Basin
2017/18 • FREE

History Revitalized

Preserving heritage
buildings

Planting the Seeds of Success

Growing agriculture
in the Basin

Beyond Dollars

Impact Investment
Fund takes off

**GET
ACTIVE!**

Get moving on one of
our regions trails!

Check out the map on
page 18-19.



Inside

THIS ISSUE



31

Generating Returns

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



14

Stepping Forward for Seniors

Slocan Valley residents take action on affordable housing



12

History Revitalized

Kaslo's aging city hall gets preserved for the future



9

Planting the Seeds of Success

With a little nurturing, agriculture in the Basin is steadily growing



Get Active

Get moving on one of our region's trails

18



20

Beyond Dollars

Businesses find the support they need thanks to their beneficial impacts



ON THE COVER

In Photo: Imogen Smith
Photo Credit: Colin Payne

The Nelson Food Cupboard, featured on the front, received a Social Grant to support the development and operations of a garden project that will grow fresh produce for the Nelson Food Cupboard Society.

OUR WORK

4

Our Thoughts

Message from the Chair and CEO

5

Snapshots

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

16

By the Numbers

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

22

Putting #Nakusp on the Map

Residents join forces to shape the community's future

24

A Catalyst for Economic Growth

Partnerships key to i4C's success

26

Growing Our Wetlands and Grasslands

Three projects are helping restore ecologically crucial areas

28

Connecting Kootenay Lake

A submarine fibre optic cable will expand the reach of high-speed Internet

30

Developing Tomorrow's Workforce

Thanks to a wage subsidy, an electrical company powers up its staff

34

Continued Growth

The Trust's financial report

35

Columbia Basin Trust Information

How to get in touch and more

Columbia Basin **trust**

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Our Thoughts

message from the chair and ceo

The Columbia Basin region has so many stories to share. We hear them every day. We are part of them every day. We are your Trust, and in this magazine we help share those stories.

Because every project, every new program, starts with a story. Without people, without organizations and communities working together, bringing their experiences and aspirations forward, we wouldn't have a story to tell. Columbia Basin Trust exists to support your efforts to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being.

We listen to you and play our part as the stories unfold, but they belong to you. In *Our Trust* magazine, we profile stories from all parts of the Basin, from communities of all sizes and from people of all ages. Each one is having a positive impact in its community. Each one is helping create that legacy.



Rick Jensen

Big or small, the projects and programs reflect your priorities. In 2016/17, we delivered \$51.5 million in benefits to residents and the region, including:

- \$39 million through programs and initiatives
- \$2.5 million invested in capital infrastructure
- \$10 million in new business loans and real estate investments.

From projects under \$5,000 to programs over \$6 million, the Trust works with you on what is important to you. That brings benefits to all of us.

With your input, we are moving forward with new ways of delivering benefits and meeting the needs of the region. Working together, we are finding new ways to adapt and thrive. The Columbia Basin Symposium in October 2017 will be all about adapting and thriving in our changing economy and changing environment. We anticipate great things will come out of bringing community members together at the Symposium to share their ideas.

Our Board of Directors and staff, our advisory and adjudication committees, and our partners all share in this larger story, and we are grateful for their commitment and contributions. We are also grateful for the long-lasting contributions of Neil Muth, who served as President and Chief Executive Officer from 2005 to his unexpected passing in fall 2016. His engagement with the communities and people of the Basin helped build the foundation upon which we continue to achieve successes today.

We hope you enjoy reading about so many achievements happening throughout the Basin.

Rick Jensen
Chair, Board of Directors

Johnny Strilaeff
President and Chief Executive Officer



Johnny Strilaeff

In his new role as President and CEO, Johnny Strilaeff relies on his experience as a Basin resident and his work with the Trust over the past 12 years.

"Having lived here most of my life, I understand the Basin," he says. "I have relationships in all of our communities, each of which has its own identity."

Johnny was born and raised in Castlegar. He joined the Trust in 2005 and has been involved in every aspect of Trust business in a senior leadership role. He became President and CEO in 2016.

"The Trust supports people and communities in the Basin to adapt to challenges and to change. It's an honour to continue to serve a region that I love."

Snapshots

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

Teaching through tradition

Early childhood education students who wanted a program founded on ?Akisq'nuk values, beliefs and traditions had a unique opportunity to train locally this year. With Trust support, 12 students piloted the **Eva Joseph Learning and Cultural Society Entry to Early Childhood Education** program in **Windermere**, which helped address shortages in the child care workforce. "This is the only formal training I have ever taken that incorporated my community's traditions, nutrition and beliefs," says Glenda Joseph, student and ?Akisq'nuk community member. "We use natural materials, twigs, charcoal, dried meats and berries as supplies in our classroom and in the community playgroup we designed for the Columbia Valley."





High-flying rescues

When Transport Canada required equipment updates for helicopter search and rescue equipment, the **Fernie, Golden and Nelson** teams turned to the Trust. “The new kits will allow these teams to continue to function at the level they currently do. Also, the area of the province the Fernie team covers is now receiving a new rescue service,” says Nick Comstock, **Golden and District Search and Rescue**, who helped organize the Trust-supported purchase. Over the past five years, the Trust has supported 16 search and rescue projects, to a total of nearly \$550,000. For example, Fruitvale renovated its facilities, Cranbrook replaced some of its equipment, Nakusp bought a new command vehicle and Creston bought a boat.

Preserving a local oasis

Residents of **Meadowbrook** near Kimberley banded together to protect the area surrounding Cherry Creek Falls. The result was a **new day-use regional park**. The group formed in 2011 after a proposal to build a rock quarry adjacent to the falls spurred them into action. Working with the Regional District of East Kootenay and with Trust support, the group raised the funds required to create a 40-acre park and parking lot. Now the falls will be preserved for generations to enjoy.



The future is here

Electric vehicles will soon be a viable option thanks to **Accelerate Kootenays**. This new initiative will see 13 Direct Current Fast Charging stations installed by December 2018. Also, 40 Level 2 stations are planned for highways 1, 3 and 95, creating a robust charging station network that will connect Basin communities. The two-year project is a collaboration between the regional districts of East Kootenay, Central Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary and is facilitated by the Community Energy Association. It is being supported by the Trust, the Province, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, FortisBC and BC Hydro. It will drive tourism, make it feasible for Basin residents to drive an electric vehicle and ultimately reduce carbon emissions in the area. “This project demonstrates how a collaborative approach will benefit the entire Kootenay region,” says Rob Gay, Board Chair of the Regional District of East Kootenay.



Giving voice to the next generation

Having fun while learning to become leaders, networking and expanding their sense of community: this is what youth from around the Basin did while attending events in **New Denver, Rossland, Creston, Elkford** and **Golden** in May 2017. The events were hosted by the Trust-led **Basin Youth Network**, which supports 28 community youth networks, helps communities increase activities and opportunities for youth aged 12 to 18, connects youth more with each other and their communities, and supports activities based on local priorities.

Waste not, want not

The Revelstoke community is keeping food out of landfills and putting food into tummies instead. In 2016, the Community Connections Society in **Revelstoke** started its **Food Recovery Program**, which recovers perfectly good food that's about to be thrown out from places like grocery stores. Since then it has collected over 45,000 kilograms (100,000 pounds) of food and distributed it to community agencies and families in need. Now, with Trust support, the society has hired a dedicated program coordinator to source even more nutritious foods, improve the distribution system and help people make smart food choices on limited budgets.





Tiny Lights—big fun

A music festival unlike any other, the Trust-supported Tiny Lights festival in the West Kootenay village of Ymir (population 370) boasts seven historic venues and over 100 performances in three days. Festival-goers can enjoy top-notch performers in intimate environments, plus take part in hands-on workshops for adults and children focusing on music, spoken word, theatre and film. As the festival proudly boasts, “This is where magic happens.”

Sustainable recreation at Koochanusa

The **Koochanusa area** is important for its natural and cultural values. Its beauty and recreational opportunities also attract many users—which has had some unintended consequences, such as damage to sensitive ecosystems and disturbance to wildlife habitats. The Province, Ktunaxa Nation Council, Tobacco Plains Indian Band, the Regional District of East Kootenay and the Trust created a **new strategy** that aims to tackle these impacts on Crown land. Key actions include educating users through signage and printed materials; adding natural resource officers; creating an inventory of roads, trails, camping sites and staging areas; and continuing to engage with local groups. The goal is to foster more sustainable and responsible recreation, safeguarding Koochanusa for generations to come. Read the full strategy at koochanusarecreation.ca.



With a little nurturing, agriculture in the Basin is steadily growing

PLANTING THE SEEDS OF SUCCESS

By mid-June, vibrant green Simpson and Red Sails lettuce are ready to pick at Cranbrook's 3 Crows Farm, with Salanova and Romaine coming along soon. These are some of the Columbia Basin-grown greens, grains, meats and more that fill farmers' markets, supply restaurants, feed residents, attract visitors and provide a living to about 1,160 farmers.

Spread between 884 farms, the Basin boasted 104,710 hectares of agricultural land in 2016—about 4.7 per cent of such land in the province. Much of this is dedicated to alfalfa, while smaller portions produce hay and fodder crops, barley, fruit and berries, oats, corn and mixed grains. In the livestock industry, cattle and chickens dominate.

Although the period from 2001 to 2016 saw a decline of 15 per cent in the number of farms in

the Basin—particularly those that raise cattle and chickens—the number of farmers growing vegetables increased by almost 50 per cent. This led to a 27 per cent jump in vegetable production, while the area used to cultivate fruit and berries doubled in size.

Residents want to see a resilient and vibrant agriculture sector in the region, with access to Basin products. Columbia Basin Trust is committed to supporting this, whether this means providing technical resources to help farms become more productive and more profitable, providing agriculture-specific business development advice, improving access to markets, or helping a farm search out the financial help it needs.

On the following pages, read about a couple of farms that make our area proud.

Multiple plots for multiple benefits

Teamwork is key for 3 Crows Farm owners Christian Kimber and Michael Stevens, who combine urban and rural farming, sharing resources, skills and land to obtain the best from all scenarios.

Kimber, for example, gets two additional weeks in spring and fall on his urban plots in Cranbrook that Stevens doesn't get on his parcel about 10 minutes outside of the city. Urban gardens, on Kimber's property and yards borrowed from neighbours, also provide vital microclimates.

"If I've got a pest issue in one, I can grow arugula in another one and the pest simply won't be there," Kimber says. "I get less wind, less frost, less hail—I get more deer than Michael, though, in a funny twist of fate."

After living on all three coasts, Kimber moved to Cranbrook 10 years ago, thinking small-plot intensive farming could work well. Stevens was already growing his own food when the duo joined forces. They regularly sell out at the Fernie and Cranbrook farmers' markets, and supply 10 restaurants, with Kimber delivering by bicycle.

They grow lettuce mixes, squash, garlic and microgreens. Modest indoor operations extend the growing season, but capital to expand operations is

limited. The farm could also benefit from access to irrigation consultation, soil and water testing, and rentable equipment for small beds.

Even so, their unconventional farming method has proven its worth. "We're getting five times the amount of produce in a square foot than conventional farming," says Kimber. "Our alliance as farmers allows us to have diversity."



Left to right: Michael Stevens and Christian Kimber of 3 Crows Farm in Cranbrook.

ZOE FERGUSON, (OPPOSITE PAGE) COLIN PAYNE

NEW! Kootenay and Boundary Farm Advisors program

Helping farmers address challenges is where the new Kootenay and Boundary Farm Advisors come in.

The advisors work with producers to identify their needs and connect them to the most relevant and useful resources in a continually evolving network of agricultural specialists and experts. Have a question about fruit trees, soil, pests or irrigation? Here's where to find information about these issues and more.

The services are free and open to agricultural producers working toward commercial viability in the regional districts and the Trust region.

The new program is a partnership between three regional districts—East Kootenay, Kootenay Boundary and Central Kootenay—and the Trust.

kbfa.ca





Left to right: Angela Weir and Gord Spankie of Crooked Horn Farm, located in the Slocan Valley.

Living the dream

Farming skipped her mom’s generation, but Angela Weir happily rejoined the fold when she and Gord Spankie started Crooked Horn Farm eight years ago.

“We can’t really pinpoint it, but we both kind of always wanted to be farmers, in our hearts or in the back of our minds, as young people,” she says. “We needed to do something really positive with our life and our work.”



Strategic Priority: Agriculture

Agriculture is one of the Trust's 13 strategic priorities. Recently, the Trust has:

- launched the [Kootenay and Boundary Farm Advisors](#) to provide agriculture technical services
- provided specialized advice to agricultural businesses through [Basin Business Advisors](#).

ourtrust.org/priorities

She worked in restaurants and he was a painter in Vancouver, where they were backyard and community gardeners. They eventually relocated to the Slocan Valley after a “fairly randomly chosen trip” with friends.

“We wanted to move to a community that valued organic food, rather than having to educate people about organics.”

Now they harvest 0.6 hectares of vegetables and salad mix, selling at the Nelson farmers’ market and to restaurants, stores and producers. They have summer help, but the couple does most of the farming and marketing, leaving little time to research challenges.

“Because we’re right off the river, there have been some interesting deposits of soil over the years. We go from very light and sandy on one side to heavy clay muck on the other, and everything in between.”

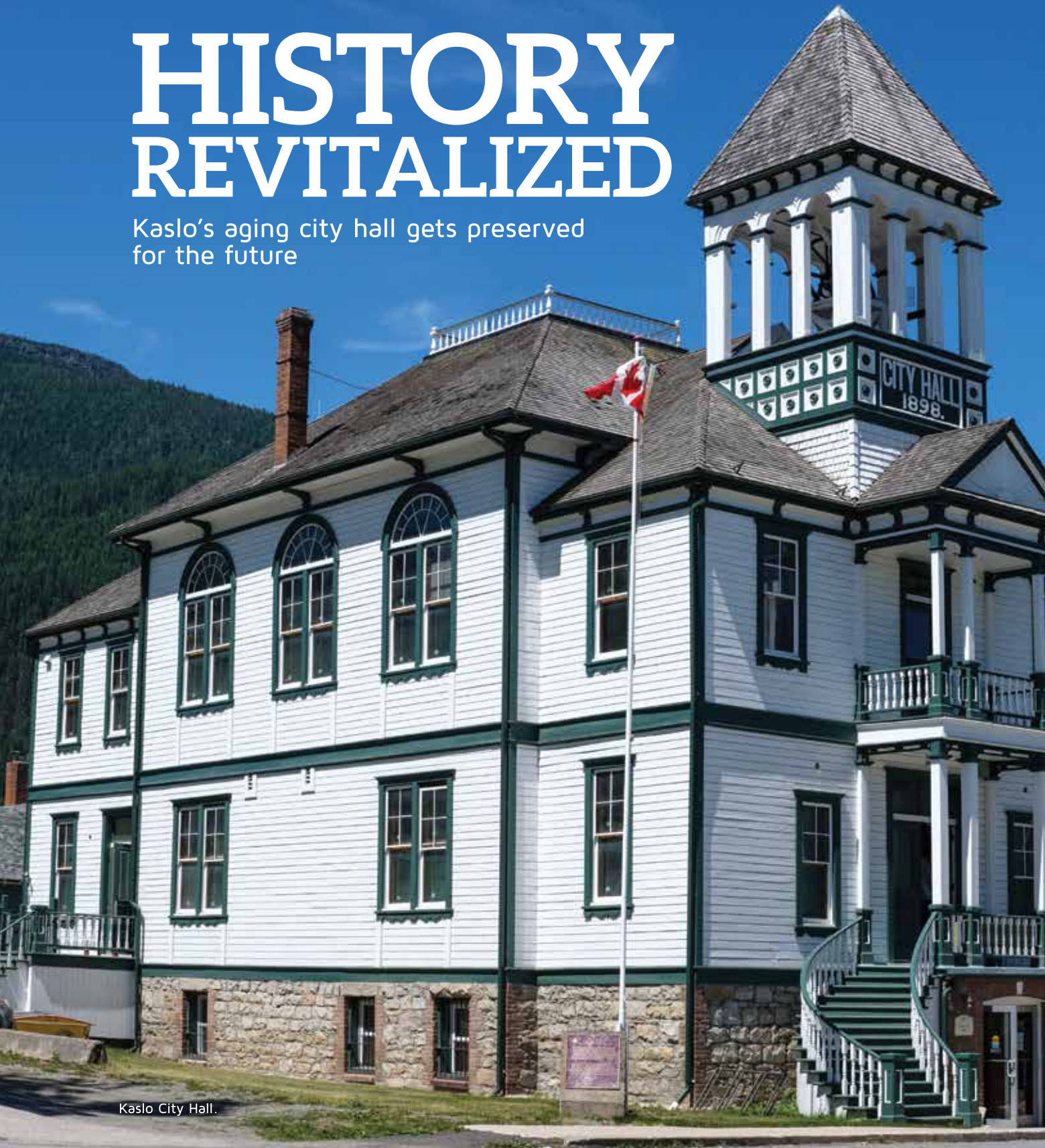
There’s no doubt in Weir’s mind, though, that they were meant to farm.

“Farming felt like a really immediate and natural thing for us to move toward.”

ourtrust.org/agriculture

HISTORY REVITALIZED

Kaslo's aging city hall gets preserved
for the future



Kaslo City Hall.

When silver was discovered in the West Kootenay in 1891, thousands of fortune-seekers swarmed to the area. The community of Kaslo formed and bloomed, and was incorporated in 1893. Five years later, it erected an impressive city hall.

Add 120 years and the building still stands—but is showing its age. To preserve this National Historic Site, the only so-designated municipal building in the province's interior, the Village of Kaslo is renovating city hall with help from Columbia Basin Trust.

“The heritage buildings of Kaslo are important to its identity, the tourism industry and its residents,” says Neil Smith, the Village's Chief Administrative Officer. As for city hall, “If we didn't do something soon, we were going to end up losing it.”

While renovations began about seven years ago, they revealed additional problems—such severe ones that the municipal offices were forced to move across the street. Although the Village had already finished renovations like weather-proofing the exterior and adding a geothermal heating system, it has now secured enough funds to complete the entire project.

While using money from the Union of BC Municipalities' Gas Tax Community Works Fund to renovate the municipal office floor, it is using funds from the Trust to refurbish the top floor: an impressive former courtroom with high ceilings and intricate plasterwork.

“There's really nothing much like it in the region,” says Smith. “It's an amazing space.” Once complete, this floor will be available to the community for activities like exhibitions and small gatherings.

The goal is to move back into the building by August 14, 2018: the community's 125th anniversary of incorporation. Finally, Smith says, city hall will again be “fulfilling its full potential. It will be the civic heart of the community restored to its former glory.”



Fernie Museum.

Safeguarding significant structures

By helping communities preserve their heritage, the Trust plays a role in keeping Basin history alive and maintaining the region's unique identity.

Over the years, the Trust has supported many heritage building renovations. Through its new \$6.15-million Built Heritage Grants, delivered by Heritage BC, it's helping groups and organizations protect and maintain heritage structures. So far the program has committed over \$1.4 million to 16 projects around the Basin.

The Trust has also committed to supporting heritage in the Basin by funding a new professional heritage position. Located in the Basin, this person will help groups and organizations build their capacities for conserving our heritage.

ourtrust.org/heritage



Strategic Priority: Arts, Culture and Heritage

Arts, culture and heritage is one of the Trust's 13 strategic priorities. Recently, the Trust has:

- implemented a new \$6.15-million **Built Heritage Grants** program and a three-year partnership with Heritage BC that also provides a heritage professional.

ourtrust.org/priorities

Stepping Forward for Seniors

Slocan Valley residents take action on affordable housing

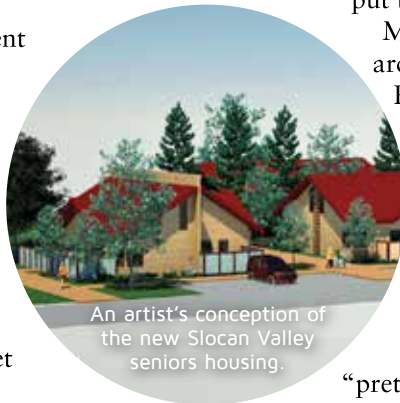
Through sunshine and drizzle, 91-year-old Lydia Kania was quick with the smiles as she hiked the Slocan Valley Rail Trail. For three days in fall 2016, she and about 90 other participants hiked or biked 47 kilometres, all the way from Crescent Valley to the Village of Slocan. The goal: to raise funds for new affordable housing for seniors in the Slocan Valley.

Out of the \$45,000 the event raised, Kania alone raised \$7,000. “I’m not afraid to go up to a person and ask them if they would donate, because I think it’s a good project.” Although she still lives in her own home, she says, “People that live in this valley, they don’t want to move to the city when they get so they can’t handle things.”

Thanks to so much support, seniors in the valley—almost 50 per cent of its population—will soon have a new option. The Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society plans to construct eight new affordable housing units in the Village of Slocan. This is in addition to the 10 units the society already offers in Passmore Lodge, which it opened in 1999.

“A lot of the people, as they age, can’t take care of their rural places or become very isolated, especially if they lose their ability to drive,” says Rita Moir, Society President. “Having eight affordable units of housing in the middle of a village, where they can walk to services, is going to make a tremendous difference to people’s lives.”

Supporters of the project include BC Housing and Columbia Basin Trust. The Trust works with communities and groups to help ensure Basin residents have access to affordable housing that meets their basic needs, while BC Housing helps provide a



An artist's conception of the new Slocan Valley seniors housing.

wide range of subsidized housing options across the province.

“Trust staff met with our Board several times, encouraged us throughout and have always been available when we asked,” says Moir. “They helped assess our society’s strengths and needs, respected our society’s capabilities and were able to confer as we put together our Slocan housing plans and budgets.”

Moir also notes the contributions of a landscape architect and many other professionals, the Regional District of Central Kootenay, the Village of Slocan and the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission, among others.

“People want to stay in their home communities,” says Moir. “And it keeps communities intact to have people of all incomes and age levels be able to stay where home is.”

As for Kania, she says the new housing project is “pretty near my heart. I think it’s wonderful what this valley is doing.”

ourtrust.org/housing



Strategic Priority: Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is one of the Trust's 13 strategic priorities. Recently, the Trust has:

- started creating up to 62 affordable housing units in five communities through a \$1.1-million commitment
- introduced the new \$2-million **Energy Retrofit Program** to improve energy efficiency and sustainability in non-profit housing; the first intake funded upgrades to over 500 affordable housing units in 13 communities
- allocated \$15 million over three years to create an additional 150 affordable housing units in the Basin.

ourtrust.org/priorities



Left to right: Sally Mackenzie, Sam Simpson, Ann Harvey, Karl Koerber, Rita Moir, Lydia Kania, Corky Evans and Margaret Parker.

Taking action on affordable housing

Families, seniors, students, adults with disabilities: people of all ages and walks of life contribute to vibrant, well-rounded communities. But sometimes these people have a hard time affording to live in our region.

Affordable housing is one of the Trust's strategic priorities. Among other tools, the Trust helps community groups develop their plans for affordable housing and provides grants to help these projects get built—resulting in over 400 units since 2009.

This year, the Trust introduced its new **Energy Retrofit Program**. It helps ensure that existing affordable housing units are maintained, cost-effective, energy-efficient and comfortable for residents. Among the first groups to participate in the program are the Aqanttanam Housing Society in Cranbrook, improving 18 family units, Fernie Family Housing, with 27 residences, and Valemount Senior Citizens Housing Society, with 13 residents. In total, 25 buildings in 13 communities, with over 500 units, received \$900,000 for energy retrofits.

ourtrust.org/energyretrofit

By the NUMBERS



5,050

The number of Columbia Basin students who have learned about entrepreneurship, financial literacy and work readiness through the **Junior Achievement British Columbia** program, introduced to our region in 2014 and supported by the Trust. ourtrust.org/jabc

3,517



The number of times Basin residents have accessed training opportunities over the past five years with support from the Trust's **Training Fee Support** program. The program's goal is to help residents increase their chances of getting jobs. ourtrust.org/tfs

28,750



As of August 2017, the number of watercraft inspected for invasive species through the **Invasive Mussel Defence Program**, a Trust-supported provincial program that has six inspection stations in the Basin. Invasive mussels were found and prevented from coming into BC waters on 17 watercraft. ourtrust.org/invasivemussels

92%



The percentage of organizations that partner with the Trust that say the Trust helps them make a **positive difference in their communities**.

\$5M



The amount of money delivered through the Trust's **Social Grants** over five years, which has helped realize 150 projects, train and educate 1,000 staff and volunteers, improve 300 child care spaces and give 3,500 seniors better access to community services. ourtrust.org/socialgrants

300



The number of organizations that have accessed our **Non-profit Advisors** program, which provides free assessments and subsidies for consulting support. Check out our free workshops happening this fall!

ourtrust.org/npa

930



The number of organizations strengthened since September 2013 through the Trust's **Basin Business Advisors** program, which provides free counselling and assessment services. ourtrust.org/bba

25



The number of buildings, totalling 500 units in 13 communities, that are receiving \$900,000 for energy retrofits through the Trust's **Energy Retrofit Program**. ourtrust.org/energyretrofit

NEW! Child care program to grow spaces

The Trust has launched a new three-year, \$3.6-million program to strengthen child care in the Basin.

The **Child Care Support Program** will help sustain and grow quality licensed child care with:

- \$3 million for Child Care Capital Grants to support improvements to existing facilities and construction of new child care spaces
- \$300,000 for early childhood educator training support to help fill workforce gaps and meet professional development needs
- a program advisor to support child care providers and help find solutions for common business challenges.

Early childhood and childhood development is one of the Trust's 13 strategic priorities. The program starts this fall with the first grant intake. See ourtrust.org/childcaresupport.



Community hub for generations to come

Members of the **Tobacco Plains Indian Band** will soon have a safe and welcoming space where they can access services and come together. The new **community hub** will house the band administration, a health centre, meeting spaces and a gymnasium, giving the community a place to gather and interact, play sports, exercise and access wellness facilities. In addition to the band and the Trust, other contributors include Ktunaxa Nation Council, the First Nations Health Authority, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and the BC Museums Association. Construction should be complete and facilities in use by late spring 2018.



Linking a village

The **Village of Salmo** constructed the 6th Street pedestrian bridge with support from the Trust's **Recreation Infrastructure Grants** program. The bridge provides a direct pedestrian link to both sides of the village, improving accessibility and safety and promoting physical activity. "It was truly a community effort to bridge this gap," says Diane Kalen-Sukra, Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Salmo. Other trails the Trust supported in Salmo include the Lost Mountain Trail and the Salmo Ski Hill Trail.





A grandfather and grandchild take a walk around the interpretive trails at Kokanee Creek Nature Centre.



Left to right: Mike Koolen and Todd Merrick on the new adaptive section of Butter Trail, near New Denver.

We hike on them, watch birds from them

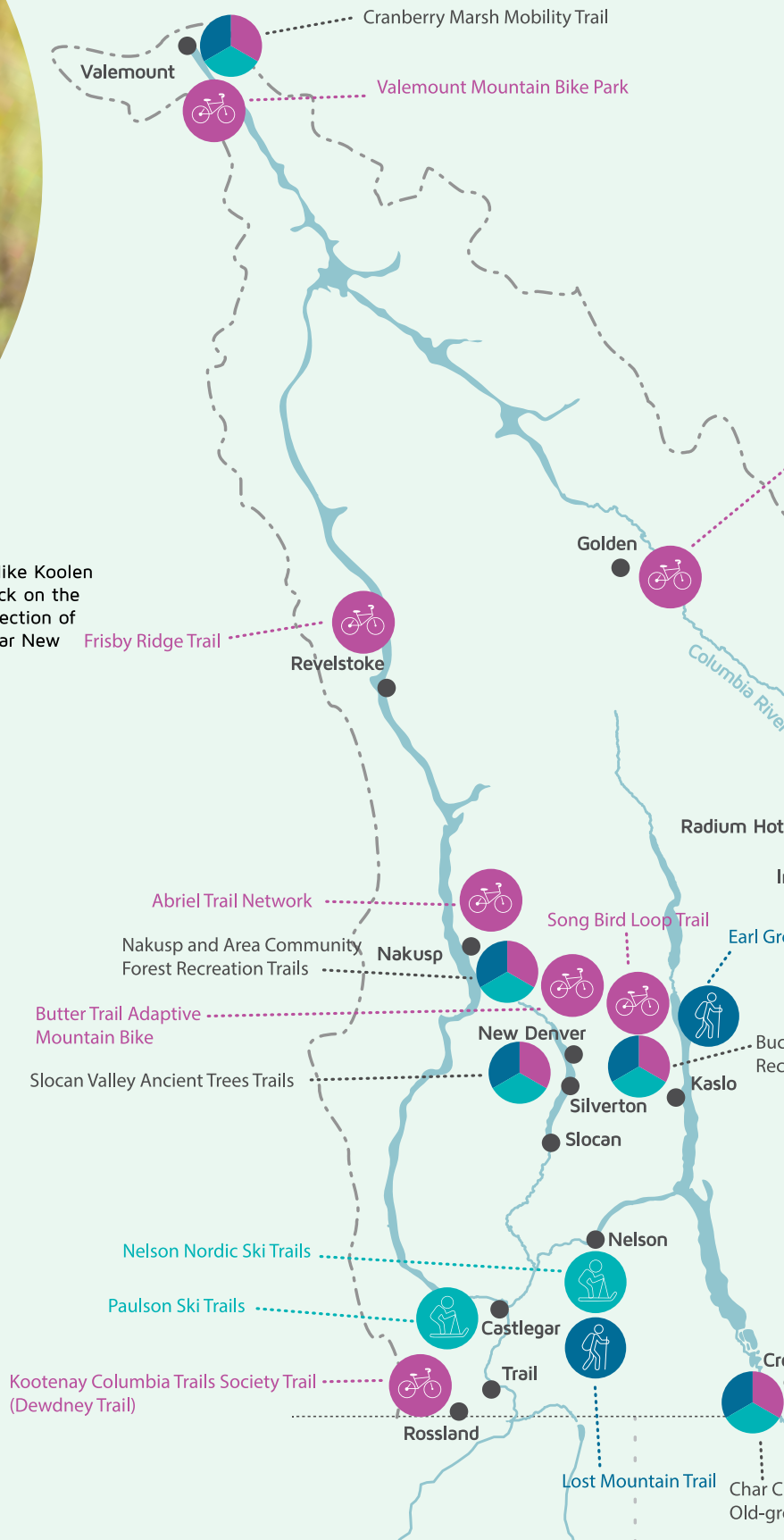
or get our hearts pumping on them. We lace up running shoes, place our feet on pedals or strap on skis. Trails help connect us to nature, our neighbours and ourselves.

For these reasons and more, residents in the Columbia Basin have voiced that trails and other ways to get active and lead more healthy lifestyles are important to them.

The Trust launched its \$9-million Recreation Infrastructure Grants program in 2016. Since then, over half the projects approved have focused on trails, enabling community groups to add or upgrade 222 kilometres on 43 trails.

The grants have also helped community groups build or improve 36 outdoor facilities like playgrounds, skate parks and pickleball and tennis courts; and 10 other facilities like riding arenas and gymnasiums. The final intake for the program opens November 2017.

ourtrust.org/rig



Note: This is a small sampling of trails supported by the Trust around the region. Check out your






Get ACTIVE

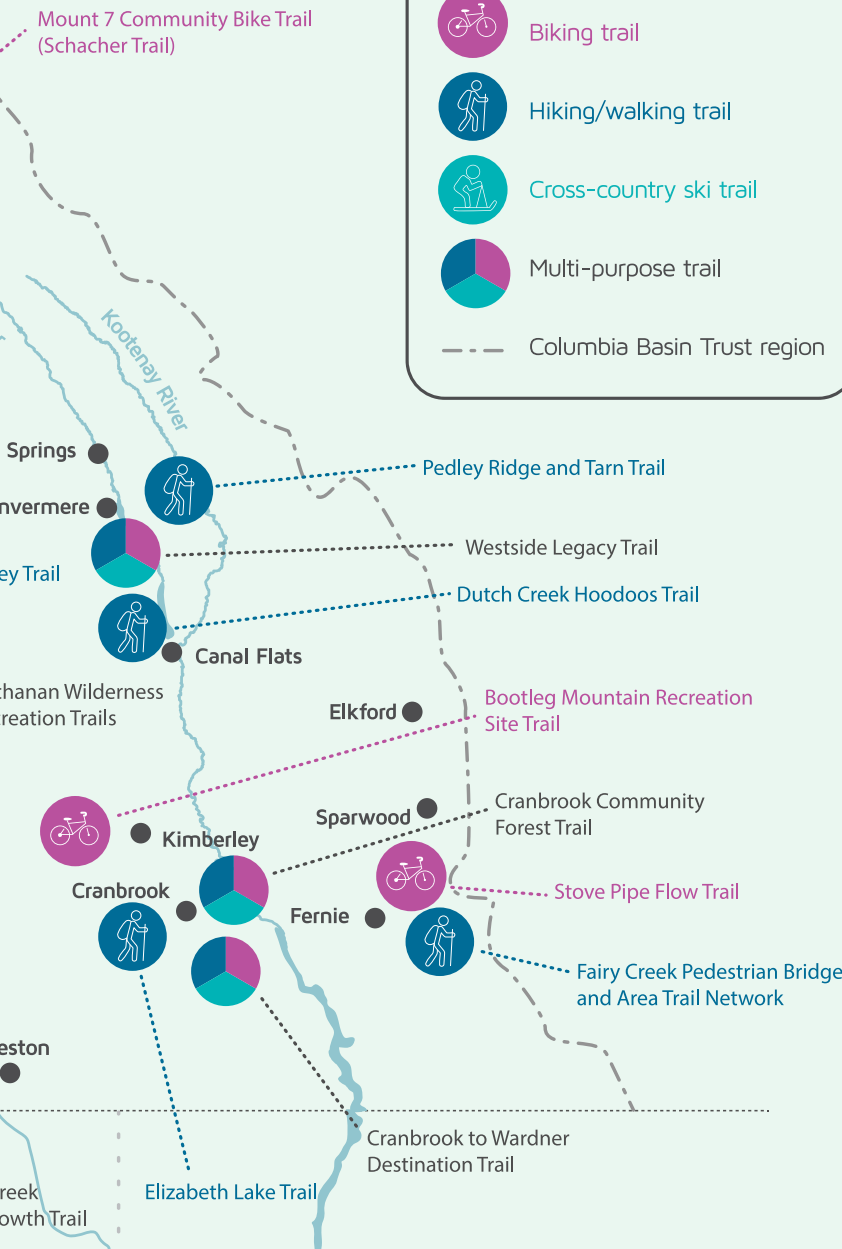
Get moving on one of our region's trails



Slocan Valley Rail Trail.

Map Legend

-  Biking trail
-  Hiking/walking trail
-  Cross-country ski trail
-  Multi-purpose trail
-  Columbia Basin Trust region



The Trust has also supported trails through other programs and partnered with the federal government to support trails and other community facilities through the government's Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program.



Strategic Priority: Recreation and Physical Activity

Recreation and physical activity is one of the Trust's 13 strategic priorities. Recently, the Trust has:


- provided \$6.3 million to 100 projects through its [Recreation Infrastructure Grants](#), launched in 2016
- hosted two trails-focused meetings to share information, discuss priorities and coordinate efforts.

ourtrust.org/priorities

our community website for more ways to get active on your local trails. Locations of trails are approximate.

BEYOND DOLLARS

Businesses find the support they need thanks to their beneficial impacts



Left to right: Deryk and Cameron Wenaus own Retreat Guru and Retreat Booking Guru, based in Nelson.

In 2015, Columbia Basin Trust announced its Impact Investment Fund. By the end of 2016, five businesses offering a variety of products and services received a total of \$850,000 in financing through the fund. This financing was used to start up new businesses, expand current businesses and secure new owners when former owners retired.

Delivered by Community Futures and Heritage Credit Union, the \$2-million program finances business opportunities that may not be eligible for conventional financing, but that benefit Basin residents and communities in some way. For example, the business may create jobs, address a community need, help the environment or support arts and culture.

Global reach, local talent

In India, a man trains to be a yoga teacher. Two dozen women gather to get “back to nature” at a tipi village in Oregon. A healing centre in Peru teaches guests about plant medicine. What do these have in common? Technology developed in Nelson, BC.

Brothers Deryk and Cameron Wenaus founded Retreat Guru and Retreat Booking Guru. The first is a website (retreat.guru) that enables the public to find retreat centres and teachers around the world, in areas

like yoga, meditation, wellness and more. The second is a platform that enables retreat centres to manage their enterprises, from registration, to assigning rooms, to accepting donations.

“Twenty-plus years ago I was doing a lot of retreats myself at Buddhist retreat centres,” says Deryk. “I was also a computer programmer, so I would help them build websites and really simple booking systems.” With his brother at his side, an expert in sales and marketing, the demand and business grew from there.

The Trust and Community Futures recognize that fostering technology is an important step for economic development and job creation in the region. With this in mind, they supported the brothers’ application to help finance the expansion of their business even further. Not only are they hiring more people, like sales staff, they’ve relocated to a renovated space in an old jam factory in Nelson. There, they offer co-working opportunities: for a monthly fee, independent workers and small businesses can rent workspace and access office amenities.

“The majority of our employees are hired locally,” says Deryk. “Also our investors are local. And the co-working is our way to hopefully stir up more local start-ups by giving them an incubator-type space where we can give advice and help them.”

Although their reach is global, and it may be easier to access resources and skillsets in larger centres, Nelson will remain their home. “We’re not moving this anywhere. We love Nelson and we’re staying put.”

purchase. “If it hadn’t been for them, we wouldn’t have been able to buy the shop,” Stephanie says.

Since the Symes took over in spring 2016, support for the business has continued to grow. “We’ve had some record sales. It’s been going really well.”

As a thank you, Speedy Glass hosted a customer appreciation night at the Salmo Ski Hill last winter. It not only drew 500 people for a fun night on the slopes, but raised about \$2,000 for the hill. The business also gives back to the community by supporting the hockey and baseball teams, Castlegar Sunfest and more.

Stephanie is very positive about the future. “The way things are going and how busy we’re getting, we’re probably going to have to expand within the next five years and hire a couple more employees.”

ourtrust.org/iif

New beginnings

Retirement for a business owner can be challenging. Not only do you have to re-envision your lifestyle, but you must decide what to do with the business itself.

When the former owners of Speedy Glass in Castlegar decided to retire, they had a plan. “My husband had been working for them for 12 years,” says Stephanie Syme, now co-owner of the business with her husband Lane. “They had already been working on a plan for him to take over the business, and that’s what he planned to do as well.”

One problem: traditional banks wouldn’t lend the Symes enough money to purchase the business, which repairs and replaces windshields. Although it had great sales and community support, the business didn’t have enough solid assets for the banks to use as collateral.

Knowing that business succession is a major issue in the region, and that this particular business created employment and offered an in-demand service, the Trust and Heritage Credit Union agreed to finance the

Is my business a good fit?

If your business offers positive social, environmental and/or economic benefits to our region and needs financial support, but isn’t able to secure conventional financing, this fund may be able to help. Contact your nearest Community Futures office or Heritage Credit Union.

Left to right: Stephanie and Lane Syme own Speedy Glass in Castlegar.



PUTTING #NAKUSP ON THE MAP

The Village of Nakusp.

Residents join forces to shape the community's future

It looked like an ordinary Facebook post: a snapshot of a flyer announcing a 2017 Valentine's Day contest at the Nakusp Hot Springs. The text encouraged viewers to "like" the page and share the post to win a night's stay at the on-site chalets.

Usually the Village-owned facility would have shared a contest like this only with locals. Instead, through the reach of social media, this message engaged with over 18,000 people and over 12,000 commented on or shared the post. While the page had been struggling to maintain 1,000 likes, it now soared to 5,700.

"We saw an immediate uptick in the sense of what our reach is and the kind of engagement we can get through social media," says Terry Welsh, the Village of Nakusp's Director of Recreation and Parks. "It's actually phenomenal."

Common ground

This foray into the power of social media is just one way the community of Nakusp is shaping its future.

The driving force behind this push is a process called the Nakusp Common Agenda, which residents began in fall 2014 and have continued with the ongoing guidance and dedicated staff support of Columbia Basin Trust.

While Nakusp is known for its physical beauty and welcoming people, the community has faced challenges. The population has fluctuated. There are fewer forestry jobs than there used to be. Like in lots of places, the many dedicated volunteers are getting burned out.

Facilitated by the Trust and overseen by the Nakusp and Area Development Board, a diverse group of people came together to identify a shared vision for Nakusp, collectively set priorities and identify concrete actions.

While some activities are being directly supported by the Trust, the Trust's role is broad: providing leadership, offering staff expertise, sourcing information, bringing in experts or gathering vital people together. Its aim is to listen carefully to the community's needs, then consider if and how it can help.



“All of our hopes and dreams rest on people coming here and falling in love with the place.”

– Laurie Page, Nakusp resident, former Chair of the Nakusp and Area Development Board and Trust Board member

Mayor Karen Hamling says the process has “given the community the ability to sit here and say okay, what is it we need, what do we need help with? What can we do now to move the community forward? It’s been huge for us.”

Turning ideas into action

Several resulting initiatives aim to draw people to the area and keep current ones here by enhancing the community and increasing the range of economic opportunities, recreational activities and other local assets.

The social media push is one example. Nakuspians were invited to attend a Trust-supported workshop put on by social media experts. Here they learned how to market the area through simple smartphone apps and the use of hashtags, and social media ambassadors continue to spearhead the #Nakusp efforts. The hot springs then contracted these experts to help them develop their own plans.

The community has also recognized the need to revamp its downtown. With Trust support, it explored possibilities through the Main Street Boost program of the National Trust for Canada, and has received additional support from the BC Rural Dividend Fund to develop a plan. It has also made its downtown

grants, initiatives and programs

more attractive by adding lighting to its waterfront walkway, a project overseen by the Rotary Club of Nakusp and supported by the Trust.

Another strategy focuses on trails. As hiking and mountain biking are important attractions, the community received Trust support to develop a Trails Master Plan. The community is also exploring how to improve the economy through forestry, industrial lands, improved Internet services and agriculture.

The team at the Nakusp Hot Springs is solidifying their plans on how to use social media as an everyday tool, knowing they are doing it for themselves and for the benefit of the whole area.

“We are not just marketing the hot springs, as there’s a lot to offer in our entire region, up and down the valley,” says Welsh. “We want to market the region and then look at the hot springs as sort of the cherry on the ice cream.”

ourtrust.org/community

Meeting communities where they're at

The Trust adapts its approach to supporting communities based on their unique needs. While many communities have a great deal of capacity and can engage with the Trust through its regular programs, others need more individual attention. This may mean the Trust helps out in a project’s final stages, or aids right from concept development. Sometimes the support is quick and simple. Other times it’s more complex and long-term—as it is in Nakusp, where the Trust has been working alongside the many stakeholders for nearly three years, helping them hone their vision and put it into action. Nakusp is just one of the communities benefiting from broader Trust support.



A Catalyst for ECONOMIC GROWTH

Partnerships key to i4C's success

Brian Fry was a Rossland tech entrepreneur

who was looking to bring his latest tech-based enterprise to life. Pilar Portela was the CEO of a tech company in Kelowna and fell in love with the Columbia Basin area. Columbia Basin Trust was initiating a new approach to how it supports economic development in the Basin.

The intersection of these three resulted in the Trust purchasing a large commercial building in the Waneta Industrial Park in Trail. Here, Fry and Portela, along with business partner Tim Dufour, established i4C Innovation.

Rather than producing items of its own, i4C Innovation runs a hub for businesses involved in the “Industrial Internet of Things.” To create their smart machines and associated technologies, these companies need high-tech facilities, and that’s where i4C is stepping in. In the new, Trust-owned building, i4C has created research and development rooms, high-tech labs and office spaces. Plus it offers business support services to help resident companies find success. It is now actively enticing high-tech businesses to move in and take advantage of this great new space.

Two months after leasing the building from the Trust, i4C had attracted two new tech businesses to the facility, creating five local jobs and five

telecommuting ones. Fry anticipates the building will be 50 per cent full with 15 to 20 jobs within its first year.

“We are moving quickly,” Portela says. “This area could see a cluster of tech companies. We want to be in front of economic development and help diversify the economy.”

“At the Trust, our approach to economic development is to help create opportunities that translate into actions, which then translate into jobs and growth,” says Johnny Strilaeff, Columbia Basin Trust President and Chief Executive Officer. “Working with people who are bringing their ideas to life is a great example of what we can achieve when we collaborate toward a common goal. Technology is evolving so quickly, and here we have the brightest minds and people who are trying to make our economy grow at the same lightning pace.

“It’s fascinating. It’s collaborative. It’s energizing. It shows how bringing all the right pieces together can advance economic development.”

The i4C hub is just one of the ways the Trust has supported high-tech development in the Trail area and elsewhere. It supported the MIDAS training facility in Trail; founded in 2016, this lab helps businesses and individuals research and manufacture product prototypes, among other services. The Trust

What is the “Industrial Internet of Things?”

These days, many everyday objects are connected to the Internet: from our cars, to our pedometers, to our fridges. This is called the “Internet of Things.” Instead of focusing on how Internet connectivity through these objects can improve our daily lives, the “Industrial Internet of Things” focuses on how the Internet can improve industry. For example, if the owner of a fleet of trucks places sensors in its vehicle tires, which then send the information back to a computer for analysis, that company can learn how to save fuel. Instead of shutting down equipment on a regular basis for routine maintenance, a manufacturing company can use smart machines that determine exactly when maintenance is required—and thus keep production flowing.

brought high-speed Internet to Trail, and continues to expand it throughout the Basin. In May 2017, the Trust participated in the Lower Columbia Initiatives Corporation’s launch of a new economic development marketing program called Metal Tech Alley.

Economic development is a priority across the Basin. With this in mind, the Trust created a new economic development strategic framework in 2016 and allocated \$20 million over three years to put it into action. This is enabling the Trust to take a more proactive role in growing the Basin’s economy.

Fry notes that no start-up would be able to purchase a building like the one in the Waneta

Industrial Park, so the Trust’s support was vital. Portela adds that they had to locate such a hub where people are already in the right trades and professions—such as metallurgical professionals and data scientists—and that Trail already had this because of existing businesses like Teck and ATCO.

“We want to show the Basin how to take advantage of this high-tech work,” says Fry. “Pilar researched towns and cities in the Basin and how these tech innovations can strengthen them. There is such an opportunity to work in tandem with communities and leverage what they know and what the businesses in our hub can offer.”

Portela adds: “We see i4C beyond a private business, where economic development across a region can achieve more than anyone on their own. This will be a success because of all the partnerships.”

“Because of the technology and the Trust’s investment in high-speed Internet, there are no limitations,” Fry says. “It’s a global vision.”

ourtrust.org/economic



Strategic Priority: Economic Development

Economic development is one of the Trust’s 13 strategic priorities. Recently, the Trust has:

- allocated \$20 million over three years to be a catalyst in economic development activities
- acquired an industrial building in the Metal Tech Alley, near Trail, for innovative commercial uses
- allocated \$1.1 million, as of September 2017, of its \$2-million [Impact Investment Fund](#) (see how businesses are benefiting from this program in “Beyond Dollars” on page 20).

ourtrust.org/priority

GROWING OUR WETLANDS and GRASSLANDS

Three projects are helping restore ecologically crucial areas

Our region is known for the grandeur of its mountains, lakes, rivers and forests. Yet wetlands and grasslands are also vital to its ecology.

For the Rossland Society for Environmental Action, located in the West Kootenay, this means taking on the job of rehabilitating the North Jubilee Wetland. This small urban wetland, once filled in and overgrown with grass, is now being returned to its natural state.

“The wetland is providing a home to the animals, it’s filtering our water before it goes downstream and it’s acting like a sponge to absorb runoff in the spring,” says society member Rachael Roussin. “It acts like a holding tank that releases water slowly over time, which is crucial to habitat.”

In the community of Tobacco Plains, located east of Koochanusa Reservoir, grasslands are important for wild and domesticated animals, traditional food and medicinal plants. This land used to be maintained by natural fires and fires set intentionally by the Tobacco Plains people. Since the advent of wildfire suppression, however, the grasslands are being taken over by forests. In 2016, the band launched a three-year project to start restoring this disappearing ecosystem.

“When it gets choked like that with small pine trees, nothing does well,” says Tom Phillips, Lands and Resources Manager for the band. “The grass doesn’t do well and the trees don’t do well because they’re so jammed in there.”

A similar project is under way in the Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor between Cranbrook and Kimberley. Carried out by the Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society, this project involves restoring 40

hectares of prime winter elk habitat, which is also being encroached upon by dense forests.

“We’re looking to get rid of the ingrowth established over the years and trying to encourage the natural grasses to come back,” says project coordinator Dan Murphy. “We’re using conventional logging but we’re doing it on frozen, snow-covered ground to protect the sensitive soils.”

By supporting on-the-ground projects like these, Columbia Basin Trust is helping improve the health of our natural settings—one of its strategic priorities. It also does so through other programs that protect grasslands and rangelands, tackle invasive species, conserve vital lands and more. Plus it’s launching a new \$10-million, five-year program that will undertake larger-scale projects to enhance the well-being of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

The goal is not only to restore the landscapes, but to ensure critical habitat for the creatures that rely upon them. Whether an elk, a badger, a kokanee or the hairy-stemmed, endangered plant called Spalding’s Campion, all species in the Basin need healthy homes.

ourtrust.org/environment





Strategic Priority: Environment

Environment is one of the Trust's 13 strategic priorities. Recently, the Trust has:

- created a new **Ecosystems Program** that will help maintain and improve ecosystem health and native biodiversity in the Basin
- launched a new three-year **Climate Action Program**, which supports community projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change impacts.

ourtrust.org/priorities

Left to right: Eva Cameron and Rachael Roussin from the Rossland Society for Environmental Action at the North Jubilee Wetland.

Connecting Kootenay Lake

A submarine fibre optic cable will expand the reach of high-speed Internet

The lakes and rivers of the Columbia Basin have connected the people of our region for centuries. These days, these waterways have become a new means of connection: as conduits for underwater cables that supply high-speed Internet to communities that otherwise might have to go without.

Because of its remoteness, the North Kootenay Lake area surrounding Kaslo has had to work hard to ensure residents have reliable access to this important service. The Kaslo infoNet Society (KiN) has been leading the way on bringing the latest in Internet service to the area for two decades.

“If better Internet can be brought here, it enables many services to come to us that would ordinarily be found in larger cities,” says KiN President Don Scarlett. “The Internet can be a key driver for economic development. It enables young people to come and stay here, and start families and do well.”

As part of its commitment to helping residents of the region fully take part in the digital world, Columbia Basin Trust first helped KiN bring basic fibre optic service to Kaslo in 2014 through its wholly owned subsidiary, Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation (CBBC). KiN then decided to tackle the challenge of how to bring a faster connection to the community and other communities along the northern half of Kootenay Lake.

Scarlett and his team came up with the idea of laying 36 kilometres of fibre optic cable underneath Kootenay Lake. This would connect to the main CBBC network in Balfour—and provide a nearly



Fibre optic cable.

“We’re looking forward to having the speed increase and being able to send images to clients via the Internet versus having to deliver them. I think it’s going to do wonderful things for our business and it will only improve with time.”

– Tammy White, Ainsworth resident and photographer with a home-based business



Seven hundred households and businesses will see faster Internet speeds, allowing more opportunities to learn, do business and stay connected.

The Trust is committed to helping residents in the Columbia Basin take part in the digital world. That's why we're working with communities and rural areas across the Basin-Boundary region to improve access to high-speed Internet. This initiative is being delivered by our wholly owned subsidiary, Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation.

limitless pipeline of Internet capacity to about 700 homes, from Ainsworth to Argenta.

KiN approached CBBC with the idea and CBBC stepped in to develop the project. It is using an innovative fibre design and new installation approach to laying cable under water, which will be more cost-effective than traditional underwater approaches or laying it on land. This method could also potentially

be used in other areas of the Basin where going underwater makes sense.

This project, which is also being supported by the Province of British Columbia through the Northern Development Initiative Trust Connecting BC Program, expands CBBC's 800-plus kilometres of fibre optic broadband network, and will have "points of presence" (places where Internet service providers can connect to it) in Ainsworth, Loki Lots, Pine Ridge and Kaslo. Through these attachments, KiN will have the broadband capacity it needs to expand its local network and improve wireless service to meet the growing demand. Design and permitting is done and the aim is to have the project complete in 2018, subject to construction timing.

"It takes a certain amount of fundraising and technical expertise, which is what CBBC is giving us," says Scarlett. "That is enabling us to bring massive bandwidth to a community that would otherwise have to make do with a very small allotment."



Strategic Priority: Broadband

Broadband is one of the Trust's 13 strategic priorities. Recently, the Trust has:

- connected 35 communities through its fibre optic network
- partnered with 13 local Internet service providers, regional districts and the Ktunaxa Nation Council to secure over \$5 million from the provincial and federal governments to bring high-speed Internet access to over 12,000 rural households in the Basin-Boundary region.

ourtrust.org/priorities

ourtrust.org/broadband

DEVELOPING Tomorrow's Workforce

Thanks to a wage subsidy,
an electrical company
powers up its staff

When business is busy, Aaron Lucke, owner of Wynndel Electric, needs a hand—but doesn't have time to train a new apprentice. During his quieter season, Lucke has time—but not the income to pay the new employee's wages.

That's where Columbia Basin Trust came in. The Trust's School Works program gave Lucke an \$8 per hour wage subsidy to hire Austin Ryter, an electrical apprentice studying at College of the Rockies.

"This subsidy allows time to train in slower parts of the year when a small business would otherwise not be able to invest in training," says Lucke. "Now, when it's starting to get really busy, he's fully trained, understands my expectations and knows how to stay safe."

Based in Wynndel, near Creston, Wynndel Electric offers electrical services to new and existing homes and businesses, with a focus on reducing energy consumption. This makes it a great place for Ryter to develop his skills. The apprentice is responsible for setting up job sites, assisting with electrical work and undertaking small tasks on his own.

Since 2012, the Trust's School Works program has helped businesses and organizations hire full-time students on a part-time basis during the school year. In 2015 the program expanded to include first-year apprentices: construction electricians, carpenters, heavy duty mechanics and automotive service technicians. Employers can hire apprentices full time, until they have all the hours needed to move into their second-year apprenticeships.

The Trust also offers Summer Works, which helps small businesses hire students over the summer. Administered by College of the Rockies, these programs are just one way the Trust helps the Basin maintain a diverse and resilient economy supported by strong businesses, a trained workforce and



Left to right: Aaron Lucke, owner of Wynndel Electric, and apprentice Austin Ryter.

sufficient job opportunities.

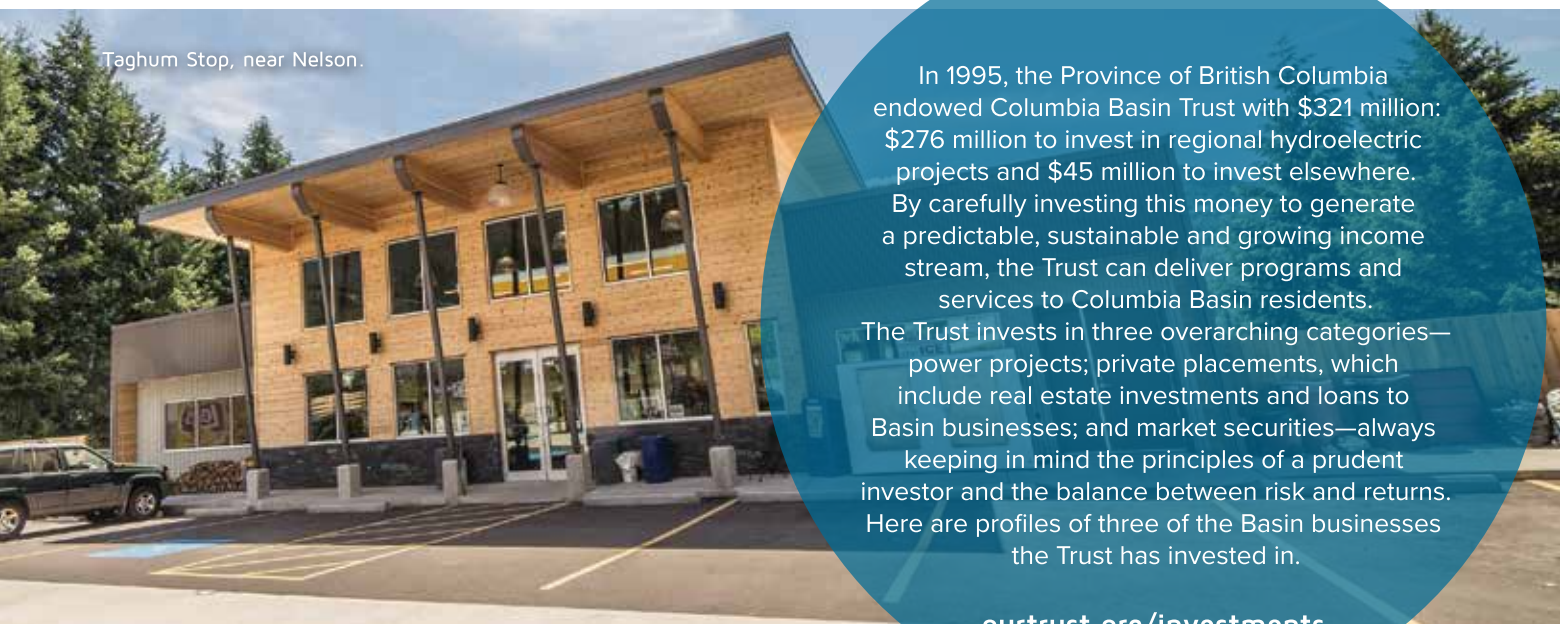
This was Wynndel Electric's first time participating in the School Works apprenticeship program, and Lucke is keen to participate again. "I was able to bring a green worker in and mentor him from a basic level of education," he says—which has definitely been good for business.

ourtrust.org/schoolworks
ourtrust.org/summerworks

Generating RETURNS

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

Taghum Stop, near Nelson.



In 1995, the Province of British Columbia endowed Columbia Basin Trust with \$321 million: \$276 million to invest in regional hydroelectric projects and \$45 million to invest elsewhere. By carefully investing this money to generate a predictable, sustainable and growing income stream, the Trust can deliver programs and services to Columbia Basin residents. The Trust invests in three overarching categories—power projects; private placements, which include real estate investments and loans to Basin businesses; and market securities—always keeping in mind the principles of a prudent investor and the balance between risk and returns. Here are profiles of three of the Basin businesses the Trust has invested in.

ourtrust.org/investments

A pumped-up community

Cam, Scott and Shawn Robertson are brothers who, early in their 20 years of business partnership, learned to work through their differences and align themselves toward a common goal. The Taghum Stop full-service gas station, liquor agency and convenience store, 10 kilometres west of Nelson, is a testimonial to that healthy relationship.

The brothers took over the business in 1996 and made some improvements over time, but were unable to secure financing for the extensive improvements they wanted to do. From 2002 to 2012, the brothers self-financed their projects and progress was slow.

That changed in February 2012 when the

Robertsons contacted the Trust. Financing for the next step of their vision quickly came together, and the project was completed in just three months. With further financing from the Trust, the brothers began the design consultation and other steps that would make their long-term plan a reality.

The complete knock-down and rebuild of the service station and store began in October 2016 and was finished in May 2017. In order to continue to serve the small community, the store was temporarily moved to a building across the street during the construction, but locals had to travel at least 20 minutes down the highway to buy gas or propane.



Left to right: Shawn, Cam and Scott Robertson own Taghum Stop near Nelson.

“We were able to keep the eight to 10 staff employed and maintain our presence in the community,” Cam says. “When we reopened we needed all of our staff and can always use more.”

There was a lot of joy in Taghum the week the service station reopened. “People were really happy to have the service back and to see us achieve what we’d been talking about for years and years,” Cam says. “The three of us shared a moment in the office at the end of that day, and there were hugs and a tear or two of joy there as well.”

Creating summer memories

Often it’s the dramatic natural beauty and restorative peace and quiet that draw people to the Basin initially, and keep them coming back year after year. And that’s what attracted Rick Chartraw here as well, a few years after he retired from a 10-year hockey career that included four Stanley Cup wins with the Montreal Canadiens.

Chartraw laughs about not much enjoying Canada’s winters and choosing, for the past 15 years, to spend them in Australia. But he spends the beautiful Canadian summers at Kinbasket Lake Resort, about 40 minutes northwest of Golden.

Chartraw bought the resort property in 2002 and immediately needed to invest heavily in repairs and upgrades to infrastructure. The entire water-pipe and electrical systems needed to be replaced in all 10 buildings on the property, and the buildings themselves needed to be renovated and refurbished. When the mortgage came up for renewal, Chartraw approached the Trust for financing.

“The Trust came out and looked at what we do,” Chartraw says. “Our needs aligned with their support of business and recreational opportunities in the Columbia Basin, so the Trust put together some financing and it’s worked out quite well.”

Thanks to the Trust’s support and the hard work of Chartraw and his employees, the resort’s occupancy has grown from about 300 summer visitors in 2002 to an average of over 3,000.

The resort’s biggest attractions are its peacefulness and the lake itself. “It’s the absolutely perfect place for kids—the playground looks like an anthill full



Rick Chartraw owns Kinbasket Lake Resort.

of children,” Chartraw says. “We rent out canoes and kayaks and pedal boats, and those are busy all summer out on the lake.”

Many visitors stay for multiple nights. “We see in the neighbourhood of 14,000 to 16,000 overnight stays here in a little over 12 weeks,” Chartraw says. And those happy visitors return home restored and refreshed and looking forward to another visit to the beautiful Columbia Basin.

and competitions, to mega-events like the Interior Provincial Exhibition, Medicine Hat Stampede and Calgary Stampede.

“We make a happy product,” says McNutt. “It’s always about celebrating success.”

That success extends to the partners’ own community. In late 2016, with financing from the Trust, Okanagan Ribbons expanded its operation by acquiring the client list of DiKor Ribbon Technologies in Vernon. With the added volume, Isaacson and McNutt have been able to offer their seven employees more hours of work on an ongoing basis.

Celebrating success

On the western shore of Lower Arrow Lake, about an hour and a quarter south of Nakusp, the community of Edgewood is home to a thriving business that is all about celebration.

Okanagan Ribbons manufactures award and event ribbons for clients across Canada. Business owners Pam Isaacson and Lynda McNutt use a process called hot-foil stamping to imprint foil letters and icons onto award ribbons of all colours and dimensions. Their product line includes rosettes, sashes, promotional buttons and more.

The list of events that use Okanagan Ribbons is long and varied. The events range from small craft shows, fall fairs and school events, to more ambitious ventures like regional equestrian and canine shows



Okanagan Ribbons’ sales have risen year over year as the company’s reputation for a high-quality product has spread.

The figures for 2017 are showing a substantial increase because of the extra customer volume from the recent acquisition. The direct financial success is rewarding, of course, but there’s a broader impact that’s even more satisfying.

“The number one benefit is the employment in Edgewood,” says Isaacson.

“It’s a very small community with very few opportunities for employment. We don’t rely on the community to buy our product, so we’re bringing money from outside into the community and the people who work here spend their earnings in the community.” Which means yet more reasons to celebrate.

Left to right: Lynda McNutt and Pam Isaacson own Okanagan Ribbons in Edgewood.



Continued Growth

In 2016/17, the Trust experienced continued growth, both in our revenues and in the value of the programs and services we deliver in the Basin.

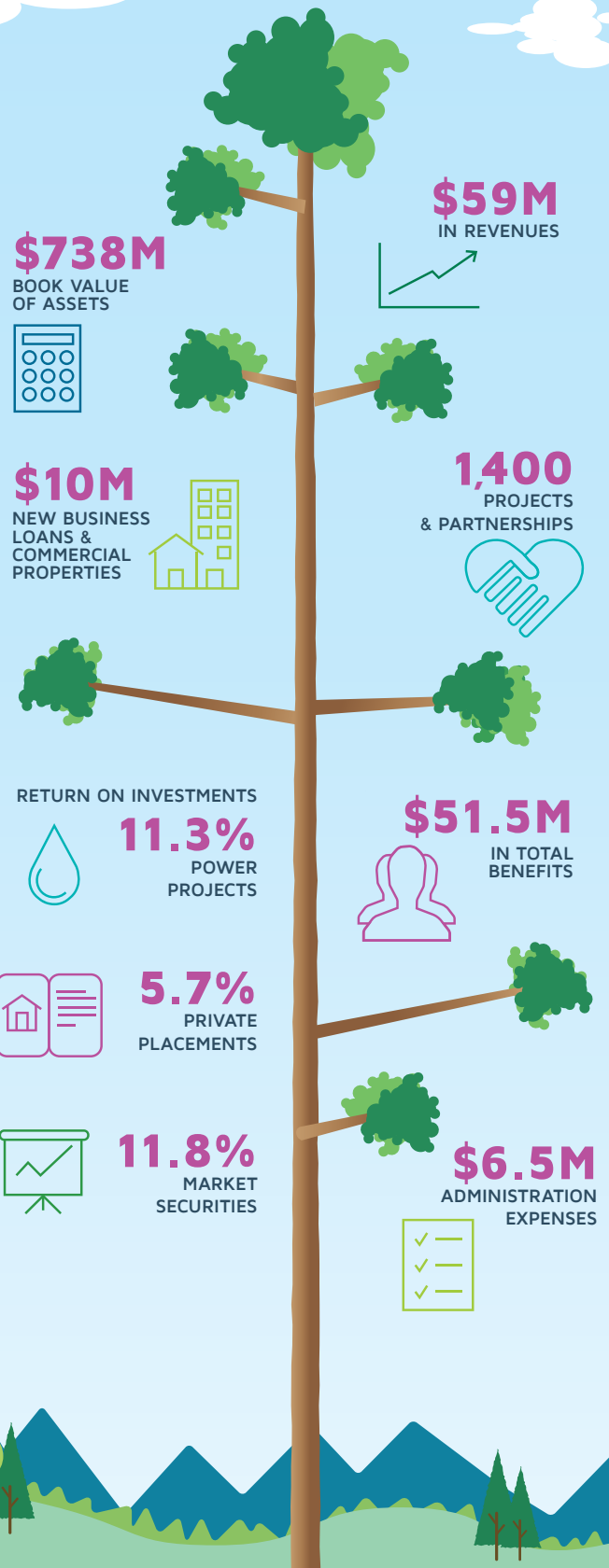
We earned over \$59 million—nearly \$11 million more than the previous year due primarily to increased revenues from our power projects. The Trust generates revenues from our investments in power projects, private placements and through market securities. All three performed above targets, resulting in the increased revenues.

This allowed the Trust to deliver a total of \$51.5 million in benefits to residents and the region, including \$2.5 million invested in capital infrastructure and \$10 million in new business loans and real estate investments. It also included \$39 million delivered through programs and initiatives, up from \$31 million last year. For example, the Trust committed:

- o \$6.8 million to a new three-year partnership with Heritage BC to implement the Built Heritage Grants program that supports the preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of heritage assets
- o \$2 million to the new Energy Retrofit Program launched in partnership with BC Housing and the BC Non-Profit Housing Association to upgrade affordable housing
- o \$1 million to renew our long-standing partnership with Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy for an additional two years
- o \$6.2 million to environment, social and recreation infrastructure granting programs
- o \$1.5 million to purchase a commercial building to further economic development in the region (see “A Catalyst for Economic Growth” on page 24)
- o nearly \$1 million to infrastructure to improve broadband in the region (see how some of this money was spent in “Connecting Kootenay Lake” on page 28).

See our complete set of 2016/17 consolidated financial statements online.

ourtrust.org/annualreport



WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN THE BASIN

A community is a sum of its parts, which is why every Columbia Basin resident and organization has a part to play in shaping our region. It's your ideas and efforts, small and large, that bring about the improvements that affect our lives and our landscapes. Simply check out all the examples in this issue of *Our Trust*.

We support your efforts to improve social, economic and environmental well-being in the Basin. Whether you need advice as you plan, funding to realize a vision or other resources, the Trust is here to help you bring your idea to life. Get in touch with us to discuss the possibilities.



Cutting the ribbon on the new Trust-supported shelter on Schacher Trail, part of the Mount 7 network near Golden.

Connect With Us

1 Have questions?

Get in touch with us:
1.800.505.8998
info@cbt.org



2 Get BasinLink in your inbox.

Learn about community success stories and view upcoming activities and opportunities through our BasinLink e-newsletter. To sign up, visit ourtrust.org/basinlink.

3 We'd love to hear from you!

What did you think of this edition of *Our Trust* magazine? Complete our online survey at ourtrust.org/otfeedback.

Meet Our Directors

Learn more about our activities by attending the public session at one of our Board meetings.

View the schedule and read highlights and meeting minutes at ourtrust.org/board.



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



Strengthening the places we love

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

We take our lead from residents and communities. Whatever the situation calls for, we adapt our role: from providing resources, to bringing people together, to leading an entire initiative.

The Trust is here to offer experience and support to all Basin residents.

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

Columbia
Basin **trust**
ourtrust.org