

our trust

STORIES OF PEOPLE AND PLACES IN THE COLUMBIA BASIN

2018/19

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Going solar

Powering community buildings

Then, now, next

Creston landmark preserved

Meeting child care needs

Adding spaces, training staff



Making space for arts and culture

Upgraded venues enrich life in communities

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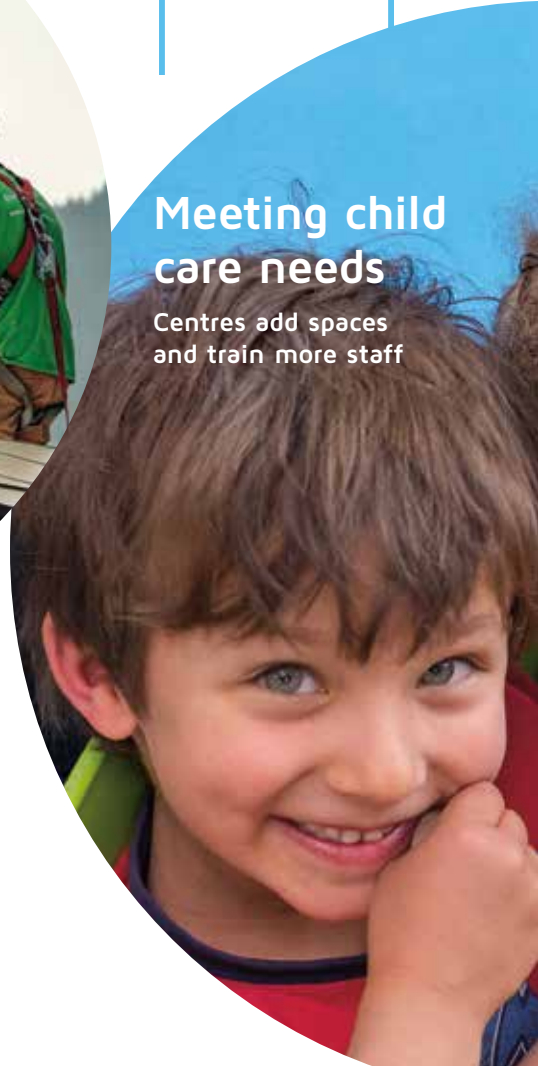


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Building a sustainable future

Supporting the aspirations of Indigenous peoples and communities

Columbia Basin **trust**

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Fernie takes steps to prevent disaster



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ON THE COVER

Many of you, like our cover photographer Agathe Bernard, have shared what makes you happy about living in the Basin. See more photos like this and post your own on our Instagram feed at [@ColumbiaBasinTrust](#) [#OurBasin](#).



Our thoughts

“The things we accomplish in life are a reflection of the edges of our expectations.” These are the words of Canadian astronaut Colonel Chris Hadfield, keynote speaker at the 2017 Columbia Basin Symposium.

At Columbia Basin Trust (the Trust), one of our roles is to support residents as they push the edges of expectations in the Columbia Basin (Basin). We do this by giving you, the people of the region, the support you need to aim higher and achieve more. As you’ll see in the pages of this magazine, together we’ve accomplished incredible things.

In 2017, one of the ways we helped expand our region’s expectations was through the Symposium. Held in Kimberley in October, it stood out for the number of people who took part, the scope of ideas exchanged and the passion and commitment expressed by participants. There were many inspiring conversations—and many seeds planted.

The Symposium also reminded us that with the vision, knowledge, energy and the get-to-work attitude of residents, the Trust can be successful.

That’s why we push forward in such a vigorous way—to make sure your seeds can grow. The past year was filled with many high points: new programs, exciting announcements, milestone achievements.

In 2015, Basin residents helped us formulate our 13 strategic priorities—we are now in our third year of actively addressing them. (See how at ourtrust.org/priorities.) In total, we offer more than 65 programs and initiatives. In 2017/18, we delivered \$57 million in funding benefits and commercial investments to the region, and entered into 1,600 new projects.

We partner with you on many fronts to help our communities grow more resilient and dynamic, face challenges and benefit from new opportunities. We feel privileged to work for you and with you.

We also wish to thank our knowledgeable staff and Board members, the dedicated members of our advisory and adjudication committees and our hard-working partners.

Together we widen our expectations, allowing us to realize what we could never have imagined on our own.



Rick Jensen and Johnny Strilaeff.



Colonel Chris Hadfield.

Rick Jensen
Chair, Board of Directors

Johnny Strilaeff
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Snapshots

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



KYLE HAMILTON

Putting a priority on play

What has “learning logs,” “toadstool seats” and an “ocean wave spinner”? The wilderness-themed **Devonian Playground in Elkford’s Creekside Park**.

Until recently, the park had a range of options for active people—including baseball, basketball, tennis, soccer, walking and skateboarding—but not a decent playground.

With lots of community input, support and volunteers—and a grant from the Trust—that’s now changed. “Elkford playgrounds are primarily located within neighbourhoods,” says Kathryn Kitt, Project Manager. “Our goal was to create a centrally located, community-scale play space where residents and visitors can gather and play.”

Now there’s a new playground that draws people together, provides play opportunities for multiple ages and abilities and promotes physical activity—all while the kids have fun.

Faster Internet at Selkirk College campuses

“It’s night and day as compared to before,” says Justin Robinson, a Selkirk College graduate and instructor in the college’s School of Environment and Geomatics. “Internet connection at Selkirk now is the same as you would get in downtown Vancouver.”

Selkirk College faculty and students are now benefiting from 10x faster Internet speeds. That’s because the **Trail, Castlegar and Nelson campuses** have connected to the **fibre-optic broadband network** owned and managed by the Trust, through its wholly owned subsidiary the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation.

The ability to connect to high-speed Internet impacts many aspects of Basin residents’ lives, which is why the Trust is actively working to expand it throughout the region. This impact includes education, whether it means students can study from home or instructors can find new ways to engage with their classes.

As Brendan Wilson, Chair of Selkirk’s School of Environment and Geomatics, says, “We’re living in the 21st century and our residents need the same opportunities as those in large centres.”

ourtrust.org/broadband



Keeping wildlife wild and communities safe

Basin residents prize our great outdoors, including our wildlife. Run by the BC Conservation Foundation, **WildSafeBC** helps people learn how to reduce the potential for conflict with wildlife like bears, deer, coyotes and cougars.

Since 2010, the Trust and WildSafeBC have worked together to keep people safe and animals wild. Now this partnership has **program coordinators in 12 communities** delivering a range of services, from electric fencing workshops to helping communities become officially Bear Smart.

Frank Ritcey, Provincial Coordinator, says positive strides are being made: “When Bear Aware started in 1999 there were, on average, over 1,000 bears a year being destroyed province-wide. Currently that number is closer to 600 bears a year. Overall, we could say that there is an almost 40 per cent reduction in bear destructions.”

ourtrust.org/environment



BRIAN LAWRENCE

Customs come to life

For two days each year, local and international drummers and dancers, from as far as Tibet and New Zealand, gather just **outside of Creston** to celebrate Ktunaxa and other Indigenous cultures. The Ktunaxa community of **Yaqan Nukiy** (Lower Kootenay) has hosted this **annual pow wow** since 1991. Supported by the Trust, the 28th annual event took place in May, with the theme “Honouring the Earth.”

The e-ssentials

People are vital to run a non-profit organization—and so is technology. In the Lardeau Valley, the **Lardeau Valley Opportunity LINKS Society** helps community members live and thrive in this relatively isolated area. While the society has an office located in **Meadow Creek**, it was lacking in updated electronic devices and relied on staff members, volunteers and others to bring their own laptops and other electronics. The Trust’s Non-profit Tech Grants helped the society and over 100 other non-profits **upgrade their equipment**. The LINKS office now sports a high-quality laptop, a printer/copier/scanner, a phone and more. With these essentials, the society can serve its community even better.



Chelsey Jones, LINKS Coordinator.



PLAYS helps kids get active

How can school teachers increase motivation and confidence in their students so they'll participate in physical activity? How can community youth sports groups build capacity in their coaches? How can schools and communities create safe, inclusive and quality sports programming? The Trust will be helping in all these areas and more through its new **Physical Literacy and Youth Sport (PLAYS)** initiative. From resources, to grants, to opportunities for collaboration, the initiative will promote physical activity for children and youth aged four to 18 by working with Basin schools and community sports organizations. Learn more when the program launches in fall 2018.

ourtrust.org/plays

New direction = concrete results

High staff and board turnover and a long wait-list for its child care spaces: these were some of the challenges the **Valemount Children's Activity Society** was facing when it turned to the Trust's **Non-profit Advisors Program**.

The program connects non-profit organizations with resources and advisors who assess the organizations' needs and provide recommendations, free of charge. It may also subsidize additional consulting.

In Valemount, a consultant helped the society outline roles for its board members and staff to ease everyone's workload. He prepared goals and actions for the society and created a strategic plan. He encouraged the society to take the necessary steps to expand its child care spaces, from renovating to licensing.

Manager Krista Voth says, "Through the clarification and guidance of the consultant we were able to organize ourselves and strive for what we wanted, with a clear path to follow. I don't think it could have happened as quickly or as smoothly—or at all—without this program."

ourtrust.org/npa



SELKIRK COLLEGE



Support toward a brighter future

Affording both life and post-secondary school can be tricky—especially when you're the mother of two.

Castlegar's Angela Erickson is a student at Selkirk College. Through the Education Assistant and Community Support Worker Program, she's learning to work with children and adults living with disabilities, their families, teachers and other support professionals in schools and community care.

As the mother of two sons—one born with a cleft lip and palate like Erickson, and one who has worked hard to overcome a brain injury—the struggle, financial and otherwise, hasn't been easy.

Then she learned she had received two **bursaries**—including \$1,000 from the Trust, which she had applied for through Selkirk's financial aid office.

"It sent me over the moon," she says. "If it wasn't for these bursaries, I'm not sure what we would have done."

She now looks forward to making a difference to children facing challenges. "I hope in the future I'm able to make the road for somebody else at least a little bit easier to navigate."

ourtrust.org/bursary

Eating fresh

Helping an additional 225 families access local healthy food, reducing wait-lists at 10 Basin farmers' markets and adding five new markets to the program...it all became a reality in June 2018.

The Trust is helping the **BC Association of Farmers' Markets** expand its **nutrition coupon program** in the Basin. This program provides coupons to lower-income families, seniors and pregnant women participating in food literacy programs delivered by a number of community partners.

Valued at \$21 per week, the coupons enable participants to shop at participating farmers' markets for vegetables, fruits, eggs, dairy, meat and more from June to October.

ourtrust.org/agriculture

ADRIAN WAGNER



The three E's of going

"We have all this wonderful sun in the Kootenays.

Why not make use of it?"

So says Lynda McNutt, resident of the small community of Edgewood and President of the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department Society. And she isn't talking about sunbathing or gardening. Instead, she's speaking about installing solar panels to generate electricity. Not only did she do this on her own home, but she was instrumental in getting it done on the local fire hall too. "I know how well it works."

The people of the Basin have told the Trust it's important to find opportunities to conserve energy and generate it in renewable, alternative ways. And so the Trust supported the costs of installing the panels on the Edgewood fire hall—and on community buildings in places like Balfour and Cranbrook.

Here are the three E's of why these solar projects make sense.

EXPENSES

A big issue for the fire hall is trying to find funding for ongoing expenses. And in the winter, you can't let the water tanks freeze. The society's main goal, then, was to cut back on electrical costs. Now, after the collaborative efforts of a number of people and organizations, McNutt says, "We expect not to be paying for electricity at all."

In Balfour, three community buildings have taken the solar-power step: the seniors' centre, the community hall and the golf course clubhouse. "What personally excites me is the energy independence," says Ramona Faust, Director of Area E in the Regional District of Central Kootenay, which championed the project and was the main financial supporter. "For societies that operate on a really small budget, energy rates can start to be really prohibitive."

"For societies that operate on a really small budget, energy rates can start to be really prohibitive."

RAMONA FAUST, DIRECTOR OF AREA E,
REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY



solar

Community buildings look to the sun to generate power

ENVIRONMENT

Faust also notes that everyone benefits when we reduce our greenhouse gas emissions—which ties into the reasoning behind another solar project, in Cranbrook.

There, the Ktunaxa Nation Council installed panels on the roof of its government building. Don Maki is the Facilities and Capital Acquisitions Manager. “As a First Nations government, we have to take a step toward stewardship of the environment, and we felt that this was a really good, strong effort that we could take.”

They also went even further. During the same project, they installed an electric vehicle Level 2 charger, with nine of the 119 solar panels dedicated to powering it. “After we turned it on, within 20 minutes there was a car plugged in,” Maki says. “It’s used all the time.”

He also praises everyone who took part in the project, from funders to the building and electrical inspectors. “Everybody put in 110 per cent and we made the project happen.”

EDUCATION

Each project also has an educational component. Faust says the Balfour buildings “could encourage others to consider solar in the future.” In Edgewood, McNutt says, “It’s a small community, so people ask lots of questions. ‘What are you guys doing at the fire hall? What are those things on the roof?’” She has already had a few residents question her about how they could use solar power too.

And in Cranbrook, the Ktunaxa project has involved making a series of educational videos. Residents and organizations interested in solar power will be able to watch these videos to get an idea of the potential challenges involved, how to operate a solar installation and more. Maki says solar power “is such a huge initiative in the world, but we don’t have a lot of individuals with that knowledge, especially in the smaller communities.”

With videos like these, live examples on community buildings, and the possibility of support from the Trust, solar power how-to in the Basin is poised to quickly expand.

Community buildings get a hand

From arenas to community centres, Basin residents rely on many types of buildings as spaces to gather and get things done. But these buildings can be expensive to power and heat and can create a lot of greenhouse gas emissions.

To relieve the burden on bill-payers and the environment, the Trust is introducing a new Energy Sustainability Program in late 2018. The program will provide \$1 million to help make these facilities more sustainable. Supported projects may include installing solar panels or geothermal heat pumps so they can generate their own clean, renewable energy, and upgrading them to be more energy efficient.

ourtrust.org/energy



COLIN PAYNE

OPPOSITE PAGE: Workers install solar panels on the roof of the golf course clubhouse in Balfour. LEFT: Gordon Bruce, left, and Marvin Pederson, right, of the Balfour Seniors Association stand before the seniors’ centre. RIGHT: The Ktunaxa Nation Council government building.

JOSE GALDAMEZ



Strengthening

its **The Elk Valley Thrift Shop expands so it can keep giving generously**

foundation

The hand-drawn poster is colourful. In large letters it reads:

THANK YOU TO THE ELK VALLEY THRIFT SHOP! ♥

It's from the students and staff at Sparwood Secondary School, thanking the shop for its donation to the school's breakfast program.

For the Elk Valley Thrift Shop in Sparwood isn't your ordinary second-hand shop—as its bulletin board tacked with thank yous will attest. From the proceeds of sales “we cover our bills,” says founder and manager Katrin Taylor, “and then we give the rest back.”

In about four and a half years of existence, the shop has distributed around \$310,000 to the community. In 2018 alone, it's hoping to donate \$100,000. Anyone in need—whether a group or an individual—is welcome to apply.

This is a huge success for a small community. And in 2017 the Elk Valley Thrift Shop Society laid an even stronger foundation by purchasing its own building with help from the Trust.

“We were rapidly outgrowing our old space and had already taken over three other shops in town,” says Taylor. “We had major storage issues and our work area was so small, a volunteer tripped on a bag and broke her wrist. It was getting dangerous.”

Now they're in a freshly renovated three-storey building on the community's Centennial Square, with plenty of space for sales, storage and volunteers. But it took several steps to get there.

“It was my role to help connect them through all of the tools and programs and services that the Trust could offer them,” says Kaylyn Gervais, Manager of Community Relationships East at the Trust. “We started by talking about their plans for the future, and how the Trust could help them achieve their vision through our existing supports.”

The society connected with the Trust's Non-profit Advisors program, which supports non-profit organizations with free expertise and advice. It also connected with the Trust's Basin Business Advisors program, which provides free business counselling and assessment services to Basin businesses, including social enterprises. Through these, the society came away equipped with items like a business plan and cash flow forecast.

The society then worked with the Trust to come up with a tailor-made plan to purchase the building and renovate it to its requirements. This ended up being a combination of support. First, the Trust loaned the society \$350,000 through its Investment Program, which enables the Trust to earn the income that funds its programs and services. Then the society received a \$150,000 grant from the Trust.

“The whole process was a win-win for everyone,” says Taylor. “The people of the valley are just thrilled. We have many compliments. People are proud of us for what we're managing to accomplish.”

Taylor also makes a point of thanking all the thrift shop volunteers and its one part-time paid cashier. “Without this team or the help of the Trust, all my grandiose ideas wouldn't have worked at all.”

It wasn't very long ago when Taylor, along with some family members and friends, decided the Elk Valley needed a thrift shop. Now people who want to donate items have a central place to go—while knowing that almost all unsold or unusable items will be recycled or repurposed. People who want to buy items only have to look for the green heart on the brick wall beside the ELK VALLEY THRIFT SHOP sign. And local people or organizations who need financial support have this generous asset they can rely on.

Taylor says, “We didn't realize it would snowball like this, but it's wonderful.”

ourtrust.org/community
ourtrust.org/investments
ourtrust.org/npa



Left to right: Volunteer Pam Huntley and Katrin Taylor, manager and founder of the Elk Valley Thrift Shop.

Meeting child care needs

Centres add spaces and train more staff



Children enjoy Corner Stones Child Care Centre in Revelstoke. Helping to care for them are ECE assistants Emily Pfeiffer (ABOVE), Danielle Morgan and Sophie Biggs (FACING PAGE, left to right),





Places for children to grow

Basin residents have expressed that an adequate supply of quality child care is important to them. That's why the Trust's new Child Care Support Program is providing \$3.6 million over three years to help train Early Childhood Educators, improve existing facilities and build new child care spaces. In 2018, this program has supported the creation of 238 new licensed child care spaces and improvements to 1,729 existing licensed child care spaces at 84 child care facilities.

ourtrust.org/childcaresupport

in the early years. Our staff, our board and our parents know the importance of the Trust's acknowledgment that the early years matter."

GETTING LOCALS WORKING

"The cost of living is so high—it's best if you can train local residents," says Chell. Finding and supporting locals to enter and stay in the child care profession is a major part of addressing the ECE shortage.

Sitting in the mini chairs—over loud playtime banging noises—Danielle Morgan, a 21-year-old ECE from Revelstoke, talks about her time so far in this career.

"I really like it. Ever since I was little, I liked children and being around children," she says. And having the Trust cover the practicum costs "was amazing."

Similarly, Taylor Klassen, who was born and raised in Revelstoke, has been a full-fledged ECE for just over a year. "I figured I love it here and I don't want to leave, so I might as well get a job that can let me stay," she says.

ADDING SPACE

Strengthening child care centres means hiring more educators, but it also involves creating or improving actual spaces.

In Rossland, the Golden Bear Children's Centre is licensed for four more child care spaces and has updated its centre after receiving a \$26,720 Child Care Capital Grant from the Trust.

Golden Bear used the grant to knock out a wall and form an archway, expanding the usable area and maximizing space for the 12 children in its infant/toddler program.

New furniture replaced old, including chairs, tables and rugs—which, naturally, get worn out fast.

"I think it's amazing. There's such a dire need for more daycares within the province," says Ketna Makwana, who operates Golden Bear.

Whether increasing training credentials for staff or adding or improving child care spaces, at the end of the day it all comes back to the kids. During playtime, snack time, nap time or any time in between, children benefit from having a high-quality and safe child care environment to start them on the right foot. ●

Corner Stones Child Care Centre in Revelstoke is a busy

hub for child care and child health activities. At one end of the hallway is an indoor play space for toddlers. At the other end, an Interior Health speech pathologist. In between is a mix of early education resources—a literacy program, two kindergartens, a toy library and colourful rooms packed with pint-sized chairs—and, of course, dozens of eager, cheerful children from one to four years old.

The wait-list to get into the centre is long, especially for infant and toddler care. This isn't surprising in a world of dual incomes, where child care has become a practical necessity for many families. To help Basin communities meet their child care needs, last fall the Trust announced new funding to support the sector.

TRAINING REQUIRED

Like all licensed child care facilities, Corner Stones maintains the provincial licensing requirement for a specific ratio of staff to kids. For example, there must be at least one infant and toddler educator for every four children under 36 months. So in order to operate at full capacity, the centre must continually train and recruit qualified Early Childhood Educators (ECEs).

To do so, Corner Stones received a grant from the Trust's Early Childhood Educators Workforce Development Fund. Over \$6,000 went to help four ECE assistants complete their practicums and become certified ECEs.

"Now we have just the right amount of staff for the right amount of space," says Linda Chell, who handles the centre's administration. "We're so pleased at having the Trust invest

Making space for arts and culture

Upgraded venues enrich life in communities



From a colourful splash of paint, to the strum of a guitar, to the projection of an actor's voice, arts and culture are essential elements in keeping Basin communities vibrant and exciting. They top up residents' quality of life and give reasons for visitors to come here and linger.

Having modern arts and culture facilities benefits the performers, artists and groups who use them—and gives the rest of us entertaining places to spend quality time.

Here are three venues that have recently been updated with support from the Trust.

GOLDEN CIVIC CENTRE

The Golden Civic Centre functions as Golden's dedicated performing arts centre. The building has been around since 1948 and is well loved by residents and visitors. During extensive renovations in 2011, the original hardwood floor was discovered underneath many layers of linoleum and tile—but it had only five or six years left. Over time it was becoming unusable and a safety hazard, with divots, splinters and more. It was crucial to get it redone. The old, splintered floor was replaced with new engineered hardwood, which has made the space safe again and given it new possibilities. With ongoing maintenance, the flooring has a projected life of three to four decades, providing benefit to the community for many years to come.

KEY CITY THEATRE

Cranbrook's Key City Theatre is one of the largest arts and entertainment facilities in the Basin, hosting over 100 events and 45,000 visitors each year. It was built in 1992 and hasn't seen any major renovations since. In 2016, an engineering study identified severe deficiencies in the roof structure, meaning a short future lifespan if nothing was done. A new roof for the entire theatre, now under way, will add 25 years of life to the facility. It also opens up the doors to adding more technical lighting and sound equipment and increases the possibilities of what kinds of shows they'll be able to support in the future. These upgrades will provide lasting access to a safe, fully functional live performance space.

THE HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY

The Hidden Garden Gallery in New Denver welcomes over 3,000 visitors every summer and supports local artists and musicians with 10 week-long exhibitions throughout the summer months. Last year, the people who ran the gallery found themselves looking for a new building. After searching for months, they were offered a space. Previously used as a garage, the building looked like a big barn but the gallery board saw the potential. With only six weeks to bring that vision to life before the gallery's scheduled opening, many helping hands worked together to transform the space. The building received a new door and awning, track lighting, new flooring and many other repairs. Now the Slokan Valley can preserve a mainstay of its arts and culture scene. ●

ourtrust.org/venuegrants



Key City Theatre, Cranbrook, under renovations.



Hidden Garden Gallery, New Denver, grand opening.

Local arts and culture in local places

The Trust is committed to keeping our region's arts and culture strong.

In spring 2018, it announced its new Public Art Grants. This program has funded 13 new public art projects—from murals to sculptures—with \$244,000. The art will be created by Basin artists and installed in well-travelled spaces accessible by all.

In addition, an Arts and Culture Venue Grants program is helping arts and culture organizations purchase or build new facilities, renovate or expand existing ones and buy essential equipment. In the first intake, the 12 projects received \$830,000.

The Trust also supports arts and culture programs delivered by the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance. In 2017/18, these supported over 140 projects that received a total of \$706,000 in funding.

ourtrust.org/arts

Building a sustainable future

Supporting the aspirations of Indigenous peoples and communities

The Basin is home to a rich and diverse Indigenous peoples' history, heritage and cultures. Indigenous peoples and First Nations communities in the region have deep relationships to the lands and waters—the significance of which enables spiritual and cultural practices and traditions, as well as reflects social and economic values. Indigenous peoples and First Nations communities are integral parts of the social, economic and cultural ways of life in the Basin.

Indigenous peoples in the Basin face unique challenges and opportunities. Dedicated community members are working hard to advance well-being and build a sustainable future. The Trust respects and values these efforts and is committed to creating lasting relationships that will benefit Indigenous peoples and the Basin at large. The Trust aims to provide support that furthers the aspirations of Indigenous peoples and First Nations communities in the Basin.

Here are some examples:

YOUTH BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH WATER

In 2018, ?a?amnik youth (Ktunaxa youth from the community of ?a?am) have been given a variety of opportunities to focus on water and understand its cultural and ecological significance. To be stewards of the region's waterways into the future and preserve traditional Indigenous knowledge, engaging young people is critical.

“We are supporting ?a?amnik youth to build their capacity to understand water not just as a resource to be consumed but from a stewardship and cultural knowledge perspective,” says project coordinator Michele A Sam.

“Being on the lands and in the waters heals the intergenerational trauma and stress, not only of the human beings, but also of the knowledge relationships, including the relationship of humans and our homelands and the waters themselves. For some youth, these opportunities are integral first steps to being and becoming water stewards as defined within the Ktunaxa creation story. We will have been in a total of 10 bodies of water within Ktunaxa ?amak?is, or territory, by the end of the fall 2018 Columbia Salmon Festival.”

With guidance from Ktunaxa cultural interpreters and water experts, youth connect with water through activities, discussions and meaning making; examine water-related challenges; and develop visions for our waterways' futures.

?a?amnik and Ktunaxa youth grow into water stewards and will be able to encourage other youth across the Basin to develop respectful long-term relationships with water.

A COMMUNITY GATHERING PLACE

In August 2018, Tobacco Plains Indian Band members gathered at the site of the new Community Administration & Health Centre—the community's first true multi-use community building.

Now that construction is complete, community members have a safe and welcoming space where they can come together and access services geared toward health and wellness, employment and training, and cultural heritage. The new centre combines several amenities that either didn't exist before or were scattered in smaller, outdated locations.

“Can you believe we were here over a year ago for the groundbreaking ceremony?” asks Nasu?kin (Chief) Mary Mahseelah. “I am proud we now have a space that meets the needs of our people.”

With a culturally relevant look that included community members in the design process, the building houses the community's administration, a health centre, meeting spaces and a gymnasium. This gives the residents a place to gather and interact, exercise and use wellness facilities. It will enable the Tobacco Plains administration to increase services and programming, add employment opportunities and stay in touch with community members.

The Trust has also supported other facilities in First Nations communities, including a recreation centre at ?akisqnuq, near Windermere, which is the largest project the community has ever undertaken. The 22,400-square-foot sports complex will house a gymnasium, elevated walking and running track, exercise room, locker rooms, team rooms and a kitchen and seating area. It will also include office space for the ?akisqnuq administration.

Weyt-k
Secwepemctsin

Ki?su?k Kyukyit
Ktunaxa

waʔ xast sxəlxált
nsyilxcən

Hello
English



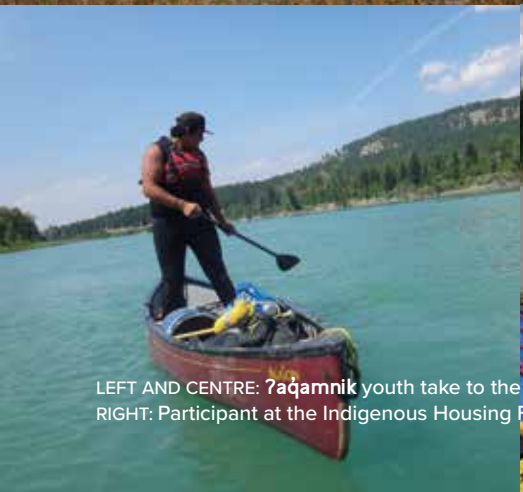
Breaking ground for ʔakisq̓nuk's new recreation centre. *Left to right:* Wendy Booth, Trust Board Vice-Chair, and Nasuʔkin Alfred Joseph, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation.



The new Community Administration & Health Centre of the Tobacco Plains Indian Band.



Mary Mahseelah, Nasuʔkin (Chief) Tobacco Plains Indian Band cuts the ribbon on the new administration building.



LEFT AND CENTRE: ʔaq̓amnik youth take to the Kootenay River to learn about water. RIGHT: Participant at the Indigenous Housing Forum.



ABOVE AND RIGHT: Residents in the community of Shuswap moved into their new homes this year.

TRACY CONNERY



NEW AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

When it comes to housing, members of the Shuswap Indian Band often face high rents and few options. They may have to live in overcrowded homes with other family members due to a lack of housing options, especially if they've left the community and then decided to return.

To help remedy this, in spring 2018 the Shuswap Indian Band built two new duplexes in the Old Village—the first time in 30 years that homes have been built in the community. The buildings contain two two-bedroom units and two three-bedroom units, and can house approximately 13 tenants with low-to-moderate incomes.

Given the costs of the project, the community reached out to the Trust to explore a partnership. The Trust provided support through its new First Nations Housing Sustainability Initiative, a three-year, \$4.5-million commitment to help First Nations communities enhance and increase stocks of affordable housing.

“We moved in four families on July 1,” says Dolores Nicholas, Social Development/Housing Manager. “We now have four young families living on reserve near family and friends. Our goal is to build more units in the near future.” ●

SHOWING SOME MUSSEL

Freshwater mussel species like the western pearlshell, winged floater and other floater species live in lakes, streams and rivers across British Columbia, including in the Basin.

Traditionally harvested as a food source by First Nations, freshwater mussels are also a natural filter for their aquatic environments—one adult mussel can filter over 100 litres of water per day—and have been linked to the health of fish species. And yet they've been largely overlooked in conservation and management planning. Now the Ktunaxa Nation Council, Okanagan Nation Alliance and Secwepemc Nation have joined forces to learn more about these mussels.

Since 2016, First Nations scientific teams have been studying these culturally and ecologically important mussels in the Basin. Where do the mussels live? What kinds are there? Roughly how many are there? Last year the group added another question: Are these mussels toxic or are they safe for human consumption?

So far, this work has mapped six types of mussels living in over 100 locations and collected samples for toxicity testing.

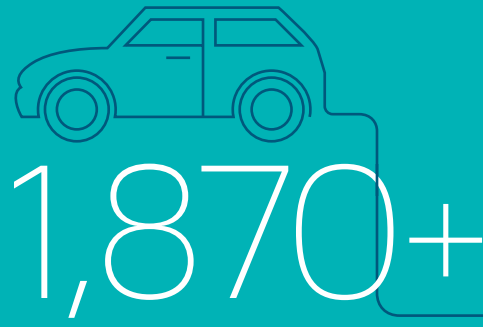
“We have increased our knowledge of freshwater mussel distribution, abundance and species present within the Basin,” says Michael Zimmer, Fisheries Biologist, Okanagan Nation Alliance. “Also, this project helped us grow our technical skills and provided the opportunity to collaborate, learn from one another and build relationships between the three nations.”

The ultimate goal is to make all Basin residents more aware of the freshwater mussels in our region and their traditional uses.

RIGHT: Three First Nations are studying freshwater mussels in the Basin.



By the numbers

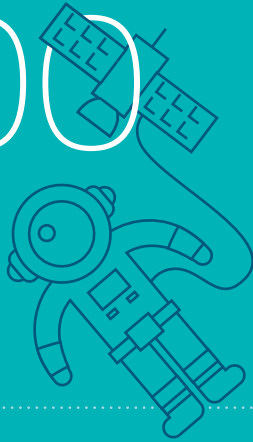


1,870+

km of connected **electric vehicle** travel through...



electric vehicle **charging stations**



Basin students took part in **Canadian astronaut** Colonel Chris Hadfield's school presentation



housing units created since 2002



households in 53 rural communities have new or improved high-speed **Internet access**



square metres of **aquatic habitat** improved in 2017 and 2018



new and upgraded **child care spaces**



hectares of **terrestrial habitat** improved in 2017 and 2018



youth engaged to identify priorities for local programs, activities and spaces in the first year of the **Basin Youth Network**



Then, now and next

A historical landmark
will stand the test of time

Wooden grain elevators are a Canadian symbol.

Unfortunately the grain elevators are rapidly disappearing. In all of British Columbia, only four still stand—and two of these are in Creston.

Built in 1935 and 1936, Creston's elevators were used to collect, store and ship locally grown wheat, barley, oats and rye. Since their closures in 1971 and 1982, they have seen little use or major upkeep—but have remained important icons for the Creston community and its residents.

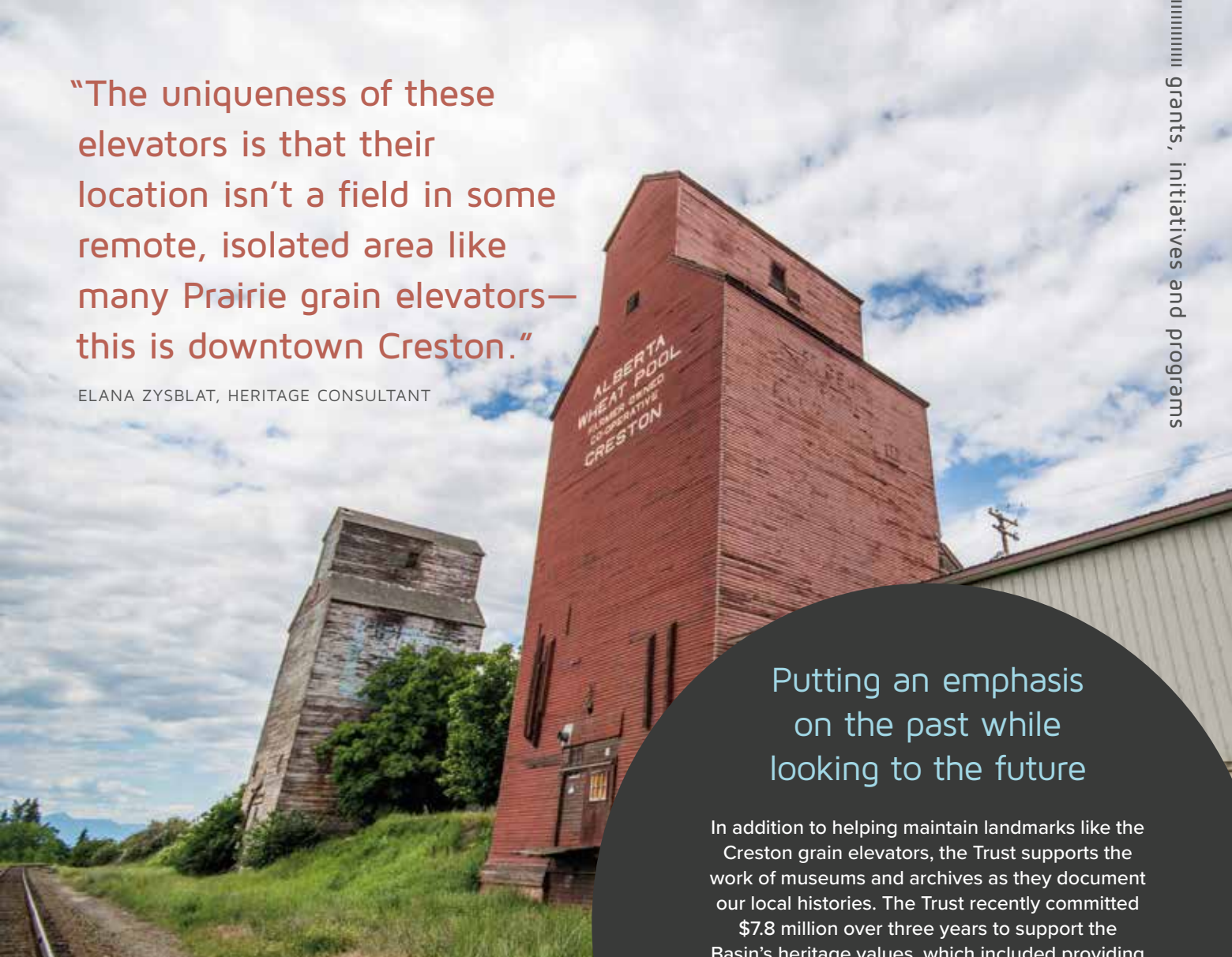
Now the Trust has acquired these significant heritage buildings to ensure they'll be restored and preserved. Once they're stabilized and protected from further deterioration, the Trust will engage with the community to determine how they can be used in a contemporary way.

Heritage consultant Elana Zysblat helped evaluate their historical value. "The uniqueness of these elevators is that their location isn't a field in some remote, isolated area like many Prairie grain elevators—this is downtown Creston. The fact that we have two of them side by side, in such an accessible location, makes them more unique and likely more valuable than most grain elevators in the entire country." ●



“The uniqueness of these elevators is that their location isn’t a field in some remote, isolated area like many Prairie grain elevators—this is downtown Creston.”

ELANA ZYSBLAT, HERITAGE CONSULTANT



Putting an emphasis on the past while looking to the future

In addition to helping maintain landmarks like the Creston grain elevators, the Trust supports the work of museums and archives as they document our local histories. The Trust recently committed \$7.8 million over three years to support the Basin’s heritage values, which included providing over \$2 million in funding to 42 projects. The Trust also partners with Heritage BC to support a Basin-based heritage planner, who helps local groups and organizations increase their capacities for conserving the region’s past. The overall aim: to help preserve the Basin’s history and share it with future generations.

ourtrust.org/heritage

In Ainsworth, the J.B. Fletcher Restoration Society will be repairing the J.B. Fletcher Store, including stabilizing the storefront, removing lead paint and mould, and adding heating and insulation. Built in 1896, the store is valued as one of the last surviving buildings from the original Ainsworth townsite, which is considered the oldest mining settlement in the West Kootenay.



Helping residents become employed

Higher bursary limits boost local employment

“I’m happily employed,” says Winlaw resident and logging truck driver Alfred Moore. This is something he couldn’t say often back when he was working in the construction industry. “I was getting lots of random layoffs at inopportune times,” he says, “so that industry was a little up and down. I was looking for something more steady.”

The stability came thanks to a Class 1 driver’s licence. Moore had wanted one before but obtaining the licence was fairly expensive. Then he got the help he needed through a bursary from the Trust.

Delivered by College of the Rockies, the Trust’s Training Fee Support program provides bursaries to help unemployed or underemployed people afford the training they need to secure immediate employment.

Usually, the amount is maxed at \$800 per person. But Moore caught the program at just the right time—when it started offering even more funding, up to \$7,500, for training leading to certain specialized, high-demand jobs. These include prep cooks, forestry workers, security guards and more—and Class 1 drivers.

The Trust recognizes that the need for higher-skilled labour in the region keeps increasing and that local employers are having a hard time attracting employees. Expanding this bursary program is part of its \$20-million, three-year commitment to help create a diverse and resilient economy.

As for Moore’s new licence, he says, “It definitely helped me find work.” He’s now employed with a logging company in Nakusp. “There’s lots of opportunities in driving available, but I’m pretty happy where I’m at right now.” ●

ourtrust.org/tfs



Stimulating business success

A high-tech business finds a home in Revelstoke

Cronometer is a nutrition and fitness app that Aaron Davidson created in 2005 to keep track of his own habits. He also decided to offer it free online, and the user base grew. By 2011, maintaining Cronometer was becoming a job, so Davidson made the decision to rebuild it as a business.

He ran Cronometer part-time from his home in Alberta until 2016, when he moved to Revelstoke to pursue the active, outdoors lifestyle that he loves.

As a software engineer, Davidson found few work opportunities in Revelstoke, so he decided to make Cronometer his “real” business. He invited a few friends to become partners, while remaining the majority shareholder. To hire more staff, he needed a business loan.

“I went to my bank first for a traditional business loan, and they wouldn’t touch us with a 10-foot pole because they don’t understand the modern software business,” he says. “We’re not buying a tractor they can repossess—there’s no collateral.”

Then he found success when he turned to the Trust’s Impact Investment Fund, delivered by Community Futures. This loan allowed him to hire staff and open an office. He also obtained funding to hire an intern through the Trust’s Career Internship Program.

“Now we have eight people working here in Revelstoke,” he says.

Following a lifestyle dream often means putting career dreams on hold. Three university grads—two with masters’ degrees in nutrition and one with a bachelor’s degree in a related science—were either unemployed or underemployed when they joined Cronometer.

“At least a couple of those people would have left Revelstoke if this work opportunity had not come about,” Davidson says. “We’re offering a place for these people who have high potential.

“The financing from the Trust and Community Futures allowed us to confidently execute what we needed to do. It’s been fun.” ●

A sampling of ways the Trust supports our economy

Basin Business Advisors: Works with business owners to help strengthen their businesses with free advisement services.

Basin Business Opportunities: Seeks partnerships to build businesses that will create jobs, increase local wealth and grow the economy.

Career Internship Program: Helps businesses train interns for full-time, career-focused positions that lead to permanent employment.

Broadband Network: Brings high-speed Internet connectivity throughout the region to enable businesses to remain competitive in a global economy.

Impact Investment Fund: Gives financial support to businesses that can’t secure conventional financing but benefit the well-being of Basin residents and communities.

Investment Program: Invests in Basin businesses and real estate.

School Works and Summer Works: Provide wage subsidies for students and apprentices.

Training Fee Support: Helps pay for short-term training that may lead to immediate employment.

ourtrust.org/economic



Cronometer staff. *From left to right:* Derek Marcinyshyn, Eliisa Tennant, Kirstin Aquiline, Karen Stark, Aaron Davidson (owner).

ourtrust.org/impact
ourtrust.org/internship



“This program absolutely fit the needs of what we required to update our facility.”

IRENE WALKER, CHAIR OF THE ERICKSON GOLDEN AGERS ASSOCIATION



Residents of Erickson Golden Manor in Creston now enjoy more comfortable temperatures.

Seniors beat the heat affordably

Retirement home reduces costs and saves energy while bumping up comfort



BRIAN LAWRENCE

Climate control will be easier in the winter, too, with those same efficient heat pumps replacing the baseboard heaters in each apartment’s living room, which will reduce utility bills and increase comfort.

“What a blessing for them,” says Walker. “If they want heat, all they have to do is go to the unit on the wall and they’ve got heat coming in.”

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

“This program absolutely fit the needs of what we required to update our facility,” says Walker.

Built by BC Housing in 1986, Erickson Golden Manor eventually came under the ownership and operation of the Erickson Golden Agers. Previous upgrades included replacing the roof, windows, toilets and fridges, and reinsulating the attic, but several upgrades were needed to improve energy efficiency and the well-being of residents.

The Energy Retrofit Program came to the association’s aid. In addition to the individual apartments’ heat pumps, it enabled the installation of new lighting and emergency exit signage for the hallways and social room, a new hot water boiler, and a new heat pump and air handler for the building’s hallways. These upgrades improve the energy efficiency and sustainability of the building, and tenants’ comfort levels.

A new boiler also means they can enjoy consistent access to hot water. “The boiler was very touchy,” says Walker. “It was on its last legs because it was servicing 12 apartments and the social room, and we have a washer and dryer on both floors.”

The changes to the building have been welcomed by the tenants.

“Thanks to this grant from the Trust, the quality of life of the tenants in Erickson Golden Manor has improved 100 per cent,” says Walker. “We are reducing our energy consumption and saving money. It doesn’t get any better than that.” ●

A boost to comfort and cost

The Trust’s Energy Retrofit Program started in 2017, helping ensure that existing affordable housing units in the Basin are maintained, cost-effective, energy-efficient and comfortable for residents. In two years, over \$2.5 million has helped affordable housing organizations in the Basin complete energy retrofits like installing new boilers, insulating attics and upgrading lighting. In total, upgrades will occur in 935 units in 47 buildings.

Affordable housing is one of the Trust’s strategic priorities, and it works with communities and groups to help ensure Basin residents have access to affordable housing that meets their basic needs. Among other tools, the Trust has helped community groups develop plans for affordable housing and provided grants to help projects get built—supporting over 690 new units since 2009.

ourtrust.org/housing

Erickson Golden Manor is more than simply an apartment

building in Creston for low-income seniors. It’s a home, where residents frequently visit each others’ rooms or gather in the social room to play cards or work on a jigsaw puzzle.

And for the first summer in years, it’s quiet. In the past, the building has been a noisy place on hot days—particularly during the 2017 heat wave—because the old air conditioners droned and rattled as they strained to cool the air.

Not so any longer. A grant from the Trust’s Energy Retrofit Program made some significant upgrades possible. This included replacing the 25-year-old “window shaker” units in each apartment with heat pumps, which can both heat and cool the air—an alternative that is expected to help tenants save on their utility bills.

“Honestly, those window shakers just didn’t cut it,” says Irene Walker, Chair of the Erickson Golden Agers Association, which operates the building. “Our tenants were suffering from the heat. This summer, they welcomed the heat. It was a totally different summer for them.”

Safeguarding against wildfire

Fernie takes steps to prevent disaster

The threat of wildfires is real and present in the Basin, and the City of Fernie is very aware of its vulnerability—the entire community was destroyed by wildfire on August 1, 1908.

Ted Ruiter, Fernie’s Director of Fire and Emergency Services, also known as the Fire Chief, says Fernie has been lucky to have the assistance of Alan Westhaver, a renowned FireSmart expert, who helped formulate its plan for wildfire risk reduction.

“Al happens to live in Fernie,” Ruiter says. “A number of years ago he suggested we look at the FireSmart Canada program and apply for grant funding from the Union of BC Municipalities. We received \$10,000 from it and that was a good start.”

They then applied for funding available through the Trust’s Community Development Program, specifically for wildfire mitigation. As one way of helping the region adapt to climate change, these grants were intended to help local governments and First Nations communities educate residents about reducing wildfire risks, manage wildfire fuels, protect critical community infrastructure and develop emergency response and evacuation plans.

With this in mind, Ruiter and Westhaver sent in applications for projects that addressed the most pressing issues, hoping to immediately improve the community’s safety and achieve long-term public awareness and active support for fire safety.

CALLING ALL CITIZENS

The City of Fernie received \$54,500 in funding for five projects that involve combined elements of wildfire fuel management, structural protection, emergency and evacuation planning, and public education.

A big part of reducing wildfire risks to residents and the community as a whole involves reducing wildfire fuels on residents’ properties. That’s why public support, in the form of participation in forest fire fuel removal and other FireSmart practices, is key to these projects’ success.

“Part of the challenge has been to change the local mindset to focus on what’s to be gained by preparedness rather than what might be lost in terms of aesthetics and recreation,” Ruiter says.

These projects will let people see first-hand how FireSmart practices will safeguard these elements. As well as being of immediate benefit, the investment of labour from the community will heighten awareness and encourage residents to become monitors and stewards who keep the area fire-safe into the future.

A RANGE OF PROJECTS

The first project is creating a Municipal FireSmart Demonstration Forest—a living example of how Fernie residents and land developers can apply FireSmart guidelines to their properties. Under the supervision of the Fernie

Fire Department, volunteers are working to remove dead wood from the forest floor and selectively remove some of the trees.

Disposing of the woody debris—from the demonstration forest and other properties where similar removal is taking place—is the focus of the second project. This includes about a dozen events in which residents remove built-up vegetation and fuel hazards from their properties, which they haul to the curbside for free chipping.

The City also worked to assess and protect its critical infrastructure. In the event of a wildfire, this will help to preserve hospital service, wastewater treatment, communications hubs and an emergency operations centre, among other essential services.

The last two projects involved creating a long-term plan for continued thinning of forest fire fuels in the area immediately surrounding Fernie, and updating bylaws to help developers and builders create FireSmart properties.

Ideally, once the foundational work has been done in Fernie, other communities will refer to it as a model to inspire and guide their own FireSmart efforts.

“Climate change is everybody’s dilemma,” says Ruiter, citing a reason why the frequency and severity of wildfires are anticipated to increase in the future. “It’s vital that we move forward with the work right now.” ●

**\$1.06 million
for 27 communities
to prevent wildfire and
minimize potentially
destructive impacts.**

“Climate change is everyone’s dilemma. It’s vital that we move forward with the work right now.”

TED RUITER, DIRECTOR OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, FERNIE

Left to right: Fernie Chief Administrative Officer, Norm McInnis, Ted Ruiter, Fernie Fire Chief, and Fire Smart Consultant, Alan Westhaver.
BOTTOM LEFT: Fernie residents prune the lower branches of mature trees to prevent wildfire from spreading into treetops.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Left to right: Fernie residents Leslie and Jim Catley are helping prevent wildfire in their community.



Giving business a boost

Local businesses are investing in their futures with loans from the Trust

COLIN PAYNE



Purchasing a business, expanding one or implementing

other major changes often requires financial support. Like other traditional lenders, the Trust welcomes smart investment opportunities.

Here are three of the Basin businesses it has invested in.

OUT WITH THE OLD

While visiting Nelson in summer 2015, Mei Mei Kwan and Panda Xiong fell in love with the personality of the city and the beauty of the surrounding area. By October of that year they had left Richmond and were the proud owners of Kokanee Glacier Resort, a 19-suite motel overlooking Kootenay Lake, 10 kilometres northeast of Nelson.

The former owner of the motel had secured financing with the Trust, and Kwan and Xiong followed suit.

“I would say it’s a win-win situation,” says Kwan. “We like the idea that the Trust uses the profits from investments to support other businesses and local non-profit groups, so we’re helping with that in a way.” Here she refers to one of the many ways the Trust generates revenues, which are then used to fund support programs and services for residents, communities and organizations of all types.

Understanding the importance of tourism to Nelson’s economy, and wishing to be a positive part of the city’s image, the couple wasted no time starting to make improvements to their new business. With financial support from the Trust in place, Kwan and Xiong have been able to put their savings and profits into increasing the facility’s appeal to Nelson visitors. This includes new windows for the motel, a new children’s playground, a spruced-up exterior and new landscaping.

Inside, all linens and mattresses were replaced. One suite has been completely transformed, and Kwan says they plan to upgrade all the suites to a deluxe level, at the rate of three to four per year. This year, though, their focus is on adding a 45-seat restaurant, which they hope to have completed by spring 2019.

Life for Kwan and Xiong is busy and exciting and full, and they have no regrets about leaving the big city.

“We’re lucky to have found this beautiful location,” Kwan says. “We have spectacular views over the lake and the city and the mountains. In all seasons, this is a happy, peaceful place.”

FOR WORK AND FOR PLAY

Rough Country Marine has been serving outdoor enthusiasts in Revelstoke for more than 35 years. In 2015, when the business was listed for sale, former Alberta residents Kristie and Kevin Raduenz decided to make an offer.

“We had been coming to Revelstoke almost every weekend since 2006 for snowmobiling and dirt biking, and loved everything about the community,” says Kristie. “We actually had a rental here for our weekend visits, and started looking for a business opportunity so that we could move here. We had been customers at the store and we knew it was a viable business, so we thought it would be a perfect fit for us.”

The couple’s plan to buy the store came to a standstill, though, when they had difficulty securing bank financing. Their accountant recommended that they discuss their needs with the Trust.

The Investments staff at the Trust “were super excited for us,” Kristie says. “Things started moving again and we had our loan approval within just a few weeks. We took ownership in February 2016.”

Rough Country’s diverse merchandise makes it a treasure in the small community with limited retail options. It caters to just about all of the outdoor pursuits available in the area, including the forestry and construction industries. It also stocks fireplaces, wood stoves and lawn and garden equipment for homeowners. To support the active lifestyle that Revelstoke is famous for, Rough Country carries supplies for camping, fishing, dirt biking and snowmobiling, along with club memberships, trail passes and guiding contacts.

“Everything that we sell, we also service,” Kristie adds. “Kevin is a millwright by trade and he’s very handy.”

As business owners, taxpayers and supporters of tourism, Kristie and Kevin are welcome additions to the Revelstoke community. “We’re seeing lots of growth in Revelstoke,” says Kristie, “and we need to grow our business to keep up. The Trust is super supportive with an offer of resources and services if we need support for our growth.”



Left to right: Kevin and Kristie Raduenz, owners of Rough Country Marine in Revelstoke.



Dave Bergeron, owner of Snow Valley Spa and Leisure Inc. in Fernie.

Generating returns

The Trust invests in businesses to help them be successful and make an economic difference in the region. But it also invests in them to generate the revenues it needs to fund its programs and services that support the efforts of Basin residents.

In 1995, the Province of British Columbia endowed the Trust with \$321 million: \$276 million to invest in regional hydroelectric projects and \$45 million to invest elsewhere. It carefully invests this money to generate a predictable, sustainable and growing income stream.

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.

ourtrust.org/investments

TIME WELL INVESTED

Dave Bergeron, a licensed auto mechanic, has a passion for skiing—while living in Calgary, he spent pretty much every winter weekend in Fernie. His auto repair business in the city was successful, but, “I was kind of complacent in the automotive business,” he says, “and I was looking for something new and exciting—a challenge that I could take on.”

That challenge turned out to be in the Basin. In 2014, Bergeron sold his shop in Calgary and made Fernie his full-time home, with an eye to buying a business.

Alpine Spa & Leisure caught his interest, and he came to an agreement to purchase with the former owner. While he was in the process of arranging financing—a process he was finding frustrating—Bergeron noticed some posters advertising an upcoming presentation by the Trust. Knowing almost nothing about the work of the Trust, he attended the presentation on impulse. It was time well invested.

Bergeron was impressed with what he learned about the programs and opportunities the Trust offers to individuals, businesses and other organizations in the Basin. He appreciates that the organization focuses on the success of people and communities.

“I approached the Trust for a business loan,” Bergeron says, “and they supported me by providing the funds so that I could complete the purchase of the existing business in Fernie.”

Bergeron purchased Alpine Spa & Leisure, changing its name to Snow Valley Spa and Leisure Inc. Now in its 22nd year, the business employs six people—four of them full-timers—and Bergeron prides himself on his customer service.

“Our focus is mostly on residential clients,” he says. “They have my undivided attention—we have time to listen to their wants and needs. I think I brought new energy and a new vision to the business, and the Trust has proved to be a very good business partner.” ●

Upward growth

In 2017/18, the Trust continued on its path of progress, with increased revenues and even more funds committed to the programs and services we deliver to Basin residents. These are all great steps forward in addressing our 13 strategic priorities and supporting community-led accomplishments everyone can be proud of.

We earned \$64 million—up from the previous year’s \$59 million. We generate revenues by investing in power projects, private placements and market securities. Our power projects performed particularly well over the year and accounted for about 85 per cent of our revenues.

In turn, this enabled us to deliver a total of \$57 million in funding benefits and commercial investments to the region. This included \$2.7 million in capital investments related to broadband and economic development, \$5.3 million in business loans and commercial properties and \$49 million to support 1,600 projects and partnerships through 65 programs and initiatives.

See our full 2017/18 financial statements online:

ourtrust.org/annualreport

\$745M
BOOK VALUE OF ASSETS



\$64M
IN REVENUES



\$5.3M
NEW BUSINESS LOANS & COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES



1,600
NEW PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS



\$57M
IN TOTAL BENEFITS



65

ACTIVE PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

RETURN ON INVESTMENTS



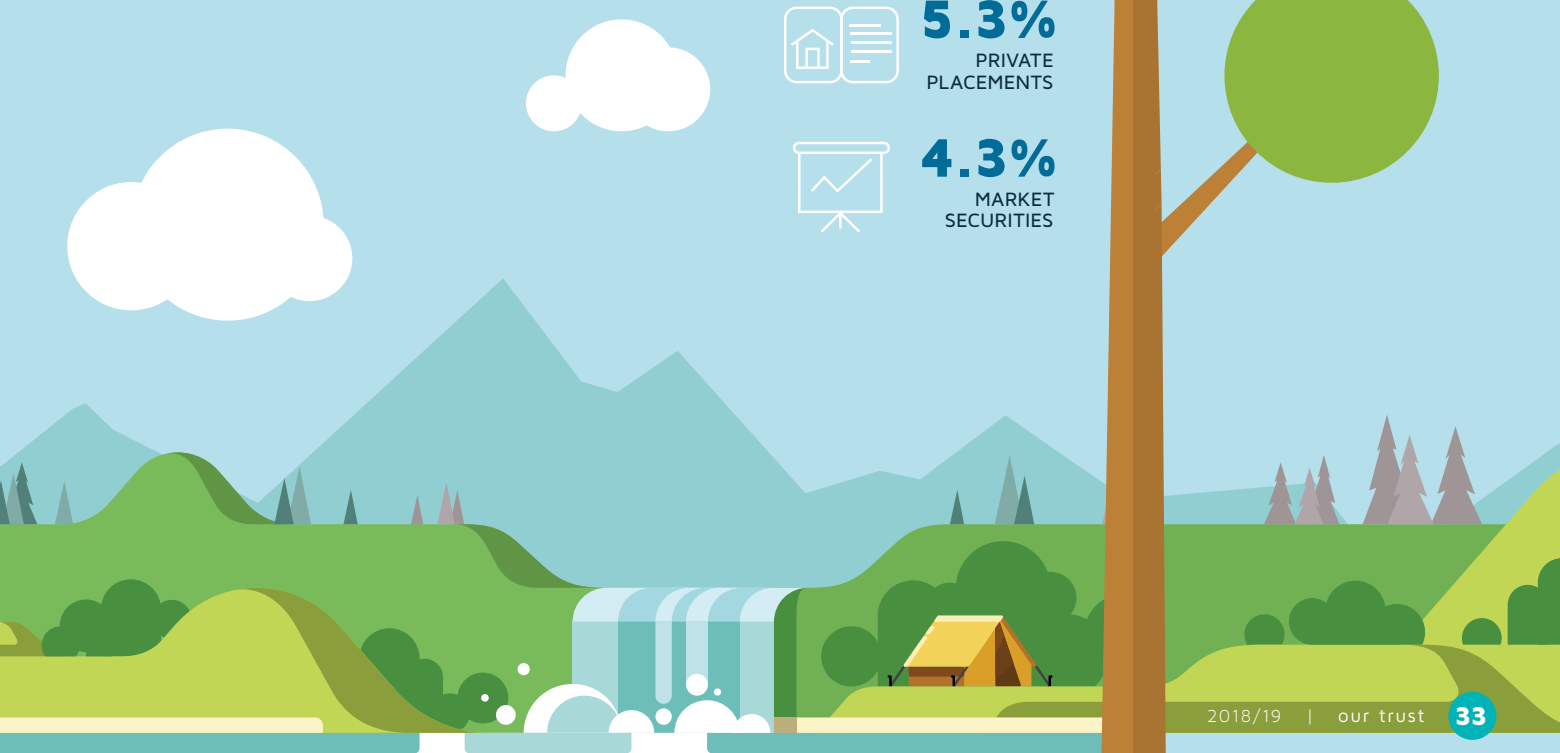
11.7%
POWER PROJECTS



5.3%
PRIVATE PLACEMENTS



4.3%
MARKET SECURITIES



Working together to strengthen the Basin

Together, we can achieve more. Just look at all the examples in this magazine of groups and individuals who are striving to enhance our region. Through small projects to large, they've extended their reach by partnering with other people and organizations, including Columbia Basin Trust.

The Trust is here to support your endeavours. We provide programs, services and resources that help you transform ideas into actions that make a difference. Whether you're taking advantage of an opportunity or addressing a challenge, it's your efforts that carry this region strongly into the future.

Get in touch with us to see how we can help.

Wow, does time fly!

In 2020, the Trust will celebrate 25 years of working with Basin residents to support this incredible region we call home. We are currently planning several ways to honour the commitment and successes of the people of the Basin...and that means you!

For almost a quarter century, you have inspired us to work hard to support our region in a variety of ways. To help us celebrate, tell us your stories about the Trust or share photos of the impact the Trust has had in your community.

Email us today! communications@cbt.org



Connect with us

Do you have an idea? What are your community priorities? Or do you want to learn more about what the Trust does and what we're up to? If you have questions, turn to one of our one-stop resources: a Manager of Community Relationships.

Working alongside other Trust staff, their goal is to help you better understand the Trust and how it can support you. They also want to gain a better understanding of Basin residents' and communities' needs and the potential roles the Trust could play.



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Give us your feedback!

What did you think of this edition of *Our Trust*? Complete our survey at:

ourtrust.org/otfeedback

Meet our Directors

Our Board of Directors holds its meetings around the region. Attend one of our public sessions to learn what we're up to in your community.

View the schedule and read highlights and meeting minutes at:

ourtrust.org/board

CONTACT US

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The Columbia Basin Trust Board of Directors.
Left to right: David Raven, Jocelyn Carver, Vickie Thomas, Carol Andrews, Wendy Booth, Murray McConnachie, Rick Jensen, Am Naqvi, Loni Parker, Corky Evans, Jeannette Townsend, Larry Binks.





Basin Stories
Read more stories about
people and places in the
Columbia Basin at
stories.ourtrust.org

