

Granting cycle benefits community projects

By **James Knoop - Golden Star**

Published: **June 01, 2010 3:00 PM**

The Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives and Affected Area 2010 granting program was released recently, providing support for a variety of community projects over the upcoming season.

This year, there were 41 applications from diverse community groups, and through a process involving significant public input, the amount of funds distributed totaled over \$345,000.

One of the larger recipients of a Community Initiatives grant was the Golden District Golf & Country Club, who received \$75,000 for the completion of a new golf hole. The Civic Centre Re-Development Committee also received two grants of \$50,000 for renovation projects on the backstage annex, washrooms and servery.

Other recipients of grants include the Royal Canadian Legion, branch 122, who received just under \$50,000 for Phase I of its 80th Anniversary Revitalization Project. The Golden Cyclin Club, Moonraker Trail Crew also received over \$35,000 for trail expansions.

Many other community groups received grants to commission projects as well. Interior Health, Golden & District Hospital received funds to commence a native plants and garden project. The Golden Food Bank received funds for emergency staple food supplies. While the Golden Family Centre Society received funds for a Parent Education Program (PEP).

In total, 15 groups received funding through the program. Other groups that had their projects approved are the Golden Dolphins Swim Club, the Golden Gymnastics Club, Kicking Horse Country Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Avalanche Centre, the Golden Girl Guides and the Golden & District Community Foundation (GDCF).

Ryan Watmough, Executive Director of GDCF says, “The volunteer Community Funds Local Selection Committee (CFLSC) spent countless hours developing the programs’ Areas of Focus, policies, application and evaluation process before they read a single proposal. Their well-crafted questions at the Public Input Sessions were probing and, after much discussion, they were able to distribute the funds throughout Golden and Area A in a very responsible manner. The community is lucky to have such dedicated volunteers.”

Watmough also notes that while the program is funded by the Columbia Basin Trust, it is managed by the Town of Golden and administered by the GDCF.

“With the competitive process, the project proposals are getting better and better each year. In the end, the entire community benefits by these thoughtful and well-planned projects,” adds Watmough.

Find this article at:

http://www.bclocalnews.com/kootenay_rockies/thegoldenstar/community/95279114.html