

Waneta Expansion PROJECT



NEWSLETTER - FALL 2011

ONE YEAR IN - THE WANETA EXPANSION PROJECT

Right here in our back yards is one of the largest hydroelectric projects currently under construction in British Columbia. The \$900 million Waneta Expansion Project creates a unique opportunity to obtain large amounts of clean hydroelectric energy without building a new dam. The project will see the creation of a second powerhouse to share the hydraulic head created by the existing Waneta Dam (owned by Teck and BC Hydro).

"It's amazing to see the progress that has been made in just over one year" says Audrey Repin, spokesperson for the project. "Since the startup last October, huge strides have been made at Waneta. Major activities onsite include excavation of the intake, powerhouse, and power tunnels and construction of the draft tube forms and service bay for the powerhouse."

In the first year of construction, the project logged more than 550,000 man hours without a lost time injury or major environmental incident.

It boasts a local hire rate of well over 80 per cent, exceeding the targeted 75 per cent; chances are you know someone who is involved in some aspect of the project. Last month, the number of workers onsite peaked at over 200. To date, regional spending on goods and services has exceeded \$55 million.

Recognizing a project of this size draws great excitement from both local residents and visitors, the partners - Fortis Inc., Columbia Power Corporation and Columbia Basin Trust - teamed up with the contractors and created a new public viewing area across from the construction site. Opened in time for the busy summer months, it continues to see steady traffic and is a great place to watch construction.

Over the next six months, you can expect to see the completion of excavation at the project site and the beginning of concrete works in the powerhouse, power tunnels, draft tubes, and intake.

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Artist's rendition of the completed 335 MW Waneta Expansion Project



Opening of the public viewing area across from the project on Highway 22A



Local carpenters who constructed the public viewing area



CONTRACTORS SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS



Representatives from SNC-Lavalin Inc. and Hatfield Consultants present the BC SPCA with a donation on behalf of the Waneta Expansion Project

Waneta Expansion Project major subcontractor, ASL-Joint Venture, has initiated a unique recycling program which not only benefits the environment, but also helps local non-profit organizations in their fundraising efforts. ASL-Joint Venture, SNC-Lavalin Inc., and Hatfield Consultants collect recyclable materials, such as pop cans and steel, and donate either the materials or funds from recycling to various community groups. Project workers are involved in the selection of the groups. Recently donations nearing \$2000, primarily from old railroad track steel, were given to the Trail SPCA and the Valhalla Wilderness Society who assisted the project when a bear den was discovered onsite last year. The Bird Emergency And Kare Society (BEAKS) of Castlegar is currently receiving all refundable containers from the project. ASL-Joint Venture has recently donated to other community-supported initiatives including the Trail Airport parking lot expansion (in cooperation with Emil Anderson Construction), Miral Heights Hiking Trail, Fruitvale Cenotaph, and the Trail Rotary Park.



ASL-Joint Venture, Emil Anderson Construction, SNC-Lavalin Inc., Regional District of Kootenay Boundary and Trail Airport representatives officially open the expanded Trail Airport parking lot

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS - WANETA TERRESTRIAL COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The Waneta Terrestrial Compensation Program is currently accepting applications for conservation projects located in the Waneta area which focus on the terrestrial ecosystem and benefit the natural environment. The program allocates up to \$50,000 annually towards projects that promote conservation and restoration through research, physical works, and other on-the-ground or applied projects. Eligible projects include research, habitat creation (restoration, rehabilitation), habitat protection (livestock fencing), species inventories, educational programs, development of management plans, weed control and land acquisition. The program is open to for-profit and not-for-profit organizations and individuals. Interested or have an exciting project in mind? Contact Wendy Horan, Manager of Environmental Programs at: 250.304.6032 or wendy.horan@columbiapower.org for more information.



The Waneta Terrestrial Compensation Program is accepting applications for projects that will benefit species such as this yellow-breasted chat

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Visit our website or call 250.304.6060 for a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate to the Dragonfly Cafe in Salmo. Enter today!

www.columbiapower.org/prize

GENERATING CARPENTERS

Jessica Collett is a 2nd year apprentice carpenter with Local 2300 working to construct the project's draft tube form work. Once concrete is placed, the draft tubes serve to discharge water exiting the turbines. The nature of this carpentry work is very precise. "What I love about my job here is that people care to take the time to do things right. By maintaining accuracy on the ground, it saves other people the need to go back and re-plane; if the finished product is out by even a millimetre, it means someone would have to harness-up and go up on the draft tube to shave that millimetre off," says Jessica, who comes to the project after working on a project for Selkirk College. Since making her first venture into carpentry, she has not looked back and is especially excited to have the Waneta Expansion as her first industrial job. "You are part of such a big team and you come in and do your job and at the end of the day, you can see the efforts of your work."



Jessica Collett, 2nd year carpentry apprentice, currently employed on the project



Draft tube forms currently under construction behind the project offices near the Trail Airport

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