

Kootenay Columbia Trails Society - 2016 Annual Report

The KCTS had a productive and successful year in 2016, completing several new trail projects as well as overall maintenance of our regional trail network.

Core maintenance and upgrades of 57 trails (totaling over 150 km) was completed. In addition to our regular 4-employee maintenance crew, special grants permitted us to hire an additional 4-employee crew along with two part-time summer students, bringing the total number of KCTS employees to 10 for much of the 2016 season. All crews worked effectively and safely, with no significant workplace accidents. Our core maintenance and upgrading work is essential to retain the hard-won land access agreements and to comply with our insurance requirements. Feedback during 2016 indicated the gradual improvements in the trails through ongoing annual maintenance, especially toward reducing water erosion resulting in less annual maintenance going forward, is being noticed.

In 2016, the KCTS completed a handful of significant trail projects:

- Completion of major repairs and re-routes to the historic Dewdney trail, including 910 meters of new trail (including two major bridges) and significant upgrades to 320 meters of existing trail
- Completion of the Eddie J trail above Rossland. Constructed over 3 years, and utilizing the assistance of dedicated volunteer laborers, this new trail provides much needed moderate and accessible trail options north of the city
- Completion of planning and starting construction of a new lower section of the Green Door trail, connecting Rossland to Warfield. Over 12 years in planning, and made possible by the cooperation of Teck Metals Ltd, this new 3-km section of trail will address major public safety, invasive species, endangered species, and public access issues
- Hosting multiple major trails events, including the Trans BC Enduro mountain bike race, the Broken Goat trail running race, the Rossland Rubberhead Enduro mountain bike race and the Seven Summits Poker Ride mountain biking event
- Construction of the new Rusty Chainsaw trail, a new 2.7-km multi-use trail which expands upon the popular Bluffs trail network above the Miral Heights neighborhood in Trail and provides expanded options for walkers and mountain bikers in a spectacular location.

This year, the KCTS developed a new website (www.kcts.ca) with integration into trailforks.com, a powerful trail map tool to help locals and visitors alike find and navigate the best trails for them in the region. In conjunction with the new website, we launched a new membership drive that has seen our membership rise to well over 400 and growing.

Monthly e-mail updates to members were well received, and our social media sites have seen increased traffic and membership participation.

Trail use was not quantified in 2016, but by all accounts trail use was higher than ever, with winter Fat-biking increasing the year-round utilization of many trails. In 2016, the KCTS is planning to launch a trail counter program to assess overall user rates in the region.

Board strength was sustained, with three new directors elected at our October AGM. Ryan Kuhn took over as our new President.

The KCTS' "Trails for Tomorrow" legacy trust with the LeRoi foundation continues to grow. The fund is currently around \$23,000 and provides the KCTS about \$1150 of returns per year.

In 2016, we saw a remarkable effort from volunteer trail builders. We hosted two very well-attended and productive volunteer trail building days on the new Redhead extension on Red Mountain up to Poochies Cabin. A spring community build day on the new Rusty Chainsaw trail was also well-attended and productive. The Church of Dirt volunteers continued their weekly work on completing the Eddie J trail, enhancements on the Deer Park trail and commenced work on the new Warfield connector to Green Door.

The KCTS served the entire Greater Trail community comprised of seven local governments. The KCTS reinforced this broad role during 2016 by holding its meetings (open to the public) in different communities throughout the year.

Kootenay Columbia Trails Society - Budget Summary 2016:

Core Funding : 95% of the \$98,650 expended during 2016 was applied to wages, vehicles, tools and material in the field. Most of the balance was insurance and accounting. This high proportion of revenues utilized in the field was possible due to significant management contributions by KCTS directors and other volunteers.

East End Stakeholders Committee of the RDKB	\$80,000
City of Rossland Community grant	\$18,650
Sub-total	\$98,650

Project Specific Grants: In 2016 the KCTS was very successful in securing a number of special grants to carry out specific new trail and upgrade projects. These included the new Rusty Chainsaw trail in Trail and The historic Dewdney Trail renovation.

LCCDT Community Directed Funds Committee	\$40,000
Columbia Basin Trust Community Investment Program / City of Trail	\$5,000
Columbia Basin Trust Recreation Infrastructure Grant	\$10,500
Canada Summer Jobs Student Employment Subsidy	\$7,622
LeRoi Foundation Grant	\$3,000
Sub-total	\$66,122

Donations: Events that take place on our trails give back to help remediate impacts and improve our trail network. This year, our membership drive resulted in nearly double our historic numbers.

Red Mountain Resort	\$1,000
Broken Goat	\$500
BC Enduro	\$2,000

Rossland Enduro	\$1,760
WSP Engineering	\$500
Memberships	\$10,586
Sub-total	\$16,364

Fee for Services: Our trails manager and crew work with partners to enhance trails in the region to ensure a safe and seamless network in our region.

Friends of the Rossland Range / Repair of trails following construction.	\$1,200
Tourism Rossland / Planning and installation of signs	\$900
Beaver Valley Recreation Committee / Planning.	\$3,000
City of Rossland/Maintenance of Urban trails.	\$3,315
Sub-total	\$8,415

Total Income \$189,551