

# THE ROSSLAND TELEGRAPH

“ A UNIQUE VOICE FOR A UNIQUE TOWN ”

HOME ARCHIVES OP/ED SPORTS BLOGS EVENTS CLASSIFIEDS OBITS

**SHINE** SALON  
*Beautiful, naturally*  
201 - 2012 Washington Street, Rossland BC • shinesalon.ca

[Home](#) ›

## JOINT PROJECT RALLIES THE REGION BEHIND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

by Andrew Zwicker on 20 Apr 2011



Maslow's hierarchy of needs is built on the foundation of food, water, and shelter--the basics--before all else. Agreement that shelter is critical to a community's survival and growth has resulted in a difficult achievement recently; it has brought together all area municipalities. Thanks to these municipalities, along with the **Columbia Basin Trust**, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Kootenay Savings Credit Union Foundation, a new study is now underway to identify and resolve problems associated with affordable housing in the Lower Columbia region.



The project is a culmination of similar ideas and project seeds taking place simultaneously by various groups with various angles. Seeing their common bond, they've now merged into one region-wide project.

In Rossland it began with the Housing Affordability Task Force of the Sustainability Commission. As they began digging into the issue they realized they needed more information--clear information about the current state of housing. What is currently available for housing, who needs affordable housing, what are people's incomes, what is the cost of different housing options? These and other questions, the commission realized, would need to be answered before any meaningful and efficient strategies to address the situation could begin.

At about the same time the newly formed Lower Columbia Community Development Team (LCCDT) was looking at the housing issue from the angle of housing new workers coming to the area. The LCCDT struck a housing committee.

"It made sense that I would join that committee and participate," explained Patricia Marshall Thompson, chair of the Sustainability Commission's Affordable Housing Task Force. "The activities they were doing with representatives throughout the lower Columbia area was very similar to what we planned to do in Rossland. In getting together with them, it was recognized that it made sense to do a housing study that covered Fruitvale through to Patterson. The regional needs will give us a lot more information about what is available, who needs housing and what types of things we can plan for to help that."

And so the joint project was off and running with support from all local municipalities, area A and Area B, as well as key players with valuable connections.

"We've been really fortunate to be supported. The CBT last year established a housing resources program," added Marshall Thompson. "Through them we were able to access resources. They established a partnership with the BC non-profit housing association which is an association of non-profits that build affordable housing and do a lot of research into housing issues and so with their partnership with CBT they were able to provide us with the technical expertise and also link us to consultants. They also managed the tendering process and manage the contract for us."

With strong support behind them, Thompson, Ann Damude, Jan Morton and Craig Adams volunteering their time to the project have developed the RFP to kick off the two stage project with a due date of next fall.

The project will first identify the current housing stock and paint a data-backed picture of the current housing situation in the Lower Columbia. Based on the analysis of that study a

### VIRTUAL PAPERBOY

Let our virtual paperboy deliver an issue to your inbox every week, FREE! You don't even have to tip him!  
email address:

**SIGN UP**



Select a newspaper

Navigation

Megaphone

Image Galleries

About Rossland

Polls

Comics

Crossword

Sudoku

Gas Prices

Create content

Green Flyers



## OTHER NEWS



**Mentally Interesting, Part 1: The access to services edition**  
by : Allyson Kenning



**EDITORIAL: You support me and I'll support you back**  
by : Andrew Zwicker



**Walk this way: Heritage buildings anchor tourism initiative**  
by : Andrew Zwicker



**(Somewhat) like a rolling stone...**  
by : Adrian Barnes



**Dr. CEO: Interior Health Authority President and CEO sits down for a check-up with the Rossland Telegraph**  
by : Allyson Kenning

[more](#)

**Comments**

Popular

Events

**I have a whole lot to say**

4 min 41 sec ago

**Newsworthy**

9 hours 10 min ago

**Sorry! But 'pop' isn't a bad**

13 hours 9 min ago

**The hypocrisy is simply staggering**

13 hours 48 min ago

**The Stones...**

15 hours 50 min ago

[more](#)

prioritized and stage action strategy will be developed to address the identified needs.

The strategy to be developed will address a 10 year time frame from 2011 to 2021 and will recommend planning principles and policy options and priorities that will lead to an appropriate mix of attainable housing in the region. A principle objective of the project will be to ensure the project from start to finish remains a community project with full and active involvement of the local community.

The consultant who has been hired, Matt Thomson from the Sunshine Coast, will be aiming to employ innovative community engagement techniques as he develops the plan. Throughout the process several public input sessions are planned to present drafts of the plan and gain feedback along the way to development of the final plan.

In addition to recommending policy and planning options, the study will also identify land owned by local governments that could potentially be used to develop affordable housing.

"The goal is to get a better understanding of all the potential for affordable housing, where it's located and those things," added Thompson, "and then to have the consultant do his work and come back with workable strategies that we can begin implementing to make sure we've got a healthy supply of affordable housing in the region."

Affordable housing, as defined by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, is housing which costs less than 30% of a household's gross income.

From community to community within the Lower Columbia region, average house prices and income vary. While there may be less expensive housing options in Trail than there are in Rossland, if a person doesn't want to leave their community, the results of the study would be rendered less valuable. To address that potential concern, the results of the study will be broken down and delivered in three sub-regions.

- Beaver Valley (Montrose, Fruitvale and Area A
- Trail, Warfield and the portion of Area B including Casino, Oasis and Genelle
- Rossland and the portion of Area B surrounding Rossland

With work already underway, the plan is to have the report completed for this coming October.

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

## Comments

### [I have a whole lot to say](#)

by Allyson Kenning on 21 Apr 2011 at about 08:45.



I have a whole lot to say about "affordable housing" in Rossland. In reading this article, I am hopeful that low income housing will be on the agenda with any studies going on as part of these partnerships and studies.

The price of renting is rarely discussed. I'm a renter, I'm single, I live on a small income, and I think renting in this town is atrocious. Shelter costs for me run about 60% of my income. This is brutal.

Housing prices in this town will preclude me from ever owning a home here. But I'm kind of OK with that.

My issue is that discussions around "affordable housing" rarely - if ever - involve discussing making housing affordable for those of us on small incomes and who have to rent!

I have no idea who these "valuable connections" are and I don't know whom this consultant plans to consult with, but if anyone is interested in talking about this, I can refer them too all kinds of people in the community who could give a rather appalling picture the lack of affordable RENTALS in both Trail and Rossland and how that affects the population who desperately need affordable housing for those on small incomes.

I'm less concerned about how much housing prices are - I'm not in the market and never will be. But this community DESPERATELY needs to have a conversation about



**WEDNESDAY APR. 27 2011**

7:00 p.m. start time doors 6:30 p.m Rossland Miners Hall



**Womens Fitness and 'Flash-Fight' Defense**

by: jlcapo

**CBT needs YOU ASAP**

by: Anonymous

**Viral Harper Website: 1.5M views in first 12 hours**

by: Anonymous

**Kiss Off Cancer Cook-Off**

by: Diana Daghofer

**Literature and classic movies in anime/graphic novel**

**form**

by: SeanBateman

[more blasts](#)

affordable rentals for people who live on piddly incomes!

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments