



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
September 10, 2010

Community comes together in Golden

Hundreds attend Not-For-Profit Connection

(Golden, BC) – Five hundred Kicking Horse Country residents came out to the Not-For-Profit Connection & Community Registration Night on Wednesday September 8th to learn how they could get involved, get active and give back.

They came to sign-up with the 53 non-profit and community organizations' displayed, hear from 16 supporting organizations across BC, see local community groups perform demonstrations and feel the community spirit that develops when so much activity is packed into the Mount 7 Rec Plex for one night only.

On all categories, numbers are up with this year's annual event. Attendance was approximately 500 and included 53 tables for organizations, up from 350 and 45, respectively. The new Funders Forum event was well attended on both sides – attracting 16 groups from Golden and across BC with a full audience of local organizations.

Lisa Reinders and Sarah Wegelin, both from the Town of Golden, were ecstatic to witness the turnout. "Our team puts a lot of time into this event and we're very glad to see so many people discover what a great community we live in. With so many organizations here tonight, there is something for everyone," Ms. Reinders reported over the din of the gathering.

In keeping with the theme of community cooperation, the event was sponsored by the Town of Golden, Rural Golden, Columbia Basin Trust and Golden & District Community Foundation (GDCF). For Glen Ewan, Chair of the GDCF, the premier of Funders Forum is the realization of a year-old idea.

"When groups are competing for the same limited resources in a small community, it's critical that every one of them learn what resources are available in an efficient manner. We have provided an opportunity for local organizations to learn how 16 different 'funders' from across the province can provide support in a short 90 minute presentation. This should be a real time-saver for both the non-profits and the 'funders,'" explained Mr. Ewan.

It seems like the goals were achieved. Helen Lutz, of the Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative and presenter at Funders Forum, remarked, "This is the first event of its kind I've encountered anywhere and the community should be really proud of how its many organizations, staff and volunteers work together."

With the feedback from attendees and participants, the Town of Golden and GDCF have started to plan for next year's event.

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The Golden & District Community Foundation's mission is to attract and effectively grow permanent funds; provide leadership and administration that helps in addressing significant community needs; and help donors fulfill their philanthropic interests.

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