



NOTICE OF PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday
March 9, 2011
Regional District Board Room
175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC

3:30 p.m.

A G E N D A

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3:30 p.m.	<u>START OF MEETING</u>	
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2.	<u>ADOPTION OF MINUTES</u>	
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3.	<u>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</u>	
4.	<u>DELEGATIONS</u>	
	D1 Yvonne McNabb – Kinsol Trestle Documentary Update	
	D2 Gord Macdonald of Macdonald and Lawrence Timber Framing Ltd. and Jost Meyboom, Lead Project Engineer, MMM Group – Kinsol Rehabilitation Project Status Overview	
5.	<u>STAFF REPORTS</u>	
	SR1 Staff Report from Norm Olive, Manager, Capital Projects Management, and Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division, regarding Kinsol Trestle construction progress and budget	6 – 11
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8. **NEW BUSINESS**9. **PUBLIC/PRESS QUESTIONS**10. **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion that the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the *Community Charter* Part 4, Division 3, Section 90(1), Subsections as noted in accordance with each agenda item.

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CSSR1	Staff report, Subsection (j) – Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy	<i>To be distributed</i>
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11. **NEXT MEETING**12. **ADJOURNMENT**

NOTE: A copy of the full agenda package is available at the CVRD website www.cvrld.bc.ca

Minutes of the Special Parks Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, February 1, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. in the Regional District Board Room, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC

PRESENT

Director Mel Dorey, Chair
 Director Ian Morrison, Vice-Chair
 Director Loren Duncan
 Director Gerry Giles
 Director Brian Harrison
 Director Lori Iannidinardo
 Director Phil Kent
 Director Dave Haywood
 Director Klaus Kuhn

Absent: Director Ken Cossey

CVRD STAFF

Ron Austen, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture Department
 Warren Jones, Corporate Administrative Officer
 Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division
 Mary Anne McAdam, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair noted changes to the agenda, which included two items of New Business

It was Moved and Seconded

That the agenda, be amended with the addition of the following one item of New Business:

NB1 Cross Country Mountain Bike Event Request – Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area

NB2 Verbal update on the Heart/Stocking Lake Regional Park property that was recently purchased.

and that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

M1 - MINUTES

It was Moved and Seconded

That the Minutes of the Parks Committee Meeting of November 10, 2010, be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

STAFF REPORTS

SR1 – Cowichan Valley Trail Completion Initiative Update

Staff report, dated January 25, 2011, prepared by Dan Brown, Parks Trails Technician, regarding an update on the Cowichan Valley Trail Completion Initiative.

It was Moved and seconded

That this report be received and that it be noted that the efforts of staff to secure extra funding for this project has been exceptional and appreciated.

MOTION CARRIED

**SR2 – Historic Kinsol
Trestle Rehabilitation
Project Update**

Staff report dated February 1, 2011, prepared by Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division, regarding an update on the historic Kinsol Trestle rehabilitation project.

It was Moved and Seconded
That this report be received for information purposes.

MOTION CARRIED

**SR3 – Rotary Club of
South Cowichan
involvement in Kinsol
Project**

Staff report dated February 1, 2011, prepared by Graham Gidden, Parks Planning Technician, regarding the Rotary Club of South Cowichan (Mill Bay) and its involvement with the historic Kinsol Trestle project.

It was Moved and Seconded
That participation of the Rotary Club of South Cowichan (Mill Bay) for the construction of an approximate 450 metre public pathway and viewing/rest areas on the north side of the Kinsol Trestle site be endorsed.

MOTION CARRIED

**SR4 – Spectacle Lake
Park – Proposed
Entrance
Improvements**

Staff report dated January 26, 2011, prepared by Ryan Dias, Parks Operations Superintendent, regarding proposed entrance improvements to Spectacle Lake Park.

It was Moved and Seconded
That staff revisit with BC Parks, a more equitable cost-sharing arrangement for the proposed park entrance road improvements at Spectacle Lake Park.

MOTION CARRIED

**SR5 - Regional Parks
Budget Review**

Staff report dated January 27, 2011, prepared by Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division, regarding the Regional Parks budget review.

It was Moved and Seconded
That this report be received for information purposes.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

**NB1 – Cross Country
Mountain Bike Race
Event Request –
Cobble Hill Mountain
Recreation Area**

Staff report dated February 1, 2011, prepared by Dan Brown, Parks Trails Technician, regarding Cross Country Mountain Bike Race Event Request for Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area

It was Moved and Seconded
That the application from The Evert Cycling Club to hold a cross-country mountain bike race on designated trails within the Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area on Saturday, March 27, 2011, be approved subject to the following conditions:

- a. Proof of the \$5,000,000 liability insurance that the company has to cover the event which also identifies the CVRD and Province of BC named as additional insured.
- b. A damage deposit of \$500 must be provided to the CVRD for confirmation that the company will clean up all garbage

- and fix any damaged trails on the race route upon completion of the event and that all racers will stay on designated trails identified on lands managed by the CVRD.
- c. Confirmation that there will be notices of the event posted along the trail in advance of, and during the day of, the event that will advise other trail users of the race.
 - d. Alpine Stables is notified at least two weeks in advance of the event, by the event organizers, of the trails to be used, to allow sufficient time for equestrian riding routes to be modified for the day of the event.
 - e. That both portable toilets within Quarry Nature Park are pumped out and cleaned following the race at the cost of the race organizers, payment of which will be provided by cheque along with the damage deposit.
 - f. That the Cobble Hill Parks Commission has endorsed the use of Quarry Nature Park in Cobble Hill as a staging area for the event.

MOTION CARRIED

**NB2 – Stocking Lake
Park Update**

Brian Farquhar provided a verbal update on Heart/Stocking Lake Regional Park with respect to including in the 2011 Parks and Trails Division work program, preparation of an interim regional park management plan for this newly acquired site.

Report received for information purposes.

RECESS

It was Moved and Seconded
That the Committee recess (recessed at 2:17 p.m.)

MOTION CARRIED

The Committee reconvened at 2:25 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

It was Moved and Seconded
That the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the *Community Charter* Part 4, Division 3, Section 90(1), Subsections as noted in accordance with each agenda item.

MOTION CARRIED

The Committee moved into closed session at 2:25 p.m.

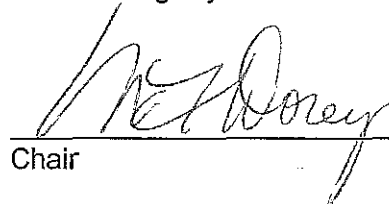
RISE


It was Moved and Seconded
That the Committee rise without report.

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.


Chair


Recording Secretary



STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 9, 2011

DATE: March 3rd, 2011 FILE NO: Kinsol Trestle

FROM: Norm Olive, P. Eng., Manager, Capital Projects
Brian Farquhar, Manager Parks and Trails Division

SUBJECT: Historic Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Project Phase I, II and III Works

Recommendation/Action:

That the firm price of \$394,789 (net of HST and rebate) submitted by Macdonald and Lawrence Timber Framing Ltd. on 29 June 2010 to complete the Phase III Remainder Historic Bents Stabilization capital work be approved.

That up to a maximum of up to \$416,000 in short term borrowing for the completion of the Historic Kinsol Trestle Phase III Remainder Historic Bents Stabilization capital works be approved, and that the loan be paid back over five years under the Liabilities Under Agreement section of 175 of the Community Charter.

That the proposed 2011 budget for Function 283 (Kinsol Trestle) be amended to reduce the requisition by \$90,000, and reduce operating expenses accordingly, also amend the 2011 budget for Function 280 (Regional Parks) by increasing the requisition by \$90,000 to cover the loan Interest/principle payment, and also add the Short Term Borrowing revenue of \$416,000 and Capital Expenditure of \$416,000.

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:

Well maintained public facilities.

Financial Impact: (Reviewed by Finance Division: *sent*)

The Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Project is funded through secured grants, donations and in-kind contributions. As of March 1, 2011 the project has secured grant funds as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Provincial LocalMotion Grant | \$1,611,000 |
| • Federal Provincial Stimulus Grant | \$3,770,732 |
| • Island Coastal Economic Trust | \$1,000,000 |
| • Trans Canada Trail | \$ <u>250,000</u> |

Total Grant Funding \$6,631,732

In addition, the fundraising efforts of the Cowichan Foundation have secured an additional \$200,000 to date in donations plus in-kind contributions (i.e. South Cowichan Rotary contribution to construct the Kinsol interpretive trail), with additional donations and in-kind contributions expected to be finalized in the coming months. As part of the overall fundraising strategy, the proposed application of donations and in-kind contributions secured through the Foundation is towards completion of the overall historic Kinsol Trestle site works associated with public access, use and interpretation of the site (i.e. parking lot improvements, trail approach upgrades, signage, viewing platforms, recognition kiosk, picnic sites, interpretive signage, landscaping, etc.).

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Short Term Borrowing of \$416,000 under the Regional Parks (280) function would require an annual principle/interest payment \$90,000 over five years (2011-2015). To cover this additional cost the proposed 2011 Regional Parks requisition would need to be increased by \$90,000 in 2011 and sufficient requisition funds allocated for repayment in 2012 – 2015. To counter an increase to the Regional Parks requisition to cover such costs, it would be appropriate to reduce the Kinsol Trestle Operations and Maintenance requisition by the same amount (\$90,000) in each of the years 2011 through 2015. The net financial impact for 2011 is no overall change in the taxation level for consideration by the Board to this project.

Background:

Following Board approval to proceed with the historic Kinsol Trestle rehabilitation project in 2009 with approved grant funding in place, the detail design of the rehabilitation Kinsol trestle commenced early in the year 2010 and had the follow objectives and deliverables.

Phase I - Detailed Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Design:

- Carry out a site investigate of the trestle.
- Develop a detailed design and methodology of the rehabilitation work.
- Develop a preservation design strategy.
- Carry out a structural design and prepare construction drawings.
- Carry out a geotechnical design and prepare construction drawings.
- Carry out a heritage and architectural design and prepare construction drawings.
- Prepare and agree with the CVRD's Quantity Surveyor a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the heritage and Timber Specialist work during construction of the trestle rehabilitation including the core and stabilization construction outlined in this report.
- Incorporate all MOTI's requirements in the design and construction of the work.
- Develop an environmental plan for design and monitoring during the construction work.
- Develop a maintenance program strategy for the trestle.

All the above objectives and deliverables have been completed excepting the development of a final maintenance program which is cost and budget funding dependant and will be completed in the near future.

The total cost to complete the phase 1 work is **\$870,000.**

Phase II - Core Rehabilitation Work and installation of the New Under slung Truss/Walkway

The core rehabilitation work and new walkway has the following objectives.

1. The core rehabilitation and super structure installation has to be substantially complete by the 31st March 2011 to meet government stimulus grant funding deadline requirements.
2. Construction completion to achieve opening of the new pedestrian walkway atop the structure in spring of 2011.
3. Construction completion to meet approved project funding.

MacDonald and Lawrence Timber Framing Ltd., as the Heritage Timber Specialist Contractor approved by the Board for the project commenced preliminary rehabilitation work on the historic Trestle on the 24th June 2010. Knappett Projects Inc. was subsequently awarded the general contract in late August 2010 to complete the overhead walkway and assume the role of General Contractor, with the Heritage and Timber specialist Macdonald and Lawrence Timber Framing assigned as a Sub Contractor to this general contract.

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The core construction work consisted of the following

- Install temporary site access roads and general conditions to facilitate the construction work.
- Dismantle 17 existing trestle bents and railway stringers in preparation of installation of new active structural bents to support the new underslung truss walkway.
- Excavate and provide foundations for the 17 new active bents.
- Installation of the 17 new Active wooden bents.
- Construction of two abutment walls.
- Fabrication and installation of five steel trusses ranging in depths from 7 feet to 12 feet.
- Installation of new wood and where possible reused trestle wood to construct the decking and stringers to support foot and equestrian traffic.
- Installation of reused wood for hand railing and deck railing.
- Installation of stainless steel guard rail and wire.
- Repair and rehabilitation of 6 Howe Trusses.
- Substantial repair of 9 inactive bents.
- Decommissioning of the site as part of DFO environmental requirements.

The Phase II Kinsol Trestle Core Rehabilitation work is currently on schedule to be substantially complete by the end of March 2011 and is projected to be on budget at \$5,761,000.

Summation of the Phase I and Phase II Costs:

Phase I Project cost	\$ 870,000
Phase II construction Cost	\$5,761,000
Total phase1 and phase 2 cost	\$6,631,000

The projected overall costs for Phase I and Phase II inclusive is on target to be within the \$6,631,732 in secured grant funding approved for the core rehabilitation work on the Historic Kinsol Trestle.

Phase III - Remainder Historic Bents Stabilization – North Side

The trestle rehabilitation strategy outlined in the Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Study (December 2008) prepared by the consulting team assembled by Commonwealth Historic Resource Management Ltd and endorsed by the Board, recognized the value of advancing, where feasible, stabilization work on the remainder historic sections of the trestle as an add on to the core rehabilitation project. While this preliminary work on the historic sections of the trestle is not necessary to the opening of the trestle walkway to the public, advancing the works as an add on to the core project would benefit from significant cost-savings, complete the overall structure for more extensive opening of the site for trail users/visitors, eliminate the requirement for near future temporary closures of the trestle to separately undertake these works and provide for a lengthy time period prior to requirements of mobilizing for scheduled future major maintenance on the structure. This strategy was designed to provide such flexibility in response to availability of funding to undertake the works as an add-on to the core rehabilitation work.

The work outlined for Phase III Remainder Bents Stabilization is Stabilization/rehabilitation of In-Active Bents 30-33 and 36-40 (north side).

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As part of the scope of work submission by MacDonald and Lawrence Timber Framing, the company was required to provide a firm quote to complete these works, subject to approval of the Regional District to proceed based on available funding. The firm quote provided by MacDonald and Lawrence Timber Framing dated June 29, 2010 to undertake the works is \$394,789 (net of HST and rebate) plus the cost of timbers, hardware and miscellaneous materials. Due to the opportunity to acquire the timbers, hardware and miscellaneous materials at substantial savings as part of the larger order for the core trestle rehabilitation work; these were procured at a cost of \$90,000 on the basis the cost would be covered either within the core project budget or through additional secured funds already in place.

Between the core project funding and additional secured monies the costs for the timbers, hardware and miscellaneous materials can be covered. However, while there remain expectations of additional donations and potential grant funding to be secured for the Historic Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Project, there are not sufficient secured funds from such sources at this time to proceed with the Phase III Remainder Bents Stabilization scope of work. The endorsed trestle rehabilitation strategy recognized this potential and, as such identified that the Phase III works could be undertaken in future if required, without compromising the opening of the trestle walkway itself to trail users/visitors.

The following options are therefore presented for consideration by the Committee as approaches to complete the Phase III works in the event sufficient external funds are not secured at this time:

Option A

Proceed with the Phase III Remainder Bents Stabilization work as an extension to the Phase II works with application of Short Term Borrowing to account for costs not covered by secured grant funding.

The cost to complete the Phase III Remainder Bents Stabilization work as an extension to the Phase II work is for a firm quote of \$394,789 (net of HST and rebate) as noted above. In addition, there may be minor additional costs associated with environmental monitoring, project engineering management and geotechnical assessment. The funding option to complete the works at this time for consideration, in the event sufficient additional grant funding is not forthcoming in the short term, would be to borrow up to \$416,000 under a Short Term Loan, with repayment of the up to \$90,000 principle/interest payment annually over a five year period (2011-2015).

During the five year period no additional works would be required on the historic Kinsol Trestle other than annual structural engineering inspections and minor maintenance, so the annual loan repayment would be equivalent to \$90,000 of the annual \$100,000 Kinsol Trestle Operations and Maintenance requisition each year. However, the Kinsol Trestle Operations and Maintenance establishment bylaw does not provide for borrowing to undertake capital project work, which the Phase III work is considered if undertaken as an extension of the existing Phase II Historic Kinsol Trestle Core Rehabilitation Work. The Phase II work is currently accounted for under Regional Parks (Function 280), for which Short Term Borrowing would need to be approved under this function to allow the Phase III work to proceed at this time as proposed.

To maintain a no net increase to taxation between these two requisitions over the five year period associated with the work on the historic Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation, the Kinsol Trestle Operations and Maintenance requisition would need to be reduced by \$90,000 (to \$10,000) annually between 2011-2015 and the Regional Parks requisition increased by \$90,000 annually between 2011 and 2015. In 2016 and subsequent years, the Kinsol Trestle Operations and Maintenance requisition would then need to be raised back to \$100,000 annually for ongoing future trestle maintenance costs and the Regional Parks requisition reduced accordingly. The \$10,000 annual requisition between 2011 and 2015 under the Kinsol Trestle Operations and Maintenance is required for annual engineering inspections of the structure as required by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure under the permit authorizing CVRD to complete the trestle rehabilitation and minor maintenance cost contingencies.

Option B

Defer the Phase III Remainder Bents Stabilization work to be funded through the Kinsol Trestle Operations and Maintenance function at such time as sufficient funds are accumulated through annual requisition of \$100,000 under this function.

The opening of the historic Kinsol Trestle walkway for public use as completed under the Phase I & II Core Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Project work is not dependent upon the Phase III Remainder Bents Stabilization works being completed according to CVRD's project engineers. The opening of the trestle under this scenario, however, would require limiting public access through installation of fencing and signage to prevent the public from venturing off of the trestle and Cowichan Valley Trail at both ends so as to restrict the public from areas beside and under the trestle due to the stabilization work not being completed on the remainder historic bents.

Application of funds through the Kinsol Trestle Operations and Maintenance function would require sufficient funds being requisitioned over several years prior to the works being undertaken, which would require scheduling the works over two time periods, given the timeframe to requisition sufficient funds, based on an annual requisition of \$100,000 and staging of more critical works to be completed. The estimated costs to complete the Phase III work under this option is also impacted by the additional cost of mobilizing/demobilizing equipment, cranes, resources and materials to the site, which under Option A above is not a factor as the mobilizing/demobilizing costs are already factored into the Phase II part of the project. The estimated mobilization/demobilization costs provided by the contractor and reviewed by the project engineer are in excess of \$95,000 (excluding HST and inflationary costs).

The approach under this option to complete the Phase III work would necessitate a works period in 2014 and subsequent works period in 2018. The cost to complete this work (excluding inflation) would be in the order of \$394,789 plus estimated cost of two mobilization/demobilizations at \$190,000 for an estimated total cost in excess of \$584,789. Subsequent to completion of the remaining Phase III works in 2018, the overall site could then be opened to the public and the Kinsol Trestle Operations and Maintenance requisition would then be annually applied to ongoing scheduled maintenance of the trestle as outlined in the rehabilitation strategy.

Issues to be considered with Option B are as follows:

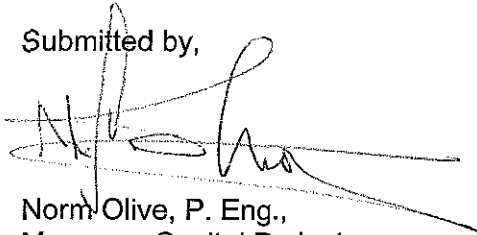
- Additional mobilization/demobilization costs
- Inflationary costs of construction
- Limited public access to the overall site between 2011 and 2018; inclusive of site challenges to effectively restrict people from venturing below or beside the structure (at minimum the entire site would need to be fenced off during this period, for which there would be costs associated to provide and maintain the fencing)

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- Temporary closures of the trestle during works periods in 2014 and 2018.
- Deferring part or overall completion of the interpretive trail by South Cowichan Rotary until such time as Phase III works are substantially completed.

Given the constraints to managing public access throughout the site and additional costs associated with Option B, the Option A approach is recommended by the Historic Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation project team as a means of completing the Phase III work components, recognizing the Option A approach would not incur an additional financial burden on the Regional District as proposed.

Submitted by,



Norm Olive, P. Eng.,
Manager, Capital Projects

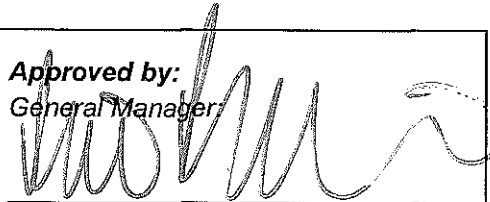


Brian Farquhar
Manager, Parks and Trails Division

NO:jlb

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Approved by:
General Manager





STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011

DATE: March 2, 2011 **FILE No:**

FROM: Dan Brown, Parks Trails Technician **BYLAW No:**

SUBJECT: Cowichan Valley Trail Northern Completion Update

Recommendation/Action:

That staff proceed to organize Cowichan Valley Trail community celebration events in April/May at the new trailhead in the Town of Lake Cowichan and for the section of trail through Chemainus.

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan: N/A

Financial Impact: (Reviewed by Finance Division: N/A)

Background:

To inform the Parks Committee on progress of the Cowichan Valley Trail Northern Completion Initiative and to request direction on scheduling community celebration events at newly completed/upgraded sections at Cowichan Lake and through Chemainus. Minimal costs and existing staff resources would be used to organize the two trail community celebration events.

Lake Cowichan to Duncan Surfacing – Progress Update:

The \$400,000 grant from Trans Canada Trail is currently being expended to complete the Cowichan Valley Trail surfacing over a 20 km section of the rail trail between Duncan/North Cowichan and the Town of Lake Cowichan. This work is on track for completion prior to the March 31st grant funding deadline. The contractor has already completed the required sub-base preparation. In addition, several hundred metres of ditching has been done along with high water mitigation efforts at a large marsh that is home to beavers. Previously, this section of trail has flooded every year, for which a series of overflow culverts are now in place to keep water from affecting the new surface material without affecting the aquatic habitat required by the beavers.

Placing of the final surface material is well underway, with the contractor employing the use of two paving machines to complete the work as quickly and efficiently as possible. The drainage work is already completed and sub-base preparations should mean that even adverse weather should not greatly impact the laying and compaction of material, ensuring that the work is signed off on or before the March 26th deadline as outlined in the contract.

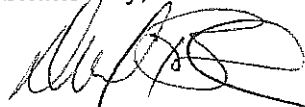
Cowichan Valley Trail Grand Opening Events:

With the completion of several high profile sections of the Cowichan Valley Trail, opening events are suggested for consideration by the Parks Committee, as a means of both recognizing the numerous project funders (Trans Canada Trail, Western Economic Diversification, Island Coastal Economic Trust, Federal Gas Tax, CVRD, Chemainus Rotary), trail corridor owners (for example Island Corridor Foundation) and celebrating with local communities/member municipalities the new sections of trail in place. At this time two trail opening events are suggested for later this spring as follows:

Lake Cowichan to Duncan: The suggested location for this event would be at the trailhead at the Town of Lake Cowichan, off Greendale Road, either within or near the last week of April 2011.

Chemainus Rail with Trail: The suggested location for this event is at either the Chemainus Train Station or where the trail crosses Henry Road, just south of Town, around the 2nd week of April 2011.

Submitted by,



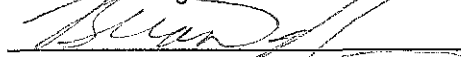
Dan Brown, Trails Planning Technician
Parks and Trails Division
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

DB/mca

Attachment

Reviewed by:

Division Manager:



Approved by:

General Manager:





Recently placed ¾" Road Base – Ready for final surface material



One of four culverts at the marsh flooded by beavers. These near-surface culverts extend into the marsh and the exposed inlet been perforated to allow passage of water even if it is blocked. Their proximity to the trail edge allows for easy maintenance, while their proximity to the trail surface allows the water level to stay at a sustainable level for the beavers.



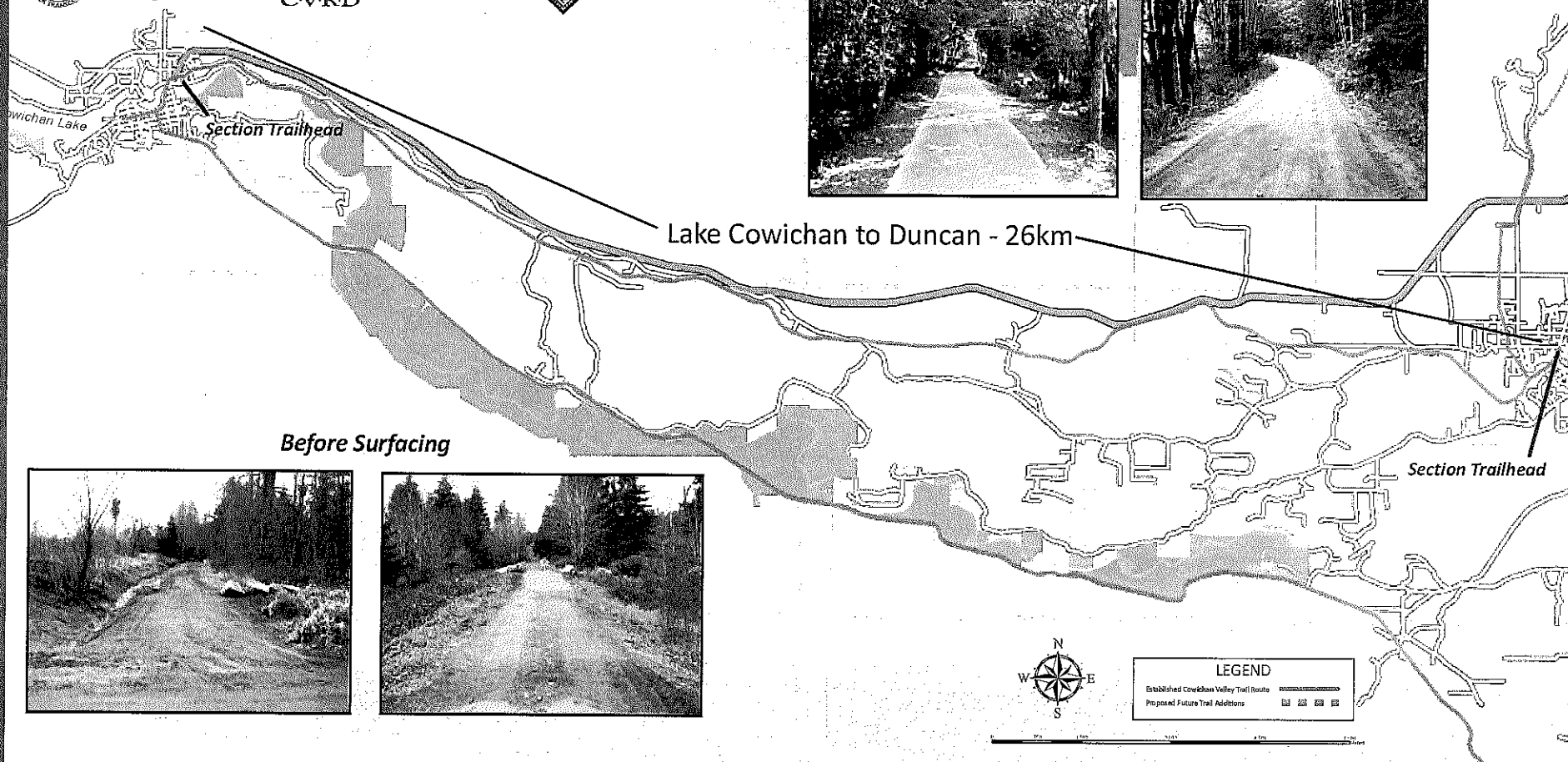
Sub base preparations near the Town of Lake Cowichan



The first stretch of final surface material laid near the Town of Lake Cowichan

Cowichan Valley Trail

Part of the Trans-Canada Trail

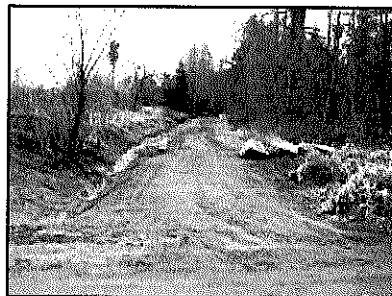


After Surfacing



Lake Cowichan to Duncan - 26km

Before Surfacing



LEGEND	
Established Cowichan Valley Trail Route	
Proposed Future Trail Additions	

Reborn trestle takes shape under camera's eye

By Krista Siefken - Cowichan News Leader Pictorial

February 23, 2011

It's a good time to be the Kinsol Trestle.

The historic monument's rehabilitation is almost complete, and it's the star subject of a documentary that's also nearing the end of the line.

Filming the trestle's transformation is Yvonne Macnab and her small but professional crew.

"I knew we couldn't miss filming this," said Macnab, who spent seven years reporting on the challenges of saving the troubled trestle as an island television reporter.

Macnab had decided to start her own production company at a fortuitous time: just as rehab work on the trestle began.

Since that time about a year ago, Macnab — with award-winning shooters like Jesse Reardon — has been at the trestle for all the highlights of its restoration.

"When they took the bents out and they were craning those out," she recalled, "it was unbelievable to see these huge timbers flying through the air — that was awesome."

Macnab said she feels a tad like an air traffic controller trying to coordinate shooting around restoration highlights.

"Knowing what is important, or going to be significant, can be nerve-wracking," she said. "Like this week, the largest trusses were craned in and we have to get all kinds of clearance to be in certain areas to film it."

But knowing when to be there has its benefits: Macnab was one of the first people to stand on the trestle's newly restored upper deck.

"I realized, 'Oh my God, I'm on the deck.' It was really a moment, to get there, to think we're almost finished the project," she said. "It was just so moving, just like when we were in the Howe trusses. We'd been shooting the Howe trusses for years — they are, in terms of engineering, probably the most significant part of this trestle — and to actually be able to go in there ... It was just so moving."

"You just sense the history," she added. "Everybody in this community has a tie to this trestle, so it's just profound at times."

Work on the trestle's rehab — and filming on the doc — are expected to wrap up next month.

But Macnab's work is far from over.

"We have to start editing and our work will actually start then," she said. "We've got to put together a cohesive story."

That story has shifted in focus since the start of filming, Macnab explained.

"No one is buying history," she said. "No one could care less about history at this point. Even the History Channel is not buying history, they're not even looking at submissions. So I had to change, after we started, the whole idea of what we were going to film. So that was a bit of a struggle."

She doesn't sound worried, though.

"It's even better than I thought," she summed.

Typically, Macnab said, she would have written a script and lined up a bunch of grants before starting filming. But because she didn't want to miss her chance to capture the Kinsol's transformation from the beginning, and because she's a first-time documentary director, Macnab decided to work backward.

Which means she'll start applying for grants during the film's editing process, and is still searching for a distributor.

"We'll know a little bit more once we starting piecing it together," she said.

TV broadcasters and even theatrical release are being mulled.

"We have dreams of entering it into the film festivals in the States and in Toronto, so we're hoping it will be of that calibre, to be shown in some of those bigger film festivals," she added.

A Cowichan screening is a must, Macnab promised, and a portion of the film's profit will be dedicated to maintaining the trestle.

But for now, Macnab is just excited to share what she's seen.

"You feel this huge responsibility," she admitted. "What if I mess up? What if I didn't do a good enough job? You hear all of those little voices playing their own reel in the back of your head — and then you look at the footage, and you say, 'That's amazing.'"

Asked the name of her documentary, Macnab laughs.

"There's no title yet — A Troubled Bridge Over Water?" she joked.

"But it's not troubled anymore."

Anyone interested in becoming a financial partner in Macnab's documentary can contact productions@angle5.ca.

Cowichan Valley's Kinsol trestle restoration to be complete next month

The wooden bridge — one of the largest in the world — has been closed for 22 years

BY SANDRA MCCULLOCH, TIMESCOLONIST.COM

FEBRUARY 23, 2011

The restoration of the Kinsol trestle, one of the largest wooden bridges in the world, will be complete next month and the span, which has been closed for 22 years, will be open to the public later in the spring.

The bridge, which crosses the Koksilah River in the Cowichan Valley, is 187 metres long and 44 metres high, and has had extensive repairs and renovations, with the addition of steel trusses and 288,000 board feet of new timber.

It was an ambitious and rewarding project, said Gord Macdonald, managing director of Macdonald and Lawrence Timber Framing Ltd., based in Mill Bay.

"It's been going absolutely fabulous," Macdonald said of the project on Tuesday.

"It's definitely kept me awake at night on several occasions but it's been a tremendous amount of fun."

The trestle restoration has been the focus of Macdonald's life for more than a year. "I'm a little bit reluctant to move on," he said.

The challenges include co-ordinating the repair and rehabilitation of the timber structure with a new steel superstructure. The steel supports strengthened the trestle without workers having to go over every single bolt, thereby making the repairs less expensive.

"There are two designs that have to be married together quite carefully," said Macdonald.

"Our solution has been to repair a small number of ... cross sections to a very high standard and then span between them with new structural steel. We don't have to do as much replacement of wood."

The new, yellow wood is a stark contrast to the older, silver wood timbers, but time will make the trestle look more uniform, Macdonald said.

The project is expected to be completed at the end of March but a formal opening could be months away, after landscaping is completed on the approaches to the trestle.

The trestle was completed in 1920 by the Canadian National Railway. The last train crossed the trestle in 1979 and CNR abandoned the trestle a year later. In 2008, Cowichan Valley Regional District decided to rehabilitate the trestle. The province contributed \$3.4 million, the federal government \$1.9 million, and the CVRD \$600,000. In addition, the Island Coastal Economic Trust raised \$600,000.

smcculloch@timescolonist.com

This story has been corrected

Extra cash Kinsol available, if the community can match

By Krista Siefken - Cowichan News Leader Pictorial

February 23, 2011

The Kinsol Trestle fundraising campaign still needs to raise \$275,000 in order to get matching government cash.

The work currently underway is all fully funded, but there's still more than a quarter-million dollars worth of federal and provincial grants available for extra and ongoing work — if the community can raise a matching amount.

That work will happen either way, but if the grants aren't available it'll be spaced out over the next few years instead of happening now.

Restoration of the trestle started in July and is expected to be ready to cross on March 31. A grand opening is planned for late spring or early summer.

The \$7.4-million restoration project has included: replacing unsound timber, reinforcing 17 structural piers, and finishing a new 614-foot walkway atop the structure for hikers, cyclists and equestrians. There'll also be landscaping, a walkway into the Koksilah River canyon, and an information kiosk.

Donations to the Save the Historic Kinsol Trestle rehabilitation project can be made online at www.kinsol.ca or by contacting Diane Myrden or Kim Martin at the campaign office at 250-709-1087.

Kinsol Trestle Restoration "Back on Track"

CFOX News

Feb 19, 2011

The Kinsol Trestle restoration project is back on track according to the Ministry of Tourism. The last set of steel trusses on the trestle in the Cowichan Valley has been installed and restoration work on one of the largest wooden bridges in the world will continue into the summer. The Provincial and Federal governments, Cowichan Valley Regional District and the Island Coastal Economic Trust are funding the project. BC celebrates Heritage Week next week. This year's theme is the 100th anniversary of BC parks.

- Liz McArthur

Last timbers being placed on Kinsol Trestle

Fundraising: Campaign still working to collect final \$250,000 to make dream historic restoration of huge span a reality

Lexi Baines, The Citizen

Wednesday, February 23, 2011

The rehabilitation of the historic and unique Kinsol Trestle has achieved a major milestone with the placing of the last and largest of the underslung truss spans on the central span over the Koksilah River.

Although opening day is still more than a month away, that crossing will be the first since 1979 when the bridge was closed, and it will reconnect to the rest of the Island one of the largest wooden bridges in the world and the highest wood trestle remaining in the Commonwealth.

However, with an opening day scheduled for the end of March, the Save the Historic Kinsol Trestle fundraising campaign still needs to raise about a quarter million dollars towards completing major elements of the project and ensuring that all government funds available for the project are matched.

"The last of the steel trusses are up," said Cowichan Valley Regional District board chair Giles on Monday.

She encouraged Valley residents to search for "Kinsol web cam" online. "You can see that they're putting the decking on it. What a fabulous story. We've got about \$250,000 left to go so that we can do all the pathways and everything leading up to it," she said.

Others are also excited as they see journey's end coming closer, including Yvonne MacNab of Angle 5 Media Productions who is making a documentary of the project.

"It's been awesome. We're not there every day but we've been out there for all the highlights. And we're at multiple sites. I had a camera in Sidney shooting the fabrication of the largest truss and then we tried to get it going up the Malahat which was kind of neat. We were there when they reassembled it and put the largest truss in," she said.

MacNab's group have been interviewing some of the people that have volunteered on the project and documenting the many challenges the professionals have faced.

"There's a lot of interesting layers to build into the Kinsol's history. At the start, we were able to convince the Ministry of Transportation to take us up in a helicopter so we have pre-restoration footage in high definition. It's absolutely dynamite and we're hoping that when the trestle's finished that we can go up again with the ministry and get it then, too."

She said her company was also instrumental in getting the web cam for the site, too.

"I had connections inside the ministry and they were awesome in donating that for our community.

I approached them because I was interested in time lapsing the whole project and they said, 'yeah, what a great idea.' Now, more and more people are watching it. It really showed the partnership between the CVRD and the ministry and private companies like myself."

MacNab's group are looking forward to the project's completion.

"What's really been fantastic is there is this gem and we have taken it for granted but when you look outside of this community people are just enthralled," she said.

Other officials are also more than ready to see the project finally finished.

Norm Olive, the CVRD's manager of capital projects said this week that the installation of the trusses is a critical milestone in the Kinsol Trestle's rehabilitation, enabling a missing link in the 22,000-kilometre Trans Canada Trail to be used again.

The trestle has been closed for 32 years.

"These lifts were extremely complex and the installation required a great deal of forethought and attention to detail on part of the entire project team," Olive said.

"Getting the trusses in place safely and successfully was a team effort," he continued. "We would like to specifically commend the work of several Island-based businesses in addition to Macdonald and Lawrence and Ramsay Machine Works, including Knappett Construction, Advantage Crane and Able Roped Access."

Mike Coleman of the Kinsol fundraising campaign urged supporters this week to dig a little deeper to help the project over the top by reaching funding goals.

"The generosity of the community to date has been wonderful. This project is so worthwhile and we want to finish all the core rehabilitation work that is needed at this time," he said.

So, what's next?

Stage III of the project will complete site amenities, such as pathways, viewing platforms, staging area improvements, linking the trestle to the Cowichan Valley Trail and completing a visitor information kiosk and donor recognition wall.

Donations can be made at www.kinsol.ca or by calling 250-709-1087, or dropping in at 135 Third St. in Duncan.

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Kinsol Trestle opens later in the spring

Times Colonist

Published: Thursday, February 24, 2011

Due to incorrect information supplied by the provincial government, a story on page A3 Wednesday said the Kinsol Trestle will open to the public at the end of March. In fact, the bridge restoration project will have met the requirements of the contract by March 31, but the public opening will not take place until later in the spring.

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NEW CHAPTER PENNED IN KINSOL TRESTLE'S HISTORY BOOK

***Media Tips + Leads from the B.C. Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Investment –
Feb. 19, 2011***

VICTORIA - Workers have installed the last set of steel trusses on the historic Kinsol Trestle in the Cowichan Valley, putting one of the largest wooden bridges on the planet "on track" to be crossed by walkers, bikers and equestrians by the end of March.

The crossing will be the first since 1979 when the bridge was closed, and it will mark the completion of the rehabilitation portion of the Kinsol Trestle, one of the largest wooden bridges in the world and the highest wood trestle remaining in the Commonwealth.

The installation of the trusses is a critical milestone in the trestle's rehabilitation, enabling a missing link in the 22,000-kilometre Trans Canada Trail to be used again, said Gord Macdonald, managing director of Macdonald and Lawrence Timber Framing Ltd., a world-renowned heritage restoration firm headquartered in Mill Bay on Vancouver Island.

Restoration work on the non-working portion of the bridge will continue into the summer. Visitors can learn first-hand about the project from crew specially stationed on the top of the 38-metre-long structure to help the public learn more about it.

As many as 35 crew members from Macdonald and Lawrence have worked on the bridge, and 15 new jobs came from the company's \$4.4-million contract. Other firms benefiting from the work include Knappett Projects Inc., Stantec and MMM Group. A functioning bridge is also expected to increase tourism activity in the region.

More than 288,000 board feet of new timber is being used in the project, all of it second growth B.C.-grown Douglas fir and cypress, which is being custom-cut at Andersen Pacific Forest Products Ltd. in Maple Ridge.

Macdonald and Lawrence is one of nine finalists in two award categories - Best Company and Best Employer - in Small Business BC's Successful You Awards, to be presented March 29. Accolades for their work stretch well outside the province's borders. Queen Elizabeth sent a personal letter of thanks for work done in 1997 to a fire-damaged area of Windsor Castle. Macdonald has just returned from the Antarctic where M&L has a \$30-million piece of the restoration of the 'Nimrod' hut at Cape Royds, the expedition base for Ernest Shackleton's British Antarctic expedition in 1907 to 1909.

Macdonald ranks the Kinsol project alongside their international projects, noting it is easy for British Columbians to take the bridge for granted even though it is an important structure both nationally and internationally.

Why It Matters:

Heritage Week is a time to celebrate important historic sites like the Kinsol Trestle in the province. Its rehabilitation, one of the largest heritage projects in B.C., is creating jobs for British Columbians and will increase tourism activity in the Cowichan Valley. An estimated 114,000 tourists annually visit the region.

Quotes:

Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Tourism, Trade and Investment -

"Heritage tourism is a growing economic generator, and many visitors rank heritage activities among their favourites. By supporting the rehabilitation of the Kinsol Trestle, the B.C. government is helping Vancouver Island communities to maximize the tourism economic opportunities of its heritage places."

Shirley Bond, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure -

"By replacing this structure, we're completing a vital link in a trail that will stretch from Victoria to Inuvik in the Northwest Territories to St. John's, Newfoundland. It's been more than a quarter century since trains have used

this track, but we're breathing new life into this trail, providing an important tourist attraction and recreational route linking major population centres on southern Vancouver Island through to the Cowichan Valley."

Gord Macdonald, Managing Director of Macdonald and Lawrence Timber Framing Ltd. -

"This project is a demonstration of how local people are tackling world- class heritage projects using local skills, local contractors and local materials."

Dan Petryk, President and CEO of Tourism Vancouver Island -

"Well over 70 per cent of visitors to Vancouver Island come for the natural beauty and are looking for a range of things to do and see. We know from surveys that they like hiking and walking, and opening the Kinsol Trestle will expand the trail system for them."

Quick Facts:

* Heritage Week 2011 runs from Feb. 21 to 27. Its theme is BC Parks in honour of the 100th anniversary of the creation of the British Columbia's first provincial park, Strathcona Park on Vancouver Island.

* The Province has provided over \$3.4 million for rehabilitating the Kinsol Trestle. Other funding partners include: the federal government at \$1.885 million, the Cowichan Valley Regional District at \$600,000, and the Island Coastal Economic Trust at \$1 million for the project.

* The Kinsol Trestle was completed in 1920 and is one of the largest wooden bridges in the world and the highest wood trestle remaining in the Commonwealth. It is 44 metres high and 188 metres long (that's 145 feet high and 614 feet long).

* A camera, sponsored by the B.C. Ministry of Transportation, records the restoration of the Kinsol Trestle and pictures are updated on the web every 15 minutes and are archived. View at:
www.th.gov.bc.ca/highwayprojects/kinsol_trestle/index.htm
<http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/highwayprojects/kinsol_trestle/index.htm>

* While the Kinsol Trestle is under construction, viewing can be done only from the north side. To get there:
o From the Trans-Canada Highway, turn west on Koksilah Road.
o Turn left on Riverside Road and follow for about 10 kilometres.
o The road turns into gravel then ends at the parking lot on the left.
o It is a five-minute walk to the trestle from the parking lot.

Learn More at:

* Macdonald and Lawrence website: www.macdonaldandlawrence.ca <<http://www.macdonaldandlawrence.ca>>

* BC Parks 100 celebrations:
www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/BCParks100/index.html
<<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/BCParks100/index.html>>

* BC Parks Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/pages/BC-Parks/131039036944266?sk=wall <<http://www.facebook.com/pages/BC-Parks/131039036944266?sk=wall>>

* Photo before restoration: www.gov.bc.ca/tti <<http://www.gov.bc.ca/tti>>

To see what other B.C. communities are doing for Heritage Week:
www.heritagebc.ca/events/heritage-week/community-events <<http://www.heritagebc.ca/events/heritage-week/community-events>>

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Thumbs up/ Thumbs down

TIMES COLONIST

FEBRUARY 27, 2011

THUMBS UP

To the people behind the restoration of the Kinsol Trestle, the 90-year old structure that crosses the Koksilah River in the Cowichan Valley. One of the largest wooden bridges in the world, the old rail trestle had been closed for 22 years, and there was always a risk that we would lose the historic gem. It will be open to the public later in the spring.

THUMBS DOWN

To the bystanders who watched a disturbed young man cause a ruckus along Dallas Road last week -but chose not to call the police. In the end, a 78-year-old suffered a broken pelvis when he was pushed off the cliff. It can be difficult to decide when help is needed, but sometimes, it's better to err on the side of caution -and let the professionals handle a tense situation.

THUMBS UP

To the Canadian Forces forensics experts who identified Pte. Thomas Lawless, which means he is no longer officially listed as missing on the battlefields near Vimy Ridge. Lawless was a 28-year-old immigrant from Ireland who died in the First World War soon after the landmark battle at Vimy. His body was found a few years ago by a road-building crew, but DNA testing failed to establish his identity. Thanks to isotope signatures in his teeth, the forensics team put a name to the remains.

THUMBS UP

To the provincial government, which is correcting a bureaucratic error made almost a century ago. About 40,000 square metres of land was taken from the Squamish First Nation in 1917, and over time was split into 14 pieces of property. The First Nation is helping transfer the title, and is working with the government on compensation for the people who have considered themselves owners all this time.

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A letter-writer says the public won't be granted access to the Kinsol Trestle until all the work is completed. An official reopening is tentatively scheduled for the late spring or early summer.

Photograph by: Debra Brash, Times Colonist, Times Colonist

The historic Kinsol Trestle will not be open to the public at the end of March, although substantive rehabilitation work will be completed by then on the core elements of the structure.

However, the area will remain an active construction zone and full access to the trestle itself will not be available until all work is completed and it is safe for the public to use this unique part of our history.

An official reopening, when the public will be able to use the rehabilitated trestle as part of the Cowichan Valley Trail experience, is planned for late spring or early summer 2011. An exact date will be announced later.

Completing the decking and finishing work on the non-load bearing bents are the next project objectives. Stage 3 of the project will complete a number of site amenities, such as pathways, viewing platforms, staging area improvements and completing a visitor information kiosk and donor recognition wall.

The rehabilitation of the historic Kinsol Trestle has been a dream for many of us in the Cowichan Valley for years and we are excited about seeing this magnificent structure enter a new phase of its service life.

Gerry Giles

Chair, board of directors Cowichan Valley Regional District

Copied from Wednesday, March 2, 2011, edition of the Times Colonist (editorial page)

More rehab work needed on historic Kinsol Trestle

Daily News

Published: Thursday, March 03, 2011

The historic Kinsol Trestle rehabilitation project has achieved a milestone with the placing of the final and largest of the truss spans on the central span over the Koksilah River.

While the Kinsol Trestle rehabilitation should be completed this spring, the Save the Historic Kinsol Trestle campaign is working hard to raise the final \$275,000 needed to complete major elements of the project and ensure that all government funds available for the project are matched.

"We were very excited to reach this significant milestone in the development of this massive superstructure," said Norm Olive, manager of capital projects with the Cowichan Valley Regional District.

The installation of the trusses is a critical milestone in the Kinsol Trestle's rehabilitation, enabling a missing link in the 22,000-kilometre Trans Canada Trail to be used again. The trestle has been closed since 1979.

Completing the decking and finishing work on the non-load bearing bents are the next project objectives.

Stage III of the project will complete site amenities, such as pathways, viewing platforms, staging area improvements, linking the trestle to the Cowichan Valley Trail and completing a visitor information kiosk and donor recognition wall.

For those not able to view the work progress in person, a webcam has been set up at the construction site.

The webcam link is located at www.kinsol.ca.

The live picture is updated every 15 minutes and allows viewers to scroll back in time to watch the progress.

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