



**NOTICE OF
KINSOL TRESTLE REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday
July 8, 2009
Regional District Board Room
175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC

1:30 p.m.

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6. **NEW BUSINESS**

7. **PUBLIC/PRESS QUESTIONS**

8. **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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CSD1 Delegation regarding Section 90(1)(j)

9. **NEXT MEETING**

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Director G. Giles, Chair
Director P. Kent, Vice Chair

Director D. Haywood
Director K. Cossey

Minutes of the Kinsol Trestle Revitalization Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. in the Regional District Board Room, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC

PRESENT

Director Gerry Giles, Chair
Director Phil Kent, Vice-Chair
Alternate Director Ruth Hartmann
Director Ken Cossey

Absent: Director Dave Haywood

CVRD STAFF

Ron Austen, Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture Department
Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks & Trails Division
Warren Jones, Administrator
Mary Anne McAdam, Recording Secretary

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

It was Moved and Seconded
That the agenda, as amended, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

**STAFF REPORTS
R1 – Verbal Report**

As stated by the Chair, Gerry Giles, the purpose of this Committee is to oversee the historic Kinsol rehabilitation project and provide information to the Board on any associated fundraising.

Director Ruth Hartmann stated that an information session for North Cowichan Council Members would help to familiarize them with the project.

Brian Farquhar added that the principals of the Phase I and II Study – Commonwealth Historic Resource Management Ltd., and Delcan Engineering – have formally offered to make a full presentation to the Board at its convenience. A separate presentation could also be made to Local Councils or they could be invited to attend the CVRD Board presentation.

Director Phil Kent stated that he would invite his Council members to attend the presentation for the CVRD Board.

**R2 – Kinsol Trestle
Phase II Report
Review by Ministry of
Transportation**

Staff Report from Brian Farquhar on the review process underway by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTHI) on the Kinsol Trestle Restoration Feasibility Study Phase II Report. Sign-off by MoTHI is expected in the next 2 – 3 months.

MoTHI has directed the CVRD to formally request payment of their \$100,000 contribution towards the Phase I and II Study.

It was Moved and Seconded

That it be recommended that the Board authorize final payment in the amount of \$13,617.14 to Commonwealth Historic Resource Management for consulting services to prepare the Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Phase II Report.

MOTION CARRIED

**R3 – Historic Kinsol
Trestle**

Staff report from Brian Farquhar regarding historical designation of the Kinsol Trestle.

It was Moved and Seconded

1. That it be recommended to the Board that the Board recognize the Kinsol Trestle as having heritage value and character, and that it be placed on a Community Heritage Register in the Cowichan Valley Regional District.
2. That it be recommended to the Board that pursuant to Section 974 of the *Local Government Act*, that the CVRD notify the owner of the heritage property of the Board's intention to register the Kinsol Trestle on a Community Heritage Register in the Cowichan Valley Regional District.
3. That it be recommended to the Board that pursuant to Section 977 of the *Local Government Act*, that the CVRD notify the Minister responsible for the *Heritage Conservation Act*, that the CVRD recognizes the Kinsol Trestle as having heritage value and character and that it be placed on a Community Heritage Register in the Cowichan Valley Regional District.

MOTION CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

**D1 – Clayton
Consulting**

John Kaye and Signy Madden of Clayton Consulting provided a verbal update on the Kinsol Fundraising Campaign Education session to be presented to the Board. Need for positive comments to follow any anticipated negative comments.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence received.

INFORMATION

**IN1 – Kinsol Trestle
Article by Tom
Paterson**

Received and filed.

**IN2 – Kinsol Trestle
Funding Article by
Sarah Simpson**

Received and filed.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from the public.

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 3:20 p.m

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RISE

It was Moved and Seconded
That the Committee Rise without report

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved and Seconded
That the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary



STAFF REPORT

KINSOL TRESTLE REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF JULY 8, 2009

DATE: July 2, 2009 **FILE NO:**
FROM: Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager **BYLAW NO:**
SUBJECT: Kinsol Trestle Fundraising Campaign Update

Recommendation:

That this report be received for information.

Purpose:

To provide an update on the fundraising campaign underway for rehabilitation of the historic Kinsol Trestle.

Financial Implications:

The Cowichan Foundation is undertaking a fundraising campaign for the historic Kinsol Trestle with a target of \$2 million to be raised in addition to the \$4.1 million already secured for the project by the CVRD through funding commitments from the Province of BC and the Island Coastal Economic Trust.

Interdepartmental/Agency Implications:

N/A

Background:

In February 2009 the Cowichan Foundation and the Cowichan Valley Regional District signed a formal agreement (Kinsol Trestle Fundraising Agreement) whereby the Foundation would undertake a fundraising campaign with a target goal of raising \$2 million in funds and in-kind contributions for the historic Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Project. The campaign was publicly launched at the Kinsol Trestle site on Wednesday June 10th by the Cowichan Foundation Kinsol Fundraising Cabinet Chair Jack Peake and other members of the Cabinet. Information from the June 10th fundraising campaign launch, including the complete list of Kinsol Fundraising Cabinet members is enclosed as part of the agenda package.

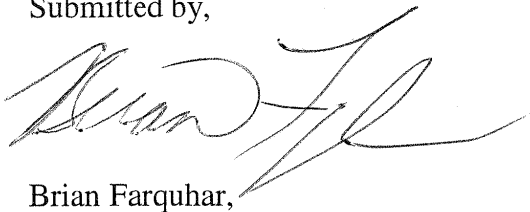
Also attached is an update from Clayton Consulting, the fundraising consulting team that is providing the expertise and resources in support of the Cowichan Foundation's fundraising campaign, on the status of the overall Kinsol Trestle fundraising campaign. A representative

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from Clayton Consulting will be at the July 10th Kinsol Trestle Revitalization Committee meeting to provide additional details on the fundraising campaign and respond to questions from the Committee. The Parks and Trails Manager also continues to provide a liaison support role between the Cowichan Foundation/Campaign Cabinet and the Cowichan Valley Regional District, including attendance to meetings of the Campaign Cabinet.

The Cowichan Valley Regional District has also submitted detailed grant funding applications, each with an application request of \$1.3 million, to both the Building BC Canada Fund – Heritage Component grant program and to the Western Economic Diversification Canada Community Adjustment Fund (CAF). No response with respect to favourable consideration of one or both applications has been received to date. Further applications will be submitted to grant programs, as announced, for which the historic Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Project is eligible and for which the Regional District is required to be the applicant (i.e. local government eligibility requirements). The Cowichan Foundation is also pursuing grant funding for which the non-profit society is eligible to make application for the Kinsol project.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Brian Farquhar', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Brian Farquhar,
Parks and Trails Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

BTF/ca
Attachments

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Clayton Consulting

198 Garner Crescent
Nanaimo, BC V9R 2A6
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george@clayton-consulting.com
signy@clayton-consulting.com

www.clayton-consulting.com

KINSOL TRESTLE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN Campaign Progress Report

July 2, 2009

Part A of the Kinsol Campaign was the feasibility study conducted in the fall of 2008 and into early 2009. Clayton Consulting submitted a feasibility study report to the CVRD recommending the \$2 million campaign and a strategy to support the campaign.

This memo is an up-date on Part B of the campaign that ran from February 2009 through the public launch on June 10 and to the end of June. This memo is also to provide a brief overview of the campaign workplan for Part C - July through December 2009.

John Kaye from Clayton Consulting will provide more information at the July 8th meeting of the CVRD Kinsol Trestle committee.

Part B

BUILDING CAMPAIGN TEAM/QUIET PHASE OF SOLICITATION

February –June 2009

Activities carried out during this phase of the campaign included:

- Arranged **appointment of Campaign Chair** and Campaign Cabinet members
- Recommended and purchased and set up a **donor data base**
- Further researched **major gift and foundation prospects**. Further cultivated relationships established in the feasibility study and identified and began to cultivate new major donor prospects
- **Campaign materials** designed, printed or produced - Logos for Kinsol campaign and Cowichan Foundation, campaign case statement, letterhead and thank you notes, pledge card, business card for Chairperson. Kinsol.ca website launched
- Organized **public launch** of the campaign including a campaign kickoff event, launch of website etc.
- Recommended **Donor Recognition Opportunities**
- Sent out **media release and arranged interviews** with print, radio and TV interviews resulting in good media coverage
- Reconfirm the **gift chart** for the campaign

C. PUBLIC PORTION OF THE CAMPAIGN

July- December 2009

This portion of the campaign will include solicitation of major gifts and carrying out a communications plan to inform the wider public and encourage smaller gifts from the community.

Solicitations

- Finalize **training materials** for Campaign Cabinet
- Finalize **gifts from Campaign Cabinet**
- Campaign volunteers and Consultants will **solicit major gifts**
- Work with CVRD staff to co-ordinate **in-kind donations** including process to work with Project Contractor
- Prepare, submit **grant requests to foundations**
- **Recruit and train new volunteers** for specific areas of the campaign as needed such as to solicit lawyers, doctors, different corporate categories
- **Document all solicitations** in donor database and in files

Communications

- Hire **summer student** to promote the campaign at public events
- Finalize **Communications Plan** for Part C of campaign
- Carry out Communications Plan including arranging **PR and advertising** to encourage support and to report on **Campaign successes**
- Up-date campaign **website** as needed
- Produce **additional campaign materials** such as postcards, donor recognition chart and banner

Donor Recognition and Campaign Policies

- Finalize **policy and a program for gift acceptance and stewardship**
- Finalize **Donor Recognition Chart**
- Provide **thank you's and tax receipts to new donors**

Budget and Plans for 2010

- Recommend **budget and work plan for 2010** portion of the campaign

Infrastructure Funding

- Efforts will be made to encourage **Federal infrastructure funding** in the Kinsol Project



STAFF REPORT

KINSOL TRESTLE REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE MEETING

OF JULY 8, 2009

DATE: July 2, 2009

FILE NO:

FROM: Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager

BYLAW NO:

SUBJECT: Kinsol Donor Recognition Program

Recommendation:

That the Committee provide direction on this matter.

Purpose:

To request direction on the draft Kinsol Trestle Donor Recognition Program as prepared by Clayton Consulting.

Financial Implications:

Ongoing maintenance of donor recognition information placed at the Kinsol Trestle site will be funded through the Kinsol Trestle Operations/Maintenance budget.

Interdepartmental/Agency Implications:

N/A

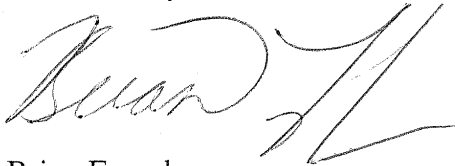
Background:

Recognition of donors, whether financial or in-kind contributions, is an important component of undertaking a successful campaign to raise funds for a project. Establishing the donor recognition program parameters early in the fundraising campaign is important, so that potential donors will know how their donations will be recognized. For the Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Project fundraising campaign, acknowledgement and recognition of donors is inclusive of grants funds and other contributions received by the Cowichan Valley Regional District and the donations raised (financial and in-kind contributions) by the Cowichan Foundation.

Clayton Consulting has prepared a draft Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Project Donor Recognition Program for consideration by the Cowichan Valley Regional District and the Cowichan Foundation (see attachment). The draft donor recognition program proposes to establish special recognition categories, depending on the value of the financial or in-kind contribution gift, as well as both on-site (adjacent the Kinsol Trestle) as well as off-site (i.e. Cowichan Foundation

Website, media releases/donor thank-you ads) recognition. The proposed donor recognition program also includes acknowledgement of donations through issuance of a 'thank you' letter or note from the Cowichan Foundation Kinsol Trestle Campaign Chair or from a Director of the Cowichan Foundation. At this time, Clayton Consulting is requesting direction from both the CVRD and Cowichan Foundation with respect to the proposed Kinsol Trestle Donor Recognition Program. Parks staff have reviewed the proposed donor recognition program and support the establishment of stand-alone donor recognition structures separate from the historic Kinsol Trestle, as this form of recognition can provide consistency of recognition for all levels of donors and will not take away or diminish the historic values and visual character/appeal of the historic trestle structure.

Submitted by,



Brian Farquhar,
Parks and Trails Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

BTf/ca
attachment

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KINSOL TRESTLE logo/letterhead

DONOR RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES

Please make a gift to rehabilitate the historic Kinsol Trestle. The Cowichan Foundation is running the Kinsol Trestle Capital Campaign to rehabilitate the Trestle and complete a vital section of the Cowichan/Trans Canada Trail.

Benefits of rehabilitating the Trestle include:

- Improving recreational offerings for residents and visitors,
 - Greatly enhancing a tourist attraction,
 - Preserving a spectacular reminder of the 'age of logging' in the Cowichan Valley,
 - Providing investment in the local economy now and in the future.
-

All gifts will be acknowledged and donors thanked for their generosity towards achieving the goals of the Kinsol Trestle Capital Campaign.

As part of the recognition program four special recognition categories have been established:

Trestle Pioneers - Gifts and Grants of \$100,000 and more

- Name recognition on trail walkway approach leading to Trestle
- Special involvement in campaign events
- Campaign publicity announcing the gift or grant
- Plaque honouring gift to the campaign
- Name and logo on donor wall in shelter at the Kinsol Trestle
- Recognition in end of campaign newspaper advertisement
- Recognition on "virtual donor wall" on Kinsol.ca website
- Honoured guest at the 'Re-Open the Trestle' ceremony
- Tax receipt and 'thank you'

Trestle Trailblazers – Gifts and Grants of \$10,000 and more

- Campaign publicity announcing the gift or grant
- Plaque honouring gift to the campaign
- Name on donor wall in shelter at the Kinsol Trestle
- Recognition in end of campaign newspaper advertisement
- Recognition on "virtual donor wall" on Kinsol.ca website
- Invitation to the 'Re-Open the Trestle' ceremony
- Tax receipt and 'thank you'

Trestle Engineers – Gifts and Grants of \$1,000 and more

- Name on donor wall in shelter at the Kinsol Trestle
- Recognition in end of campaign newspaper advertisement

- Recognition on “virtual donor wall” on Kinsol.ca website.
- Invitation to the “Re-Open the Trestle” ceremony
- Tax receipt and ‘thank you’

Friends of the Trestle – Gifts under \$1,000

- Recognition in end of campaign newspaper advertisement
- Recognition on “virtual donor wall” on Kinsol.ca website.
- Invitation to the “Re-Open the Trestle” ceremony
- Tax receipt and ‘thank you’

For gifts over \$1,000 there will be name recognition in a wood beam shelter adjacent to the Trestle. This will provide information about the Cowichan/Trans Canada Trail and the history of the Kinsol Trestle. A “virtual donor wall” will be created on the Kinsol Trestle Capital Campaign website on which all donors’ names will be displayed. A full page advertisement in the local paper will also list all donors to the campaign at the close of the campaign.

Press releases will be issued throughout the Campaign to highlight the support of major donors. This will serve to thank donors and supporters for their generosity and will also encourage others to follow their example.

For more information contact –
 Diane Myrden or Kim Martin
 Kinsol Trestle Campaign Office
 135 Third Street,
 Duncan, BC V9L 1R9.
 Phone: 250-709-1087
 Email: kinsol@cfcowichan.ca
 Website: www.kinsol.ca

Cowichan Foundation Logo



R3

STAFF REPORT

KINSOL TRESTLE REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF JULY 8, 2009

DATE: July 2, 2009 **FILE NO:**

FROM: Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture Dept.

SUBJECT: Kinsol Trestle Phase II Report Review by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Recommendation:

That this report be received for information.

Purpose:

To provide a further update on the review process underway by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding the Kinsol Trestle Restoration Feasibility Study Phase II Report submitted by Commonwealth Historic Resource Management in December 2008.

Financial Implications:

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has committed \$1.5 million towards the Kinsol Trestle rehabilitation project, which includes a \$100,000 contribution to the Kinsol Trestle Restoration Feasibility Study (Phases I & II).

Interdepartmental/Agency Implications:

The Provincial Transportation and Finance Authority is the owner of the Kinsol Trestle and former CNR corridor.

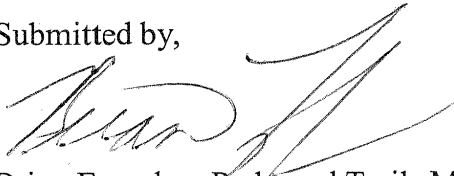
Background:

It was reported at the March 3, 2009, Kinsol Trestle Revitalization Committee that the Ministry was undertaking a review of the Kinsol Trestle Restoration Feasibility Study Phase II Report submitted by Commonwealth Historic Resource Management (see attachment). Subsequent to the report update at the March 3rd meeting, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has twice requested additional information from the Kinsol Trestle consulting team retained by the Regional District to complete the Phase II report (Commonwealth Historic Resource Management Ltd. et. al). The consulting team has responded to these requests for information on behalf of the Regional District. The Ministry has since informed the Regional District that completion of the review of the Phase II report will be completed, at earliest, by mid-July 2009, which will be followed-up with a formal Ministry response to the CVRD. The next steps identified for the project (in particular, proceeding with the process to retain a qualified

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bridge/trestle engineering firm to prepare the detailed rehabilitation specifications and work program) are subject, in part, to the response of the Ministry, as there may be conditions and/or requirements on how the rehabilitation works are to proceed that would need to be included into such work program, although it is uncertain at this time what these requirements could entail. Funding to undertake the next steps in the project is also conditional at this time on the release of the \$1.5 million in funding for the project from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Farquhar', written over a horizontal line.

Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

BTF/mca
Attachment



STAFF REPORT

KINSOL TRESTLE REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2009

DATE: March 3, 2009 **FILE NO:**

FROM: Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager **BYLAW NO:**

SUBJECT: Ministry of Transportation Kinsol Phase II Report Review Process

Recommendation:

That the Committee and Board authorize final payment to Commonwealth Historic Resource Management for consulting services to prepare the Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Phase II report.

Purpose:

To update the Committee on the status of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's review of the Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Phase II report prepared by Commonwealth Historic Resource Management and Delcan Engineering.

Financial Implications:

N/A

Interdepartmental/Agency Implications:

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has committed \$1.5 million towards the rehabilitation of the historic Kinsol Trestle, inclusive of a \$100,000 contribution towards the Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Feasibility Phase I & II Study.

Background:

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure was sent a final draft of the Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Phase II report in early December 2008 for review/comment. The Ministry has completed a preliminary review and advised that they intend to undertake further formal review through retention of their own consulting engineers to review the report and assess the rehabilitation strategy recommended by Commonwealth Historic Resource Management/Delcan Engineering. The additional review is the result of concern raised by the Ministry with respect to their understanding of the report's indication that the \$5.7 million budget will not be adequate for the required rehabilitation and suggested that the CVRD review the contingency allowances. The strategy outlined in the Phase II report identifies that if all the rehabilitation work cannot be completed within the \$5.7 million budget that the primary work focus on the Howe truss (the eight structure bents to carry the new trail decking) and that the other trusses be rehabilitated with remaining budgeted funds and as part of delayed maintenance over the first 10 years of the trestle's operation with funds from the Kinsol Trestle Operations and Maintenance budget.

In particular, the Ministry intends to have their engineering consultants focus on further developing recommendations/strategies on how the proposed rehabilitation could proceed within the \$5.7 million budget and address how much of the rehabilitation could be delayed to future years, given that the CVRD's Kinsol Trestle Operation and Maintenance budget has a requisition maximum of \$100,000 (2009 figure). The Ministry has advised that they have not yet retained an engineering consulting firm to undertake this scope of work on their behalf; however, the Ministry has agreed to pay out the \$100,000 towards the Phase I and II study work. In this regard, Commonwealth Historic Resource Management/Delcan Engineering have respectfully requested, due to the extended timeframe for the report review by the Ministry, if final payment for the Phase II study could be made at this time. The consulting firms have also indicated that they remain committed to the project and would be available to the CVRD and Ministry during the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's further review process of the Phase II report.

Submitted by,

Brian Farquhar
Parks and Trails Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

BTF/mca



STAFF REPORT

KINSOL TRESTLE REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF JULY 8, 2009

DATE: June 29, 2009 **FILE NO:**

FROM: Brian Farquhar, Parks and Trails Manager **BYLAW NO:**

SUBJECT: Regional Parks Transfer from Reserve Fund Bylaw

Recommendation:

That staff be directed to prepare a bylaw authorizing no more than \$140,000 from the Regional Parks General Reserve Fund for the purpose of capital improvements to the Cowichan Valley Trail on sections between the Town of Lake Cowichan and Duncan, and within the E&R rail corridor within Chemainus.

Purpose:

To request direction on the preparation of a Transfer from Reserves of no more than \$140,000 to cover capital project costs on the Cowichan Valley Trail for projects previously approved by the Board.

Financial Implications:

The 2009 Regional Parks budget previously approved by the Board includes a Transfer from Reserve of \$140,000 for 2009 capital project work.

Interdepartmental/Agency Implications:

N/A

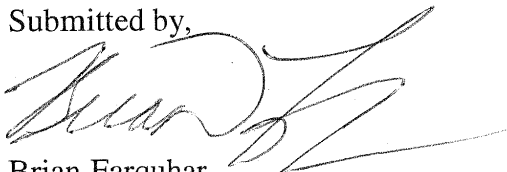
Background:

The terms of the "Kinsol Trestle Fundraising Agreement" between the Cowichan Valley Regional District and the Cowichan Foundation with respect to conducting a \$2 million fundraising campaign program for rehabilitation of the historic Kinsol Trestle, includes the provision that the Regional District cover the fundraising campaign costs and expenses for the duration of the campaign. The terms of the agreement also includes provisions for partial to full reimbursement of the Regional District's expenditures, conditional upon the campaign raising the target amount of \$2 million or within set limits of this target amount. The funding to cover the capital campaign costs are provided through the Regional Parks budget, as previously approved by the Board. Any reimbursement of funds from the Cowichan Foundation upon completion of a successful campaign would be directed to the Regional Parks function. In order

to avoid a reduction in operational and capital funding for regional parks and trails sites and projects in 2009, the Regional Board approved the Regional Parks budget for 2009 to include a provision for a \$140,000 Transfer from Reserves. Policies and regulations pertaining to expenditure of Regional District Reserve Funds require the expenditure of a capital nature.

Therefore, within the approved 2009 Regional Parks budget, funding from the \$316,966 requisition are being applied to cover the Kinsol Trestle fundraising campaign costs, while the \$140,000 Transfer from Reserves are to be applied to capital project works. The major capital works under Regional Parks in 2009 is development of the Cowichan Valley Trail sections between the Town of Lake Cowichan and Duncan/North Cowichan and the section of trail within the E&N Railway corridor in Chemainus. At this time direction from the Board is required for staff to prepare the Reserve Fund Bylaw authorizing no more than \$140,000 from the Regional Parks General Reserve Fund for the purpose of these capital improvements.

Submitted by,



Brian Farquhar
Parks and Trails Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

BTF/ca

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Take a walk in Shawnigan

BY LEXI BAINAS, THE CITIZEN MAY 15, 2009

If walking to historic sites while raising money sounds like a great deal to you, the Shawnigan Lake Walk may be just the ticket.

The rubber hits the road (or trail, in this case) Saturday, May 23 as the fifth annual edition of this increasingly popular walk sets off again to help Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society.

With scenic stops at the Kinsol Trestle, the Trans Canada Trail, Shawnigan Lake and McGee Creek, this event has a lot to offer but it's the underlying purpose that draws many supporters year after year.

"This annual event is our second largest source of funding," says Garth Harvey, President of the Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society. Money raised helps support families in our communities who are coping with illness or disability. It is also a way to honour our family caregivers while raising community awareness and encouraging healthy lifestyle choices."

But, it's time to register, if you're interested. All registrations must be in at Island Savings branches around the Valley no later than May 16.

And, if you're not up to the full 27-kilometre trek around the lake and the trail, there are many options.

Got little kids or a set of gimpy knees? Why not try the 3.5 km Family Walk to the impressive Kinsol Trestle?

Been walking for a while and want to stretch yourself? Then, the 10 km McGee Creek Walk down the majestic Trans Canada Trail or the 13.5 km Combination Walk to see the natural beauty of both the Kinsol Trestle and McGee Creek could just be that confidence booster to get you into great shape for summer.

If you're fit and up to the challenge of a great day in the open, there's the 22 km Shawnigan Lake Walk around the lake with its splendid views and finally, for those whose appetite for exercise is keener, there's the 27 km Scenic Lake Walk around the Lake with an 11 km extension along the Trans Canada Trail.

There's another option for kayakers, too.

With the support of Cowichan Bay Kayaks, organizers are offering the great alternative of a two-hour paddle around the lake.

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This year, Island Savings is proud to help sponsor the event and enhance the family walk portion with the help of their enthusiastic youth team and mascot, Penny the Owl.

Staff members will be greeting families at the historic Kinsol Trestle and offering children free T-shirts and email photos.

The Shawnigan Lake Historical Society will also be at the site to offer a presentation about the origins of the famous landmark.

Organizers have laid on a fun day.

"Our team is excited about breaking our records at the Shawnigan Lake Walk this year," says Island Savings Team Captain Cindy Manhas.

"It's a great event, and the organizers really treat the participants well. There's a delicious organic lunch, a warm footbath/massage, and live music."

Prizes are available for the individual, youth and team that raises the most money. This year, a special draw will be held just for participants who bring in pledges. For every \$50 brought in, that participant will receive an entry in the draw for two nights at The Aerie Resort & Spa, with breakfast included.

Registration forms can be dropped off at all Island Savings branches no later than May 16. For more information and a registration form, visit Island Savings' website at www.ISCU.com or www.theshawniganlakewalk.com

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Big finish needed for Kinsol Trestle

BY T.W. PATERSON, SPECIAL TO THE CITIZEN JUNE 26, 2009

Little did I realize, that grey, drizzling winter day years ago when I first set eyes upon the Kinsol Trestle, that I'd find myself labouring to save it from deliberate destruction.

And little did I realize what I was getting into, when that day did come in April 2006, that the Ministry of Highways and Transportation, responsible for the abandoned CNR railway grade that is now part of the Trans Canada Trail, announced its intention to demolish this magnificent structure as a safety hazard and insurance liability.

Well, here we are, three years later and, with the formal launch in June of a public fundraising drive by the Cowichan Foundation to top up the bank account to complete rehabilitation of the Kinsol, I find myself reflecting on the bumps along the road to the old girl's salvation.

It's been quite a learning curve! I mean, really, how does one go about convincing the powers-that-be that they're dead wrong on all counts: That, despite appearances, the trestle is structurally sound and worth saving, that a look-alike replica won't attract hikers, cyclists and equestrians to the Trans Canada Trail, that the trestle is not only a priceless artifact and icon of our Island industrial heritage, but a potential world-class tourist attraction? That it's the crown jewel of their proposed Cowichan Valley trails system?

Where and how to begin, as it happened, proved to be the easy part. Upon announcement of the Kinsol's proposed demolition, two newspaper editorials spurred me to action. I'm thankful for being prodded in my decision to go to war, so to speak, by comments on the editorial page of a local paper. They urged restoration not destruction, with which sentiment I agreed instinctively. But for all my passion for history, and uncomfortable at the thought that if I failed to take a stand I'd betray everything I've ever written -- preached -- over 40 years, I dithered over getting involved.

Until local editorial comment and, conversely, that which appeared in the Times-Colonist. Praising the provincial government for finally reaching a decision over the trestle's fate and the Koksilah River crossing necessary to complete the Trail, the Victoria daily urged swift replacement with a clone, what we historical "purists" came to dismiss as the Stick Bridge or the Martha Stewart Bridge.

Outraged by what I perceived to be callous indifference to our heritage, I agonized for half a day in writing a rebuttal to the T-C editorial. Did the editor truly believe that heritage structures which had reached a state of deterioration through neglect should be torn down and replaced with counterfeits? In, of all places, a provincial capital whose very character is defined by its heritage, landmark buildings

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such as the Parliament Buildings, Empress Hotel, Christ Church Cathedral and scores of others?

Hardly likely! So why the double standard when it came to the Cowichan Valley's most famous icon?

One thing I did recognize from the very beginning: That an appeal to public nostalgia or sense of history, however noble those sentiments may be, just wouldn't cut it. Although I didn't seize upon the exact buzz words, heritage tourism, at the time, I took the stand then, and do now, that the secret to the salvation of the Kinsol Trestle lay/lies in its being the star attraction of the Valley's Trans Canada Trail.

This was confirmed the moment I began looking for likely allies via Google. To my joy, provincial hikers, cyclists and horseback riders had already discovered the Kinsol; a common theme of travel pieces on Vancouver Island recommended the Trestle as a must-see. Score one.

Then I made another momentous discovery: Bridges are sexy! Now, my mother had always admired pictures of covered bridges such as you see in the eastern provinces and states, and I've always been a sucker for bridges generally, but it hadn't occurred to me that many, many people, men and women, find bridges attractive. Score two.

Score three proved to be the most valuable of all: Media people fell for the Kinsol on sight. None of them had seen the trestle before the news of its impending demolition prompted their attention. I can tell you that, having led numerous camera crews, anchor people and reporters to the Kinsol, without exception they left empathetic, even supportive. They, as did so many others, saw the value in saving this monument to our railway and logging history and became the trestle's greatest allies.

Now I could re-cap all that has since transpired, from the low-point of two years ago when the CVRD staged its "Open House" to convince the public that demolition and reconstruction was the only answer, to the change of heart by the MOT which then put up much of the \$4.1 million on hand to restore the Kinsol and, subsequently, and by most CVRD directors. But I've told all this before (sometimes, admittedly, with ill-concealed emotion) and the Citizen has followed the story in its news columns.

So here we are, June 2009. It's time for members of the public who have supported the cause morally, who have for three years spoken up in the Kinsol's defence, who have button-holed me on the street with questions as to its latest status, to step forward. The Cowichan Foundation, a venerable institution in this Valley with a stellar record of raising funds for good causes (bursaries and scholarships for one) is out to raise \$2 million to complete the trestle's estimated restoration cost of \$5.5 million which includes a seed fund for regular maintenance.

At the June 10th launch at the trestle, ardent trestle proponent Jack Peake made the first donation. Let him be the first of an avalanche of support for the Kinsol Trestle! The Foundation is seeking corporate donations of cash and/or goods and services as well. As for individuals in these recessionary times, every donation counts and can be made by cheque, money order or credit card, by mail or online (www.kinsol.ca) to the Cowichan Valley Regional Board -- Kinsol Trestle.

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Cowichan district needs help to restore old trestle

It will cost \$2M to fix the structure and put trail across it

By Darrell Bellaart, The Daily News June 11, 2009

The call is going out for help restoring the historic Kinsol wooden train trestle near Shawnigan Lake.

The Cowichan Foundation, a non-profit society, wants to raise \$2 million to fix the trestle and put a hiking trail across it.

Its restoration would finish the 120-kilometre Cowichan Valley Trail, the Cowichan Valley Regional District's contribution to the 200 km southern Vancouver Island portion of the Trans Canada Trail. The trail route runs from Departure Bay in Nanaimo to Victoria, where it becomes the Galloping Goose Trail.

At 44 metres in height, the Kinsol Trestle is one of the tallest such structures in Canada, but no trains have used it since 1979. Hikers using the Trans-Canada Trail now have to traverse about 10 km through difficult terrain to cross the Koksilah River.

"We're looking for support for this, quite frankly, across Canada, if not North America," said Brian Farquhar, CVRD parks and trails manager.

"We believe it is of national heritage significance."

Curving six degrees as it spans 188 metres across the gorge north of Shawnigan Lake, the 89-year-old bridge towers more than 14 storeys from the gorge bottom below, dwarfing towering Douglas firs.

It is the last and largest of eight trestles to be repaired along the rail line that was originally planned to serve Port Alberni. The line ends at Youbou, where the project was shelved during the Great Depression, then was killed after the Second World War, when automobiles supplanted rail travel.

Although the trestle is unsafe, engineers say it can be fixed with sufficient funding. The goal is to create a new 200-metre pathway for hikers, cyclists and horseback riders. Unsound timbers will be replaced and the structure reinforced, but organizers plan to preserve the trestle's historic characteristics, including the span, height and timbered design qualities of the original structure.

"I look forward to the day I'm looking at the rehabilitated trestle and I'm standing in the middle of it looking down at history and booking back and forth both ways at the future," said Jack Peake, who is heading up the fundraising campaign.

The province of B.C., which owns the railway, has already committed \$1.6 million from its Local motion funding program, \$1.5 million from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and \$1 million from the \$50-million Island Coastal Economic Trust fund created to bolster the Island economy.

The fundraising goal includes \$340,000 to create an endowment fund, which the CVRD would use for ongoing maintenance costs.

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