

January 4, 2010: Trestle on track but still needing donations

By Mike Damour
Cowichan News Leader Pictorial
January 4, 2010

The Kinsol Trestle is right on track for a spring 2011 completion date, said Jack Peake, Chair of the Cowichan Foundation's Kinsol Capital Campaign. Those words after the recent announcement by the Cowichan Valley Regional District it will soon be hiring a project engineer to oversee the project.

"Everything is about on schedule (and) this is very good news for all of us committed to seeing this tremendous resource maintained for the benefit of our entire community," said Peake.

"We had believed if everything went forward as it was supposed to and the funds came in this would be the right time to hire and get people in place."

That's a relief for Peake, who admitted there were times he wasn't sure the project would go through.

"But now, as we push for the final financial support needed from members of the community, contractors and major donors, saving the Kinsol Trestle seems headed to becoming a reality."

The key to getting the required structural and pathway decking work completed so that the Trestle can re-open will be to raise the final money needed from the community fundraising campaign, he said. Because of the nature of the project funding, every \$1 raised by the community triggers \$2 in matching government funding. That, said Peake, is why the project is at a crucial stage.

"In order to trigger the significant contributions from the federal and provincial infrastructure programs, we need to raise the final \$650,000 from the community," he said.

"We need every nickel by the spring so that we can tap into money from the feds and the province," Peake said.

The overall budget target for the rehabilitation project is now set at \$7.5 million, of which all but the remaining \$650,000 from the local community has been raised. Designed by engineers but built by local farmers and loggers, the Kinsol Trestle is said to be one of the largest and most spectacular timber rail trestle structures in the world. At 614 feet in length and standing 145 feet above the salmon-bearing Koksilah River, the Kinsol is believed to be the largest wooden trestle in the commonwealth.

Donations to the Kinsol Trestle rehabilitation project can be made online at www.kinsol.ca or contact Diane Myrden or Kim Martin at 250-709-1087 or kinsol@cfcowichan.ca