

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

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The Kinsol Trestle Grand Re-opening is finally here! ***Join us for “history in the making”***

DUNCAN, B.C. – The Cowichan Valley Regional District invites you to the official re-opening of the historic Kinsol Trestle – the “Jewel in the Crown” of the Cowichan Valley Trail – on Thursday, July 28, 2011 at 11 a.m.

“After so much hard work, we are very pleased that the day has finally come to celebrate the completion of the rehabilitation of this magnificent structure,” said Gerry Giles, Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board Chair.

“The trestle rehabilitation project was a significant undertaking by the CVRD that would not have been possible without the generous support received from major sponsors, local businesses, community groups and individuals – all of whom share a desire to preserve an important feature of Cowichan’s history,” said Giles.

One of the many supporters has been the South Cowichan Rotary that held a contest for the opportunity to drive the “last spike” at the Trestle and be the “first to cross.”

The winner of the raffle was Michael Coleman, local lawyer, long-time trestle supporter and past Mayor of the City of Duncan. Coleman will be joined by his family, including his 2-year-old twin grandchildren Grace and Blake, who will be participating with him as the first to cross.

“This is amazing to be part of history and I’m happy and honoured to be able to share this with my family,” said Coleman. “As my son Jamie reminded me, I was around for the driving of the “original” last spike of the trestle! It’s going to be an extra special day, and one that I know we’ll all remember.”

The family-friendly event, celebrating the tallest wooden rail trestle in Canada, will include refreshments, entertainment, information booths and more.

The 90-year-old wooden rail trestle is the tallest in Canada and spans the vast Koksilah River canyon. The addition of a new walkway atop the structure has transformed this former railway crossing into a safe, vital connector on the Cowichan Valley Trail (part of the 200 km Trans Canada Trail route on Southern Vancouver Island).

“We know there is great interest in the Trestle from locals and visitors alike,” said Brian Farquhar, CVRD’s Parks and Trails Manager. “We’re thrilled to be able to open it to the public in time for the BC Day Long Weekend as we know it is going to attract people from far and wide into the Cowichan Valley to come and experience the trestle crossing and scenic network of trails.”

Cowichan Valley Trail users will now be able to go between Shawnigan Lake and the communities of Glenora, Lake Cowichan and Duncan/North Cowichan – a continuous trail distance of over 70 kilometres.

“Parking on site is limited and we know people are going to be really excited to come and see the Trestle for themselves and be part of this historic day,” said Farquhar. “As a result, we’ve arranged a shuttle service during the event which will leave regularly from the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre at 2804 Shawnigan Lake Road starting at 10 a.m.”

Good walking shoes are recommended as it is still another 15 minute walk to the Trestle from the shuttle drop off point.

Please visit www.cvrld.bc.ca for more information.

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