

Kinsol campaign still has \$1 million to go

**Ashley Gaudreault - Cowichan News Leader Pictorial
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Glen Harper has given a second gift to the Kinsol Trestle Campaign.

The avid community supporter recently handed over \$5,000 to the Save the Historical Kinsol Trestle Campaign, bringing his total of donations to \$6,000.

The Save the Historical Kinsol Trestle is calling out to the community for their last drive of donations to conserve one of the Cowichan Valley's most valuable landmarks. According to officials, the deadline for fundraising is looming. Campaigners have raised slightly more than \$1.1 million and are working to secure another million, before the fall of 2010, said campaign cabinet member Ross Tennant at an open house held at the B.C. Forest Discovery Centre Tuesday night.

"Glen's generous donation is very good news for this project," said Jack Peake, chair of the Cowichan Foundation's Kinsol Capital Campaign, in a press release. "It is only through the support of locals like Glen, displaying their leadership and enthusiasm for the Kinsol project, that we will complete the fundraising and the final goal of rehabilitating this Cowichan Valley treasure."

Though Harper wasn't able to make the open house, his contributions were acknowledged there.

Peake called the rehab of the trestle a "national project" that one day might be an attraction travelers would come to see.

In his acknowledgment of Harper's donation, Peake reiterated what Harper has said about the trestle.

"Egypt has the pyramids; Canada has the Kinsol Trestle," Harper has said. "When completed, it's going to be a huge tourist attraction. Thousands will come to walk across the trestle each year and this will provide a significant economic boost to the Cowichan Valley."

The overall budget target for the rehabilitation project, largely funded by government, is now set at \$7.5 million.

Rehabilitation begins mid-June, officials said Tuesday night, which means, however, campaigners will have to kick it into high gear to raise the rest of the dollars.

Tenant said he'd be the one to strap himself to the bridge if the money wasn't raised.

"(The site) is just mind-boggling," he said. "You just have to see it in person."

Elected officials at Tuesday's gathering included North Cowichan Mayor Tom Walker, Duncan Mayor Phil Kent, CVRD Chair Gerry Giles as well as local historian Tom Paterson.

Other speakers beside Peake and Tenant included Giles, Gordon Macdonald of Macdonald and Lawrence Timber Framing Ltd and the CVRD's Brian Farquhar.

The Kinsol project is in the midst of the final detailed design.

The project is being overseen by a CVRD team working with a project manager from MMM Group Ltd who's working on setting the specs for the various contracts needed to complete the project.

The trestle is also on Twitter and Facebook. For tweets and Facebook feeds, go to www.kinsol.ca and click on the Twitter and Facebook icons.

Saturday, June 12, Merridale Ciderworks is also hosting a Kinsol fundraiser evening of drinks and pizza and the sounds of Da Band from Brentwood Bay.