

Contractor chosen for phase II Kinsol construction

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Knappett Projects Inc. of Victoria has been named general contractor of the Kinsol Trestle rehabilitation project and will carry out the Phase II construction on the historic Kinsol Trestle, where core rehabilitation work has been underway since early July.

"This next phase of work will cover all aspects of the core project to replace structural timbers, building the upper truss work and to construct the walkway decking and rails atop the structure," said Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division with the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD).

Since July, Macdonald & Lawrence Timber Framing, the timber specialist contractor, has been carrying out the core rehabilitation work within the structure to replace failing timbers and prepare the structure for a new walkway for users of the Cowichan Valley Trail (part of the Trans Canada Trail). The Phase II construction period is scheduled to last until early spring 2011.

"We are excited to see the construction continuing on this magnificent structure," said Jack Peake, Kinsol Trestle Campaign Chair. "But we need to remind everyone that we still have not reached the overall funding goal that will allow for the more complete rehabilitation of the Trestle. We hope everyone will make a donation and help us match all the government funds available. Our kids and grandkids are counting on us to save the Trestle for decades to come."

Temporary viewing areas have been created for the public to watch the work progress from the north side of the Trestle with access from Riverside Road. Progress at the site can also be monitored via a webcam set up at the site. To see the webcam address, for directions to the site for public viewing and to make a donation to the Kinsol Trestle project, go to www.kinsol.ca.

The rehabilitation project is on target to be largely completed by March 31, 2011, pending additional funds raised in the coming months, in preparation for an official reopening of the Trestle in late spring, 2011.

The rehabilitation work will replace unsound timbers, reinforce 17 structural piers and build a new 614-foot walkway atop the structure for hikers, runners, cyclists and equestrians. The rehabilitation will ensure that the historic characteristics - the span, height and timbered design qualities - are preserved as the original timbers get replaced due to age and deterioration.

Included in the rehabilitation project are landscaping improvements on both ends of the Trestle, a walkway down into the Koksilah River canyon to view the trestle from below, and an information kiosk that will display the proud story of the Trestle as well as the contributions of the donors who have made the project a reality.

A portion of the funding for the estimated \$7.5 million rehabilitation project has come from the Federal/Provincial infrastructure program, the Island Coastal Economic Trust and Trans Canada Trail.

Donations to the Save the Historic Kinsol Trestle rehabilitation project can be made on-line at www.kinsol.ca or by contacting Diane Myrden or Kim Martin at the Campaign Office 250-709-1087 or kinsol@cfcowichan.ca