



1911

The Journey Begins...

1914 - 1916

WWI brings progress to a slow crawl, but picks up with the demand for war materials.

1920

Things get back on track, and the Kinsol Trestle is now officially finished!

1922 - 1925

All aboard! Passenger trips become available throughout the Valley.

1931 - 1936

Winter floods cause extensive damage to the Trestle. Reconstruction and installation of the lower Howe Truss.

1973 - 1984

CN completes last major repairs, then abandons part of the line. BC government takes over.

1999 - 2010

After years of neglect and vandalism, the CVRD is commissioned to restore the Kinsol Trestle for park use. The BC Gov. proposes to remove trestle, but it was determined that rehabilitation will take place instead.

2011 - 2012

Rehabilitation of the Kinsol Trestle finishes with a grand re-opening. CVRD continues to manage and maintain the Trestle as part of the Cowichan Valley Trail



1920's



1940's



1980's



2011

## History and Beauty Worth Saving

The Trestle, one of the few accessible and visible reminders of early mining and logging industries, brings history to life in such a powerful way. At the end of the 19th century, the race was on to build railways so that lumber and minerals could be more easily shipped. Construction of the Kinsol Trestle started in 1911 when a more efficient way to transport huge, old-growth timber was needed.

Designed by engineers but built by local farmers and loggers, the Kinsol Trestle is one of the tallest free-standing 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 an incredible structure worth preserving. The Kinsol

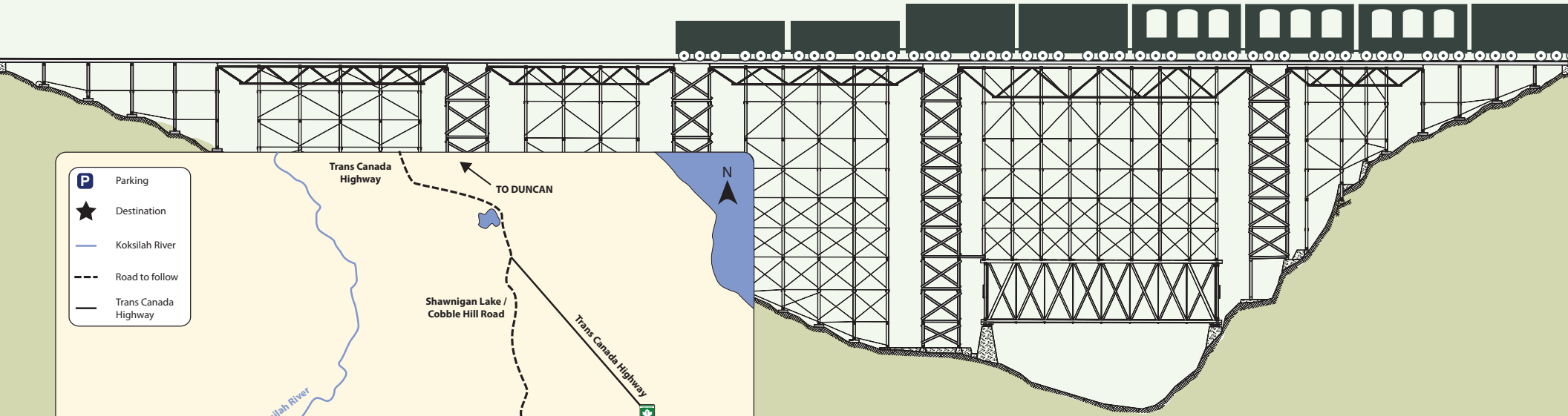
Trestle is a dramatic example of how timber railway bridges were built. It represents the importance of the railways to the economic development of Vancouver Island. The trestle symbolizes the optimism of a new nation. Although railway companies built hundreds of trestles, the Kinsol Trestle is notable for both its size and its unusual seven-degree curve. This historic railway bridge reminds us of the once powerful forest industry and the ambition and ingenuity required to overcome substantial geographical challenges. The Kinsol Trestle, also known as the Koksilah River Bridge, is a structure that is unmatched in the British Commonwealth.

At the turn of the 20th century, construction of the railways drove British Columbia's economy through the

exploitation of seemingly endless resources, especially the extraction of timber from the dense forests of Vancouver Island. The demand for lumber was sky-high in Europe, and the race was on to deliver the goods. The Canadian Northern Pacific Railway (CNPR) began work on the Vancouver Island line on February 18, 1911. Its ambitious owners Sir William Mackenzie and Sir Donald Mann were soon debt-ridden, and the line was taken over in 1917 by the federally owned Canadian National Railway (CNR). Although CNR resumed construction in 1918, the railway had been downgraded in importance from a main line to a logging railway.

A carpenter carved a unique number into each post of a timber "bent", and the builders used the numbers to identify its position in

the trestle. Vibrant communities developed around the logging mills. The town of Kinsol served a community of fifty people. The Kinsol Trestle, named from the former King Solomon copper mine, was completed in February 1920. The original design featured a high-level Howe truss that was supported on timber towers. But all wooden structures require maintenance. Design modifications to the bridge included positioning six low-level Howe trusses onto massive concrete piers over the river. There were further repairs made to the trestle in 1936, and the high-level Howe truss span, which had been kept in its original position, was replaced with frame bents.



## How To Get to The Kinsol Trestle

### From Duncan...

1. Head South on the Trans Canada Highway.
2. Turn West off the Hwy (RIGHT) onto Shawnigan Lake/Cobble Hill Road (Valley View Centre intersection).
3. Travel to the end of the road (The intersection at Shawnigan Lake) and turn RIGHT onto Renfrew Road.
4. Travel along Renfrew Road, past West Shawnigan Lake Rd. (which will be on the left) and turn RIGHT onto Glen Eagles Rd.
5. Travel a short distance down Glen Eagles Road. There will be an entrance to the Cowichan Valley Trail (CVT) on the right with a small parking area.
6. Walk from parking lot (approx 15min) to the trail.

# The Historic Kinsol Trestle

## Get On Board With The Facts



C.V.R.D.

Cowichan Valley Regional District