

# Media Release



**For immediate release  
December 16, 2009**

## **Kinsol Trestle rehabilitation gets green light from CVRD *\$650,000 crucial community fundraising still required***

**Duncan, BC** – The historic Kinsol Trestle rehabilitation project is one major step closer to a spring 2010 start date for construction, after the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) gave the green light to hiring a project engineer to oversee the project.

“This is very, very good news for all of us committed to seeing this tremendous resource maintained for the benefit of our entire community,” says Jack Peake, Chair of the Cowichan Foundation’s Kinsol Capital Campaign. “There were times when I was not sure we would get the project 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.”

At its latest meeting, the CVRD Board of Directors approved the hiring of a project engineer who will put together a team to fine tune the design work done to date, confirm the scope of the timber requirements, prepare the tendering and contract documents and organize the project schedule to complete core components of the trestle rehabilitation by the funding deadline date of March 2011.

“The Kinsol Trestle rehabilitation is a major project that has gained widespread support from all levels of government, the local community and groups like the Trans Canada Trail,” said Gerry Giles, CVRD Chair. “We are delighted to be able to lead this project and happy to take responsibility for ensuring that this structure becomes safe and well-used for many more years.”

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 \$650,000 needed from the community fundraising campaign. Because of the nature of the project funding, every \$1 raised by the community triggers \$2 in matching government funding

“We are at a crucial stage in the fundraising campaign. 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. This is an exciting, time-limited opportunity to bring significant money into our project from sources outside of the local community,” says Peake.

“With this green light from the CVRD, I am more confident than ever that the Cowichan Valley residents and businesses will step up to meet that challenge, as they have so often done,” he added.

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.

“We have an opportunity due to the contributions of the federal and provincial infrastructure money to raise even more than the minimum amount required to rehabilitate the trestle, which was set at \$6.45 million. This will enable us to do a million dollars worth of work on the structure, over and above what is required to fund the basic rehabilitation. This is work that was planned for, but was to be completed in future years as money became available. Being able to do this work now means there are opportunities for savings and the ability to do more on the trestle right away - increasing the direct benefits to the community from the rehabilitated Trestle structure,” says Peake.

Designed by engineers but built by local farmers and loggers, the Kinsol Trestle is 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 an incredible structure worth preserving for its heritage value as well as for the economic benefits the rehabilitation project will generate.

Donations to the Kinsol Trestle rehabilitation project can be made on-line at [www.kinsol.ca](http://www.kinsol.ca) or by contacting Diane Myrden or Kim Martin at the Campaign Office - (250) 709-1087 or [info@cfcowichan.ca](mailto:info@cfcowichan.ca).

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**NOTE TO EDITORS:** Kinsol Capital Campaign Chair Jack Peake is available for interviews on December 16. To arrange an interview, please call Dave Traynor at the numbers below.

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*The Kinsol Trestle Capital Campaign is spearheaded by the Cowichan Foundation, which has a long history of contributing to the social, cultural and physical improvement of communities in the CVRD. The Foundation has partnered with the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) and Community Futures, Cowichan, which is providing administrative services and a campaign office. For more information, please visit [www.kinsol.ca](http://www.kinsol.ca).*