

Media Release



For immediate release
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Dave Johel donates \$5,000 to the *Save the Kinsol Trestle* campaign

Duncan, BC – Dave Johel of Johel Brothers Contracting in Lake Cowichan has donated \$5,000 to the Save the Historic Kinsol Trestle Campaign, adding to the momentum to reach the overall goal of \$2 million raised from the local community.

“The Cowichan Valley is where I live and work and have spent my whole life. A project like this is good for our community and for the whole Island and I’m happy to be a part of saving this great piece of our local history,” says Johel. His group of companies has locations in Lake Cowichan and Duncan and are well known in the local area as strong community supporters.

Johel delivered his cheque in person this week when the Kinsol Trestle rehabilitation work officially got under way at an event held at the Kinsol Trestle. And while it’s good to see core work finally begin after years of effort, Kinsol Campaign Chair Jack Peake says it’s important for residents to understand that the fundraising is still continuing in order to rehabilitate the entire historic structure.

“Every dollar we raise now will go directly to completing work that would otherwise not get done for years and at a much higher cost or maybe not at all,” he says. “We have an opportunity now to finish this job right . I know Dave’s generous support will encourage others to step forward too.”

A portion of the \$7.4 million rehabilitation project funding has come from the Federal/Provincial infrastructure program, the Island Coastal Economic Trust and Trans Canada Trail. The local community’s target fundraising goal is \$2 million. To date, just over \$1.2 million has been raised.

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.

A series of fundraising events are underway this summer and fall, including the Toonies for the Trestle boxes located at businesses throughout the Cowichan Valley area. Residents who donate to the campaign will also soon have the chance to be part of the first group to walk across the completed Kinsol Trestle or drive the last spike of the project.

The rehabilitation work, which started on July 6 and will finish next spring, will replace unsound timbers, reinforce six 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.

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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.