

Two Museums Turn Eyes to Kinsol Trestle

THE COWICHAN VALLEY CITIZEN
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The Cowichan Valley Museum & Archives and the Shawnigan Lake Museum announced last week that Canadian Heritage has approved their application for a \$5,000 grant to create a Virtual Museum of Canada online exhibit entitled, The Kinsol Trestle: Abandoned, Then Embraced.

This funding will allow the museums to design an exhibit that will become part of the Community Memories Program on the Canadian Heritage Information Network's website.

This grant provides an opportunity for the community to share their stories about the Kinsol Trestle. Through this exhibit, the community will explore the history of the Kinsol, its significance and the recent, and sometimes contentious, movement to save the trestle from demolition.

Built by the Canadian National Railway and completed in 1920, the historic trestle spans the Koksilah River in the Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Abandoned in 1979, years of neglect and vandalism led some people to believe that the trestle could not be saved. It has been determined by heritage experts that the Kinsol is not only structurally sound but also culturally significant. With most of the funding in place, rehabilitation of the trestle will begin soon.

Over the summer and early fall, the museums will be collecting stories, photographs and information that along with material from our archives will be incorporated into the new exhibit.

If you have a Kinsol-related story, photo or artifact Kathryn Gagnon, curator of the Cowichan Valley Museum & Archives and Lori Treloar, curator of the Shawnigan Lake Museum, invite you to contact them (please see contact information below). With the trestle on the verge of rehabilitation, the museums are thrilled to be undertaking a project that will celebrate the history of this great structure.

Contact information:

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