

# Kinsol trestle gets biggest individual donation to date



Dan Varga (right) presenting a \$30,000 donation on behalf of an anonymous donor to Campaign Chair Jack Peake at the Kinsol Trestle.

**By Krista Siefken - Cowichan News Leader Pictorial  
October 17, 2010**

A \$30,000 donation from an anonymous Cowichan resident has put the Kinsol trestle \$60,000 closer to its much-needed restoration.

Kinsol campaigners say it's the largest individual contribution to date.

"A big thanks goes to our anonymous donor for making such a great leadership gift and for members of our campaign cabinet like Dan Varga for helping on the campaign," Jack Peake, chair of the Kinsol trestle fundraising campaign, said in a media release.

"The donation has triggered a further \$30,000 in matching grant funding (from federal and provincial grant programs) for the project, dollar for dollar."

While the donor's identity is in the dark, the support clearly isn't.

"They did send a letter to the campaign that said, 'We believe that this large project will show great long-term benefits to the Cowichan Valley, and we wish you success,'" the media release added.

And Peake agreed.

"You don't get many opportunities like this, to save a great piece of our local history and create new opportunities for economic activity in our valley right now and for years to come," he said.

"We need the contributions to keep coming as the project moves ahead. And I'm confident that donations like these will inspire others to come on board."

The \$30,000 donation joins cash from donors like Dave Johel, Glen Harper and Phil Kent.

Another \$500,000 is needed for the project, which is expected to cost about \$7.4 million.

Helping with funding is the federal and provincial governments' infrastructure project, the Island Coastal Economic Trust and Trans-Canada Trail.

Work started in July and is expected to finish in the spring, replacing unsound timber, reinforcing 17 structural piers, and finishing a new 614-foot walkway atop the structure for hikers, cyclists and equestrians. There'll also be landscaping, a walkway into the Koksilah River canyon, and an information kiosk.

Donations to the Save the Historic Kinsol Trestle rehabilitation project can be made online at [www.kinsol.ca](http://www.kinsol.ca) or by contacting Diane Myrden or Kim Martin at the campaign office at 250-709-1087.