



ISLAND COASTAL ECONOMIC TRUST ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR COWICHAN VALLEY TRAIL INITIATIVE

**For Immediate Release
October 16, 2008**

Kinsol Trestle, Cowichan Valley Regional District – Phil Kent, Board member of the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) and Mayor of the City of Duncan, on behalf of the ICET Board of Directors, today announced funding by ICET of \$1,743,891 for the Cowichan Valley Trail initiative. The total cost of this project is estimated at \$7,897,173.

“The goal of the Cowichan Valley Trail is to create a 120 kilometre multi-purpose trail experience linking communities across the Cowichan Valley Regional District as well as connecting the trail to the Regional District of Nanaimo Trans Canada Trail system to the North and the Galloping Goose Trail system in the Capital Regional District to the south,” explained Kent.

“The Cowichan Valley Trail contributes to meeting important objectives identified by the Regional District including linking communities, diversifying local economies, creating jobs, contributing to reduced greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to healthier communities and increasing tourism based opportunities,” added Kent. “The objectives of economic diversification and job creation speak to ICET priorities to diversify the economies of the Island and the Sunshine Coast via this and similar trail initiatives in the region.”

Jack Peake, Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District, outlined how the Cowichan Valley Trail Initiative looks to complete 8 trail components over a 5 year period (2008-2012) including links from Ladysmith to the Regional District of Nanaimo, a “Rail with Trail” between Chemainus and Ladysmith, a new trail from Duncan to Chemainus/Crofton, Lake Cowichan/North Cowichan “Rail to Trail” and rehabilitation of the historic Kinsol Trestle to re-establish this impressive crossing of the Koksilah River for trail users.

About the Island Coastal Economic Trust

The Island Coastal Economic Trust was established by Provincial legislation on February 27, 2006. \$50 million is managed by an independent board of directors made up of 8 locally elected government representatives and 5 provincially appointed members from Island coastal communities. The Board’s mandate is to make strategic investments in regional economic priorities such as forestry, transportation, tourism, mining, energy, Olympic opportunities, economic development, agriculture, aquaculture, and small business. To date, the Trust has approved some \$32 million for over 30 projects. The total economic impact of these investments is estimated at \$189 million. Information about the Trust can be found at www.islandcoastaltrust.ca

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FACT SHEET

The Cowichan Valley Trail Initiative is a 120 km multi-use trail route linking communities throughout the Cowichan Regional District, including planned extensions to the Galloping Goose Trail in the Capital Regional District and Nanaimo Regional District's Trans Canada Trail.

The trail route encompasses both "Rail to Trail" along former railway rights of way and "Rail with Trail" for sections of the trail within the Island Corridor Foundation's active E & N Corridor.

The multi-use trail for local recreation and recreation tourism is accessible to non-motorized uses such as hiking/walking, cycling and horseback riding.

The section of the Cowichan Valley Trail along the former CNR railway right of way includes eight railway trestle crossings, seven of which are rehabilitated/rebuilt for trail use.

The historic Kinsol Trestle over the Koksilah River Canyon is the only remaining trestle on the former CNR right of way requiring rehabilitation for trail use as part of the Cowichan Valley Trail.

Original construction of the Kinsol Trestle was completed in 1920, with sections of the structure replaced during the mid 1930's, in 1958 and in 1973.

Historic Kinsol Trestle Specifications:

- **Tallest standing wooden railway trestle in Canada and reportedly throughout the British Commonwealth.**
- **615 feet in length (187.45 metres).**
- **125 feet (38.1 metres) in height above the Koksilah River.**
- **Howe Truss system which spans between river embankments.**
- **Considered a "Marvel of Engineering" at time of construction in 1920 due to height, span length and 6 degree sweeping curve end to end.**
- **The trestle and former rail corridor are a testament to the era of the locomotive steam engine with the Cowichan Valley.**