

# Blenkinsop Lake Bridge & Lochside Regional Trail

**T**he bridge and trails to the north and south of the lake are the result of partnerships committed towards a single goal. This goal is to make the Saanich Peninsula Trail from downtown Victoria to Swartz Bay into a continuous greenway and alternative transportation route that brings our community together.

The Lochside Regional Trail in Saanich is a multi-use corridor that forms one of the longest sections of the Saanich Peninsula Trail. Together with other regional trails such as the Galloping Goose, the trails provide a wealth of exploring opportunities for adventurers of all ages. Some of the trails lead to spectacular ocean views, some guide you through ancient forests while others provide the chance to discover many of the native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, birds and animals found throughout Saanich.

Discover, Explore and Enjoy.

## Partnerships

The bridge construction and trail development was a co-operative project generously funded by:

Canada Millennium Partnership Program, Province of British Columbia through the Provincial Capital Commission and the British Columbia Transportation and Finance Authority Cycling Network Program, Capital Regional District Parks, and the Corporation of the District of Saanich



The 280 metre (920 ft.) bridge, designed by Graeme & Murray Engineering Consultants was constructed by Surespan Construction Ltd. in the summer of 2000. In addition to being a structural challenge, the design is intended to keep within the rural character seen throughout the community.

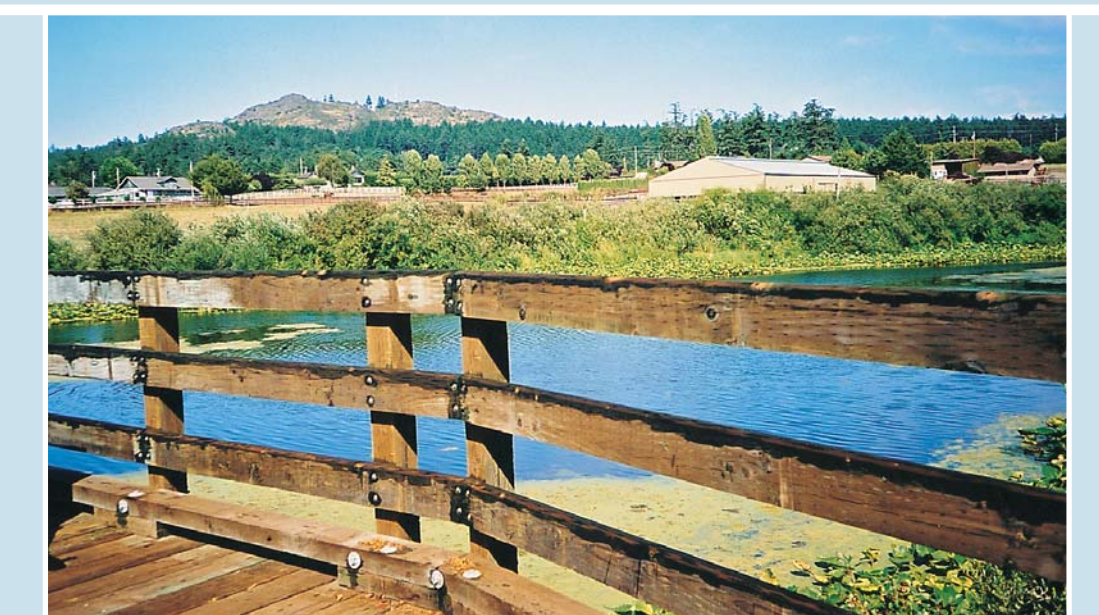
The project reflects the historical context of the old railway trestle while incorporating features that are environmentally sensitive - particularly for the aquatic and terrestrial life.

A pile driving skidder designed decades ago started building the bridge from the south side of the lake and drove more than 100 piles into the lake's peat bottom. Some piles as deep as 57 metres (189 ft.) form the support system for the more than one thousand Douglas Fir planks of the bridge deck and viewing platforms.

The driving of the "Last Spike" ceremony, held September 9, 2000 marked the official opening of the bridge.



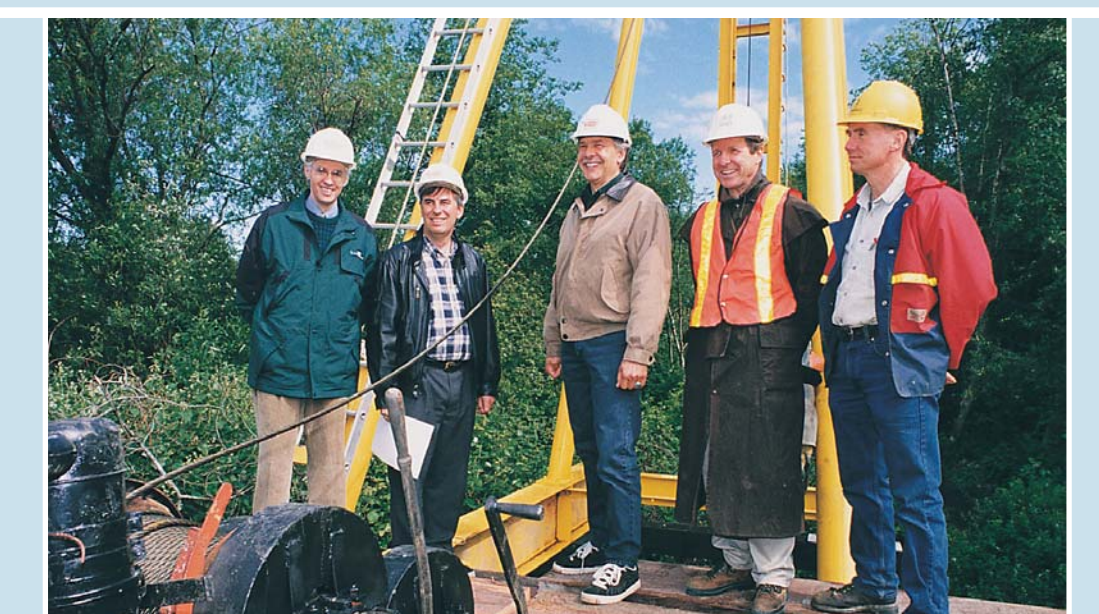
Remnants of the railway trestle built during World War I.  
Saanich Parks Photo.



A view to Mt. Douglas. Hike the network of trails or go to the summit for the best panoramic view of Greater Victoria.  
Saanich Parks Photo.



Bridge Construction Crew – Colin James, Gary Cotton, Dave MacGregor, Eric Molcan, Ken Oxley, Brian Winters & Nessie the Dog.  
J. Taylor Photo.



Andrew Petter, MLA Saanich South, Frank Leonard, Mayor of Saanich, David Cubberley, Saanich Councillor, Chris Pease, Director of Saanich Parks and Public Works, Bob White, President of Surespan Construction Ltd. Key people in the bridge development.  
A. van der Gugten Photo.