



SAMISH INDIAN NATION

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Press Release

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SAMISH INDIAN NATION MAKES \$30,000 DONATION TO THE TOMMY THOMPSON TRESTLE REPAIR FUND

ANACORTES, WA, DECEMBER 9, 2009: The Samish Indian Nation makes a \$30,000 donation to the Tommy Thompson trestle repair fund and hopes to inspire others to donate to this tragic loss in our community. The Tribe, whose name in proto-Salish origins means the giving people, has always held a deep-rooted respect for the traditions of sharing with its neighbors and chooses to carry on this tradition of contributing to the local community. Samish Tribal Chairman, Tom Wooten and the Mayor of Anacortes, Dean Maxwell, share a commitment to rebuilding and reopening the trestle by April of 2010.

In early October, a fire damaged a major portion of the trestle on the Tommy Thompson Trail, across Fidalgo Bay. Unfortunately, there is no insurance available to replace the damaged section. Therefore, local contributions are critical to making the repairs. Tom Wooten, Samish Tribal Chairman said, "The impact of this incident has raised public and community awareness of the larger project of the replacement of the trestle and the opening up of the head of Fidalgo Bay. No one person or entity can fix this, but collectively and as a community we can and will make this repair happen."

Leslie Eastwood, Samish Administration General Manager said, "When we participate the Canoe Journey every year here in the Salish Sea, we tell our Canoe Family to dig deep as they paddle. We are asking our community to do the same thing and dig deep in our pockets to contribute to this need in the community."

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According to the Anacortes Parks Foundation, As of December 2, 2009, we have received donations totaling \$15,600!! The City of Anacortes estimated the costs to repair the trestle to be approximately \$300,000. The tribe's contribution will cover 10% of the total need, but we still need our communities help to reach the goal of funding this need in our community to 100%.

Two donations to the Anacortes Parks Foundation were announced at the trestle this afternoon by Anacortes Mayor Dean Maxwell, Samish Indian Nation Tribal Chairman Tom Wooten and Bert Valdman, interim acting chair of the Puget Sound Energy Foundation's board of directors and PSE's executive vice president and chief operating officer. The PSE Foundation is donating \$20,000 to the trestle-repair project.

Anacortes Mayor, Dean Maxwell said, "These contributions are marvelous gestures by your organizations – tremendous holiday gifts to our community. I hope others will follow your lead and step forward to help us rebuild this vital link of the Tommy Thompson Trail."

Tax-deductible donations to the bridge-repair effort can be sent to Anacortes Parks Foundation at P.O. Box 1902, Anacortes, WA 98221. Donations also can be made online at the foundation's Web site (www.anacortesparcsfoundation.org). For more information, call the Anacortes Parks Foundation at (360) 293-1918.

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