

# Trestle goes national

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This month you can check out the Canadian Geographic's Compass Blog and read up about the progress on the Kinsol Trestle rehabilitation.

Blogger Hugh Pouliot interviews Gordon MacDonald, of MacDonald & Lawrence Timber Framing Ltd., the B.C.-based company taking on the restoration.

"From the perspective of heritage and restoration," says MacDonald, "we always want to repair more than replace."

Criteria for the restoration were cost-efficiency, conservation, meaning waste and environmental impact must be kept to a minimum; and longevity.

The process is also about understanding the structure's pieces and how they fit together. MacDonald & Lawrence Timber Framing Ltd. developed a comprehensive data sheet on each of the 6,000 timbers that make up the trestle, and obtained a complete set of documents (working drawings, correspondence, and engineers' assessments) from CN, to guide them throughout the project.

"In its day, the Kinsol Trestle was one of the proudest structures in the region. Today, even more so," says MacDonald. "The trestle speaks to an era when feats of engineering like this were taken on almost routinely, when we throw ourselves at it, and there is no challenge too great. That's what's really inspiring to me."