



NEWS RELEASE

Master tradesmen mentor Valley students in an educational community build on Hornby Island

For immediate release

28 September 2018

COMOX VALLEY, B.C. – Five Valley students will receive a hands-on introduction to the art and science of timber framing under the guidance of master tradesmen during a four-day community building opportunity at Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre.

The Timber Framers Guild (TFG) has joined forces with the Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Society Centre (TBOEC) to lead a community build project of constructing a fire-pit pavilion on the grounds of its education centre on Hornby Island.

Select students in grades 11 and 12 with a keen interest in woodworking have been invited to take part in the project to give them exposure to timber framing trade. Students will work with a TFG mentor learning theoretical and practical skills building a new timber frame.

The build project involving students begins 3 October at Sandwick Technical School and at Churchill Timberworks. After an overall review of plans and introduction to the project, students will be paired with a professional to layout and cut a unique timber for the structure.

During a three-day training event on Hornby Island, 6 – 8 October, students will join their TFG mentors and another 30 Guild volunteers to raise the octagonal timber frame shelter.

The Tribune Bay Fire-pit Pavilion event continues a rich tradition of Guild community building projects since 1985 including the covered bridge in Golden and the Public Barn in Pemberton.

“Our Guild partners with other non-profits to take on building project of mutual interest, often those projects would not happen without the cooperative environment created to promote education and foster building with common purpose,” expressed Randy Churchill, TFG member and owner of Churchill Timberworks - a Comox Valley based timber framer. “These projects are more about building community than building a structure. Bringing high school students along to study trades is a huge bonus; and just plain fun.”

Once complete, the new covered structure will become the architectural focal point and enhance the setting and the environment of Tribune Bay and will allow for year-round programming.

“We are looking for expansion of our programming for students and youth but we also have a park use permit that allows programming for families and adults in general, shared Sheila McDonnell, School District 71 Trustee and member of TBOEC society. “Our outdoor education centre could make a great place to hold a conference or host a corporate retreat. The possibilities are endless and moving from a seasonal to a year-round operation opens the door to increased use and enjoyment of this gem of a location.”

In addition to Churchill Timberworks and TFG members, the project was made possible by the generous donations from several other contributing organizations including:

- Timber West in-kind donation of cedar and fir timbers;
- SLEGG Lumber’s contribution of a crane truck and operator, and hardware;
- Hyland Precast donation of foundation blocks;
- a monetary donation of \$10k from The Comox Valley Community Foundation;
- financial assistance from the Centre’s two governing organizations, Comox Valley and Qualicum School Districts; and
- The Hornby Island Community.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Media are invited to watch the students involved in the build project 3 October here in the Comox Valley and/or on Hornby Island during the community build from 6 to 8 October. If interested in attending any of these opportunities kindly RSVP with Mary Lee, Manager of Communications, at mary.lee@sd71.bc.ca or at 250-334-5500 Ext 3147.

For more information about Tribune Bay Firepit Project, visit

<https://tfgtribunebayfirepitproject.weebly.com/>

For more information Timber Framers Guild International, visit <https://www.tfguild.org/>

IMAGE

Architecture rendition of the final structure.