

# Gorge of yesteryear revealed

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News staff

Before it was part of a regional trail system, the narrow wooden bridge crossing Gorge waterway had a different use.

"The Selkirk Trestle was a railway bridge and they used to dump the logs from it into the water," said Kitty Lloyd with the Capital Regional District.

She, along with others from the Gorge Waterway Initiative, are installing a series of interpretive signs to explain the waterway's ecological, recreational and cultural history. Photos from the archives will help tell the tale.

"There were a lot of sawmills and all kinds of industry in the Gorge," Lloyd said.

"There was paint manufacturing and all kinds of manufacturing ... It was the busiest harbour north of San Francisco for many years."

While some signs will tell of the Gorge's working harbour past, others outline its significance as a migratory bird sanctuary.

"We felt that there was a serious lack of information along the waterway, said Jody Watson, CRD harbours and watersheds co-ordinator.

"We worked with parks staff from the four municipalities on this project and we did a lot of research on the history ... and then we had to boil that down."

The first sign was unveiled



Don Denton/News staff

**Kitty Lloyd looks over one of the 12 interpretive signs the Gorge Waterway Initiative will unveil. The sign is at the Vic West end of the Selkirk Trestle.**

this week at a ceremony on the south side of the trestle bridge.

Eventually, 12 signs will be installed along the Gorge's

shores running through Victoria, Esquimalt, Saanich, and View Royal.

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