

Mystery donor wants to install motion-activated solar lights on Selkirk Trestle

By Carla Wilson, Victoria Times Colonist July 30, 2010



Selkirk Trestle, on the Galloping Goose Trail, is a popular crossing for pedestrians and cyclists.

A magnanimous mystery donor wants to shed light on 300 metres of the Selkirk Trestle by paying for the purchase and installation of 26 solar LED units.

Carmanah Technologies Corp.'s EverGEN 1710 lights have the ability to be activated when just one of them senses motion, thus improving safety on the trestle, a popular route for commuters, a company statement said yesterday. The trestle is the downtown gateway for the Galloping Goose trail that runs through the capital region and is heavily used by cyclists and pedestrians.

The lighting project cost would be at least \$104,000. David Davies, media spokesman for Carmanah, said in an interview that each light costs between \$4,000 and \$6,000, depending on the size and system specifications.

But just who is paying for them is a secret so far.

Carmanah's release provided little illumination, saying the project originated with a "... local community co-operative whose aim is to help move important community projects through to

completion while supporting local businesses. The co-operative also aims to provide the basis for wider acceptance of sustainable technologies.”

The statement quotes an anonymous co-operative spokesperson as saying “the most important consideration is the benefit to the community this project will provide. This project will hopefully become a model for what community initiatives can do when they are allowed to.”

A Times Colonist request for more information resulted in an e-mail from Martin G. Smith, who said he is a research co-ordinator for an organization with “very strict,” long-standing, non-disclosure rules.

“Thus, at this point I am unable to give you much information on exactly what we are involved with except to say that we are the sole suppliers of funding for the project and that it is one of several we have planned to improve the overall livability of the CRD.”

He said in an e-mail the co-operative’s name is RedSeven Services and it is primarily in scrap recovery. It has 457-plus members and is growing by the week, Smith said.

This lighting initiative is “outside our regular realm of operation,” he added.

Davies said a Vancouver lighting contractor placed the order with Carmanah. “My understanding is that the CRD is well aware of the project.”

A CRD spokesman could not provide information on the plan by press time.

cjwilson@tc.canwest.com

Read more:

<http://www.timescolonist.com/Mystery+donor+wants+install+motion+activated+solar+lights+Se+l+kirk+Trestle/3340603/story.html#ixzz0vYlkgCbN>