

# Lagoon bridge due to open Friday



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Out of business for more than five months, Esquimalt Lagoon Bridge is scheduled to re-open to traffic Friday.

A Colwood public works crew was completing grading of the north abutment Tuesday in preparation for paving this week. The crew had the difficult task of working around an archeological midden site smack in the centre of the excavation.

Pocked with sinkholes due to erosion from the ocean, crews have buttressed the north abutment with large lock-blocks, rip-rap boulders and geotextile material. How many months or years the new support survives depends on the ferocity of winter storms.

Shutdown of the 100-year-old span has proven divisive in the community, with just as many people calling for its permanent closure as those calling for its immediate repair. It took some months for the city to get work permits from a number of federal departments.

"Fixing the lagoon bridge has gone well. We didn't anticipate a midden and as big a sinkhole that we found," said Mayor Dave Saunders. "It's been a really positive project."

Paving is expected to start Wednesday or Thursday to allow traffic back on the bridge Friday.

The project was funded by the Essencia development and equipment and materials were donated by: Ron Aubrey Enterprises, Capital City Paving, C-1 Contracting, Ron Coutre, Mike Cownden, Dave Horner, Pat Guiney, Dale Malloch, Gerry Mounce, Northridge Equipment and Western Rentals.

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