



Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation

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Willamette Falls Locks are now one inspection from a bright and busy future

Reliable sources in June say that a pending Corps of Engineers Willamette Falls Locks safety inspection, which has been standing in the way of lock operations, will be funded after all and can move ahead in late 2008. According to sources at the Portland District COE office, the Corps' reprogramming request, identifying money to pay for the Hydraulic Steel Structures inspection, has been signed by the Assistant Secretary of the Army and sent on to the congressional committee that requested it. The inspection, which will take approximately three months to conduct, may begin right after Lock Fest and may overlap or actually start in

the Federal budget year 2008-09, which begins October 1.

Although this is news that we have been waiting, working and hoping for, it does mean that a flotilla, for the first time, will not be a part of 2008 Lock Fest. 2008 will mark five years of creating our wonderful advocacy event and celebration at the 135-year-old Locks. We urge all of the folks who would have brought their boats through on September 13 to come instead and visit us on land, at the Locks park, learn about the coming inspection, which will be downright heroic in scale, and see the rest of our heritage and river/boat-ing festival.



COURTESY OF USACE FILES

This photo shows the dramatic scale of the last documented gate inspection, in 1982. Every pair of gates on the canal will be lifted from the lock and gone over with ultrasound and visual inspections.

2008 Lock Fest team accentuates the positive

Lock Fest planning has started and we're off to a good start with a new partner, the West Linn Arts Festival, running the same day, upriver at Willamette Park on Saturday the 13th. The arts show and sale also runs Sunday, but only on Saturday will families and visitors be able to ride a free shuttle between the two festivals all day.

We hope families with both art and history lovers will bring the whole family, invite an out-of-town guest, and take in one of West Linn's signature events AND an exciting, high-quality art show.

Preliminary ideas for this year's Lock Fest, in the absence of boats on the water, include interpretive signage on this historic inspection; continuous video of cable



2008's poster again focuses on the dramatic industrial forms of the West Linn mill, with the whimsy of a few discarded grinder stones on the bank echoing the City's current public art project.

footage of prior years' flotillas; the West Linn Community Chorus's Ensemble starring on the PGE History Stage at 1 p.m.; and the possibility of a tug boat spectacle on the Willamette River, under the Old Bridge.

We'll once again have the Rose City Roamers Volkswalk club including the festival in its walk that day, and of course will be distributing and selling another amazing Daniel Robinson fine art event marketing poster, third in our exclusive series, now being readied for Bridgetown Printing's presses in July.

Bank of America renews support for staff

Jenee Gillham, Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation board member and Robinwood Branch Manager for the Bank of America, informed us in late June that the B of A Foundation has generously awarded us \$2,500 for general support of our community projects and educational activities in 2008-09. This is the second award from the Bank of America, and we think Jenee's strong support has had a lot to do with it. Thanks so much, Jenee. Our projects are monumentally successful and exciting to the heritage and arts communities, but support for general operations and staff is the deepest need of the foundation at this moment in time.

Oregon 150 is a potential partner

Executive Director Sandy Carter has submitted our Crown Zellerbach oral history projects to the "Oregon150" sesquicentennial committee for its stamp of approval as an Oregon150 Project next year. The archiving of Willamette Falls stories for historic research and educational purposes and the creation of a library of written transcripts of our interviews aligns nicely with the state's 150th birthday celebrations next year.

Director's Message

Artists from Vashon, Washougal and Tucson vie for the right to design West Linn's Grindstones Project

Three semi-finalists have been selected in West Linn's hunt for the perfect concept for its first public "percent for art" process. The Grindstones Project, shepherded by an appointed city steering committee, issued its official 'call' to artists in May. A June 12 review of the responses to that Request For Qualifications yielded three finalists: John Davis, of Tucson, AZ; Linda Prokop, of Washougal, WA; and Julie Speidel, of Vashon Island, WA.

As convener of the West Linn Historic Grindstones Public Art Steering Committee, I'm so excited by the quality of the artists who applied. The solicitation sought an artist qualified to create a concept that fully engages the community's imagination, inspires municipal pride and creates a visual landmark. Project goals included incorporating six massive donated grindstones from the West Linn Paper Company mill; creating an artistic monument that celebrates West Linn's 115-year mill town heritage and represents a visual chronicle that reflects the significance of early 20th century industry; and demonstrating respect for the intrinsic historic value of the grindstones.

Thanks to Ian Dunlap, each of the three artists left in the competition has toured the closed Groundwood Mill at West Linn Paper Company. I then toured them around the art's eventual site at Willamette Park. They'll each create a maquette (small model) of their concept and make a presentation to the committee on August 4. The three artists will each receive a \$750 honorarium for that presentation. (The WL Arts Commission in 2007 was awarded that \$2,250 for the three finalists by the Clackamas County Cultural Coalition.)

The project budget is estimated at \$40,000. The City's share of the costs will be modest, coming from the riverbank trail construction at Willamette Park. The final Grindstones installation will be the visual anchor to that trail, which will eventually run from the Bernert Landing area to the Oregon City bridge. The project will enter a fundraising stage in August. (There is a link to project details on the City's website.)

Our committee consists of me, representing the foundation and acting as convener; Cheryl Snow, Clackamas County Arts Alliance, public art



Artist Linda Prokop, of Washougal, Washington, snaps reference images of old grinding machines as she tours Mill A's now-quiet grinding areas.

mentor and process coach; Ken Worcester, WL Park and Recreation Director; Lynette Hanson, 2007 WL Arts Commission Chair; Tom Neff, WL Historic Resources Advisory Board; Roger Shepherd, WL Parks Board; Jan Fowler, Lake Oswego Public Arts advisory board; Ian Dunlap, West Linn Paper Company representative; and Jonnel Covault, Oak Grove printmaker and public artist.

Extra special thanks must go to Cheryl, for her support of this concept from day one; to Lynette, whose advocacy for it on the Arts Commission was key to its selection as the first City project of its kind; to Roger, whose computer skills and seemingly endless energy for good work created the special WebPages where the RFQ was posted; and to Ken Worcester, whose advice on site selection and willingness to handle all of the electronic applications made a huge difference.

The winning model will be on display in the West Linn Library for the remainder of August, with information on the artist, the process, and the committee's goals. The model, or artist's maquette, will immediately be used to raise the remainder of the budget from donations, sponsorships and/or grants. When the budget has been raised the contract will be signed and work on the art can begin, with the goal of completion and installation during 2009's "Oregon150" celebration (the State's sesquicentennial birthday party).

We are very proud of being the instigator of West Linn's first Percent for Arts public art project. It arose from our Industry & Art Initiative, which aims to show our heritage in new ways to more people, and we hope and trust that the West Linn heritage preservation community and businesses will strongly support this unique project in its fundraising phase.

A last bow for Hawley Powerhouse

Thanks to the success of our first art jam, which featured the TW Sullivan Hydropower plant in West Linn, PGE has again partnered with us to create a commemorative art event at the 1916 Hawley Powerhouse—an iconic wooden structure that sits at the north east lip of Willamette Falls’ giant horseshoe. An outstanding group of artists responded to our call and showed up at the Blue Heron parking lot on June 26th and 27th.

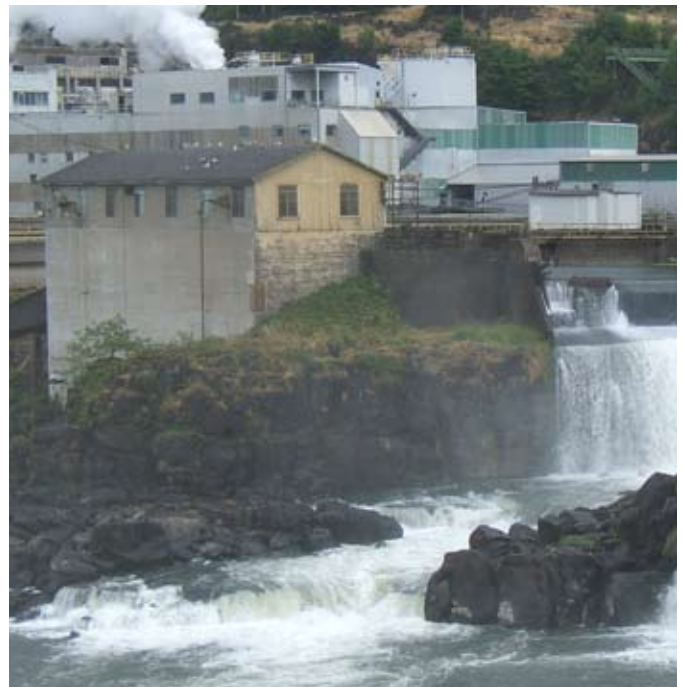
The success of the event can largely be attributed to the incredible professional and creative contributions of Lisa Wilcox and Dean Walch, co-curators and website designers for our online application and “Call to Artists” in May, and, of course, the attractions of the site itself and the wonderful event-day support work by PGE and Blue Heron staff. Thanks to Deb Schallert, Bob Steele, Mark Dion, and Rusty and Suzanne, PGE staff who are such a pleasure to work with, and Janet Malloch and Kate McCutcheon, of Blue Heron Paper Company—which allowed us to pass through the Oregon City mill and provided parking and access permissions.

The Hawley “Art Contemplates Industry” event was an exclusive opportunity for selected fine artists to have access to a normally inaccessible site, and the artists’ appreciation was clear. They will take their images of the event home and create art for compilation into an amazing and historic public exhibit and a catalog of their work, for posterity. Under orders of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which has authority over the dams and power generation at the falls, PGE began deconstructing on July 8th, just after this event.

Thursday’s artists included John Calvelli, Kevin Farrell, Lawrence Johnson, Zeb Andrews, Alissa Davis, Matthew Letzelter, Martha Wilcox, and Lisa Wilcox. Friday’s open-air painters, photographers and sketchers included Sue Allen, Dean Walch, Mark Rupert, Dan Robinson, Phil Juttelstad,

Christopher Mooney, Neal Philpott, Mary Lou Epperson, and Pam Flanders.

From Zeb, the pinhole camera artist, to Larry, the film artist, to Pam, Dan, Christopher and Mary Lou, with their easels set up in the wind and sun, to Dean, with his stereo (3-D) cameras, we are expecting wonderful art. We are open to suggestions of high-quality, secure public galleries in which the resulting exhibit may be installed November 1. Stay tuned.



This 2006 view of the Hawley Powerhouse from the West Linn Paper Company shows the 1916 power plant as its fate was being decided by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. PGE began deconstructing on July 8.

WHO WE ARE

We are partners, stewards and advocates of the culture and heritage at Willamette Falls. Our mission is: To preserve and promote awareness of the magnificence and history at Willamette Falls so that it will live in the minds and imaginations of people of all ages.

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 Please let me know about volunteer opportunities Please contact me about a meeting, presentation or tour
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Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit Oregon corporation established for educational purposes and heritage preservation.

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Historic Willamette district moving towards national register nomination

As it celebrates its 100th year as a town with special events throughout 2008, the wonderful Willamette Neighborhood of West Linn is also moving steadily toward national recognition for a first that predated the town by 15 years.

In 1893, Nicholas Walden planned the town of Willamette Falls as the first community to be completely platted and laid out with all utilities—including electricity, the new wonder resource, which originated at Station B, just down the track

Curriculum project on fast track for fall

Rosemont Ridge Middle School teacher Leah Martin is the answer to Sandy Carter's dreams. The vivacious, creative Martin's insight and experience into West Linn-Wilsonville School District's curriculum and methods makes her the perfect person to work with Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation as it develops teaching guides, resource lists and possible classroom activities using the wonderful stories contained in "Grindstones, Boomsticks, Tattletales and Nips"—our Crown Zellerbach oral history documentary. This exciting curriculum development project, designed to help make local heritage and American history come alive for middle schoolers, is being funded by a grant from the Juan Young Trust.

Civil engineers to hear the Locks story

As a side benefit of her appearance as a noontime speaker for the River Renaissance group in Portland on April 15, Sandy Carter has been invited to address the American Society of Civil Engineers' Environmental and Water Resource Group's third annual Willamette River Tour. The tour is a floating conference on August 14 aboard the Sternwheeler Rose, this year traveling the section of the Willamette from the Falls to Elk Rock Island and back, while registrants hear eight different educational speakers on various topics of interest related to that part of the river. Interested parties may register for the three-hour trip on a space-available basis. The conference/cruise will start at 3:30 from the Oregon City dock.

at Willamette Falls. Thanks to a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office the City's Historic Resources Advisory Board (HRAB) is working with consultants and staff, preparing a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the cozy neighborhood. Ruth Offer, late of the local neighborhood association, is now heading the community effort to publicize and support the nomination. (Sandy Carter now serves on the HRAB.)



Artists at the Powerhouse

Christopher Mooney (above) and Mary Lou Epperson (lower photo) showed how "plein air" painting is done on Friday, June 27th at Hawley Powerhouse, painting outside through hours of sun and battling a brisk breeze as they captured images of the doomed 1916 power house. Film artist Lawrence Johnson's footage of Mary Lou may become part of his artistic product, representing both the structure and the event itself.



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