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COMMUNITY

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## Osprey web cam equipment due this week

Has to be installed before birds return to nest WENDY FRASER

Fingers crossed, the equipment for Lillooet's new osprey web cam should be here today or next week at the latest.

The Lillooet Naturalist Society wants to install the webcam on the old Fraser River bridge as soon as it can, before the ospreys return to Lillooet for their nesting season.

"Otherwise, we would have to wait to the fall for installation because we definitely don't want to go near the birds while they're nesting," said project co-ordinator Scott Bodaly. "We won't install if they are there – we'll install in the fall and see them on the web cam next year."

A camera will be mounted on the old bridge to look down on the osprey nest; a solar panel and battery will be used to power the camera and communications aerial which will beam down to the neighbouring Fraser Cove campground and then bounce from there up to an aerial at Lillooet Secondary School, which will host the web cam. The live streaming video of the nest will then be linked to the websites of the Lillooet Naturalist Society, the District of Lillooet and BC Naturalists.

Bodaly said the technicians at Lillooet Secondary have provided "excellent" support for the project and the data transmission tests that have recently been conducted.

The Naturalist Society organized a fund-raising campaign for the web cam project. LNS president Vivian Birch-Jones reported last week the society received a \$300 donation from the Lillooet Chamber of Commerce and \$800 from the BC Naturalists to go with the \$500 the LNS itself has contributed to the project. The society has also applied for a \$1,000 grant from the Lillooet Community Foundation and is hoping to raise \$2,000 from its raffle of a framed colour print of the ospreys on the bridge. Raffle tickets are still available and the draw will be held Apr. 20.

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