



Administration Department

13211 Henry Ave. Box 159

Summerland, BC V0H 1Z0

Phone 250 494-6451

www.summerland.ca

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Memorial Park Destination Playground Official Opening

Summerland – The District of Summerland mayor and council celebrated the official opening of the new destination playground at Memorial Park with a ribbon cutting ceremony today. Also in attendance was MLA Dan Ashton, representatives from the project community partners, District staff, and community members.

The new and unique play structures, many which are the first in Canada, were designed by Playspace Adventures Ltd. The playground features a variety of unique opportunities for children 2 – 12 years including STEAM elements (science, technology, engineering, art and math), ropes, ladders, slides, steppers, and several play pods all in vibrant colours. The swings and tot structure remain on site.

Over 40 volunteers came out on Saturday morning to distribute two semi-truck loads full of engineered wood fibre product for the playground surfacing. Thanks to the strong and mighty crew, the playground was open to the public that afternoon. Within hours of the word getting out, the playground was full of excited children and families.

The District of Summerland is appreciative of the project community partners which included \$5000 donations each from the Summerland Kinsmen Club, Kinsmen Foundation, and Summerland & District Credit Union. The Summerland Firefighters Association, Summerland Kinsmen Club and Summerland Rotary Club provided valuable labour support with the demolition of the old equipment and participating in the community volunteer day to install the playground surfacing. These contributions allowed for more project funding to go towards equipment. The total project budget was \$265,000 with \$250,000 allocated from District of Summerland Development Cost Charges (DCCs) reserve account.

“The Memorial Park Playground Project is one of Council’s strategic priorities and we are thrilled to see it opened this week just in time for the outdoor season,” said Mayor Toni Boot. “We look forward to seeing local and visiting families enjoy this destination play space in the heart of downtown Summerland for many years.”

“As a local organization, Summerland Credit Union is proud to have the opportunity to partner with the District of Summerland in helping support this important project,” said Joshua McKay, Summerland Credit Union VP of Marketing & Communications. “This amazing new playground that has been created is sure to be a treasured destination for families and people of all ages. It will help contribute to the growing and vibrant community for years to come.”

“The Kinsmen Club of Summerland, the associated K40’s, as well as the Summerland Kinsmen Foundation are proud to be an ongoing partner with the community,” said Frederik Numsen, president of the Kinsmen Club of Summerland.

Linda Van Alphen, president of the Rotary Club of Summerland, stated “the Rotary Club of Summerland is pleased to have taken part in the new Memorial Park playground installation”.

“The Summerland Fire Department and its members would like to thank The District of Summerland for this wonderful project and upgrade for the Summerland residents and its visitors,” said Nigel Thomas from the Summerland Fire Department. “The Fire Department was more than happy to volunteer their time with this Adventure Playground for the children. It was great to see all the volunteers come together and show what this community is all about, despite the weather everyone worked hard with smiles on their faces.”

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Contact:

Graham Statt
Chief Administrative Officer - District of Summerland
Ph: 250-404-4043
Email: gstatt@@summerland.ca

PHOTOS ATTACHED

***Photo of Mayor and Council on slide starting top left clockwise:
Councillor Richard Barkwill, Councillor Doug Holmes, Councillor Marten Van Alphen, Mayor Toni Boot,
Councillor Erin Trainer, Councillor Erin Carlson***