

Parksville Community Park Sports Field Officially Re-opens

PARKSVILLE, BC: The sports field in the City's Community Park was officially re-opened today following significant upgrades and rehabilitation. The rehabilitation project was funded through the Government of Canada's Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund (CIIF).

The \$177,275 in federal funding has helped the City of Parksville undertake significant improvements to the Parksville Community Park sports field, including the removal of the existing turf and installation of new turf, improvements to the field drainage system, irrigation system replacement and upgrade, grading of the lawn slope and completion of accessible pathways for mobility-impaired users. These improvements have increased the safety, accessibility and lifespan of the field.

"The waterfront park is a defining feature of the community," said MP James Lunney, on behalf of the Honourable Michelle Rempel, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification. "The sports field is a focus of organized sporting events for young and old. The upgrades and improved access will enhance quality of life in the community for years to come."

"The Community Park is the jewel of Parksville and the park and its facilities are of significant importance to our region; used by thousands of residents and tourists of all ages," said Mayor Chris Burger, City of Parksville. "We appreciate the opportunity to make major improvements to the sports field, thanks to generous funding from the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund."

There are two significant milestones for the Community Park in 2013. It is 90 years since the Parksville Women's Institute purchased the park from Joe Hirst and 2013 is the 50th anniversary of the City of Parksville's ownership of the park. In 1877, Parksville's namesake, Nelson Parks was appointed postmaster and operated from a small cabin near the Community Park. To this day, the 39 acre Community Park remains a gathering place and site for events and festivals, as well as recreational facilities for the whole family.

The sports field is now open to the public for general use however; no league games or tournaments are scheduled until the spring. Teams have been accommodated on the City's Springwood Park field.

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