

Celebrating the Parksville Lions Club on May 8

Parksville, BC – The City of Parksville and the Parksville Downtown Business Association (PDBA) will host a community celebration at 10:30 am, Friday May 8 to mark the Parksville Lions Club's 30th anniversary and its legacy in the Community Park, Parksville's jewel. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

"May 8 will be our opportunity to formally recognize the significant contributions by the Lions Club to the Community Park, specifically Ventureland Playground and the fitness gym and acknowledge the strong partnership between the Lions Club and the City," said Mayor Marc Lefebvre.

"The Community Park is the heart of our downtown Business Improvement Area," said PDBA President Sandy Herle. "The Lions Club has made such a difference to the lives of our residents by investing in accessible fun and fitness in the park."

The Parksville Lions Club was chartered in 1969 with its first meeting held in the old community hall in the park. In 1985, the Lions Club took over the park playground and renamed it "Ventureland."

In 1992, the water spray portion of the park was added and in 1998, the Lions helped the City build the skateboard park. In 2013, with help from the City, PDBA and federal funding, an outdoor gym was added. In 2014, the Lions Club installed the wheelchair accessible swing and this year, the Lions Club made significant upgrades to the *Ventureland Playground* with new equipment and repairs to existing structures.

The Parksville Lions Club estimates since 1985 it has spent about \$500,000 for equipment as well as \$5,000 for annual maintenance of the playground. Lions Club members volunteer about 2,000 hours each year at the playground and continue to raise funds to maintain and upgrade the equipment. Members work closely with City of Parksville parks staff to facilitate equipment maintenance and new installations.

In July each year, the Parksville Lions Club hosts the annual International Kite Festival and popular teddy bear drop in the Community Park.

In recognition of the significant contributions by Parksville Lions Club members, Mayor Marc Lefebvre on behalf of Council will proclaim May 8 as "Parksville Lions Day" in the City of Parksville.

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For more information:

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