



City of Maple Ridge News Release

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November 1 Marks New Era in Recreation Service Delivery

Maple Ridge, BC: On October 31, 2016 the Joint Parks & Leisure Services Agreement with the City of Pitt Meadows will officially conclude and beginning November 1 Maple Ridge will be served by the 'Maple Ridge Parks, Recreation & Culture' Department. The new name reflects the strong connection between the amazing natural spaces, physical activity, the arts and heritage in creating a dynamic and healthy community.

“On October 13 we held the final meeting of the Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows Parks & Leisure Services Commission which has done excellent work over the last quarter century developing places and programs to meet the recreational needs for our two communities. It is humbling to realize that when the Commission started the population of our two cities was only 50,000 citizens. The new census data due in the spring will show that our combined population is now over 100, 000,” said Mayor Nicole Read. “November 1 is a starting point for a new era for both communities as we build on the legacy of the Commission and each community forges a vision to deliver the unique recreation services that meets the needs of their citizens.”

Kelly Swift, General Manager: Community Development, Parks & Recreation said, “Work has been underway for a year to make the transition seamless for our customers. I want to acknowledge the dedication and professionalism of staff from both cities as we moved toward the November 1 deadline. The new head of the Pitt Meadows Parks and Recreation Department, Diane Chamberlain, is a long-time colleague and our communities will continue to collaborate to ensure that this change has no significant impact on our user groups. We will also continue to work closely with School District No. 42 on our shared vision around youth wellness and co-location of facilities to create strong neighbourhoods.”

On November 1, staff will host a small kick-off event, Free Play Tuesday, at the Leisure Centre to celebrate this change including FREE admission from 6:00 am – 10:00 pm where customers can participate in any drop-in program at no charge.

A special video presentation was created to celebrate the work of the Joint Parks & Leisure Services Commission. The video was played as part of the final meeting on October 13 and the Commission members asked that it be uploaded to YouTube to share the accomplishments of the organization with the community. View that video here youtu.be/CxL4wRBzeTQ.

“This is a very exciting time. The City of Maple Ridge has begun the process of looking at concepts for facilities to meet the needs of our growing community. In the coming weeks there will be extensive community engagement that will allow citizens to help shape the vision and priorities around the development of spaces for our residents to be active and engaged in life,” said Mayor Read. “I hope you will join us at the Leisure Centre on Tuesday as we launch the Maple Ridge Parks, Recreation & Culture Department.”

For more information about the launch of the Maple Ridge Parks, Recreation & Culture Department please contact Danielle Pope by email at dapope@mapleridge.ca or by phone at 604-463-5221.