



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARINERS PLAYGROUND OPEN TO PUBLIC THIS WEEKEND

NOVEMBER 22nd 2017 - PRINCE RUPERT, BC – Prince Rupert children and families will soon have the opportunity to swashbuckle and yo-ho-ho to their hearts contents at the newly-installed pirate-themed playground at Mariners Park, which opens to the public this weekend.

The Prince Rupert Lions Club spearheaded the original playground installment at Mariner's Park in 1994, and played a lead role in the redevelopment of the playground through the Club's extensive fundraising efforts. The new playground is a tribute to the 100 year anniversary of Lions Club International and replaces outdated equipment and includes a rubber fall-safe surface that improves the safety and accessibility of the recreation space.

"We are proud to see this project completed and to help revitalize this important community asset," said Paul Rajendram, Project Coordinator for the Prince Rupert Lion's Club. "We believe the healthiness of a community is reflected in child development, including creativity, team work, tolerance and a sense belonging. The Lion's Club is thankful to the many local partners that stepped-up to ensure this project was a success, and we hope children and their parents enjoy and benefit from this park."

The playground improvements are the result of fundraising efforts by both the Prince Rupert Lions Club and the City, which resulted in financial support for the project from several community partners.

"This new playground has truly been a collaborative effort, and shows what is possible when members of the community come together to better Prince Rupert," said Mayor Lee Brain.

The Port of Prince Rupert was the most significant funder, contributing a total of \$95,707 to the project through its Community Investment Fund.

"Mariner's Park is a community hub where people of all ages can gather to participate in special events or just sit and enjoy the view of our harbour," said Ken Veldman, Director of Public Affairs for the Port of Prince Rupert. "This new playground will ensure the park continues to serve as one of Prince Rupert's primary gathering places for years to come."

Shell Canada's Prince Rupert LNG project contributed \$75,000 to the project, Ridley Terminals contributed \$25,000, \$25,000 was provided by Macro Properties, DP World kicked in \$4,500, Prince Rupert Grain gave \$2,500, and the Lions Club has contributed approximately \$30,000 through fundraising. Rapid Gantry Manufacturing also generously contributed in kind support towards new park signage, to be installed later this year. Lastly, several other in-kind donations were also made by other community partners throughout the course of the project

“Ridley Terminals is happy to contribute to the new playground at Mariner’s Park. This project is a classic example of how societies and businesses work together to enhance the quality of life for the residents of our community,” said Michelle Bryant-Gravelle, Corporate Affairs Manager for Ridley Terminals.

The project was completed at the end of October, unfortunately suffering a few delays due to acts of vandalism and weather constraints. The playground surfacing has been installed by specialized work crews from Vancouver Surfacing Company, specifically designed to enable access to children and residents of all abilities.

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