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PHASE THREE OF CHILDREN'S NATURE PLAY PARK COMPLETE; ADDS TO OUTDOOR PLAY OPPORTUNITIES AT PEMBERTON & DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE

New outdoor play park supported by government and community partners

Pemberton, BC – With funding support from the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation and Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Recreation Services (SLRD Electoral Area C and the Village of Pemberton), phase three of the Children's Nature Play Park is now complete, adding new climbing and play structures to the existing nature-inspired park at the Pemberton & District Community Centre.

This significant milestone will be recognized on Wednesday, September 19 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony with members of the Pemberton Valley Utilities and Services Committee, a committee of the SLRD Board which oversees services shared between the SLRD Electoral Area C and Village of Pemberton.

The project has been completed in phases over three years and involved a number of funding sources, explained Karen Ross, Chair of the Pemberton Valley Utilities and Services Committee.

"This park is an important asset that will help enrich the experiences of local children for many years to come," Ross said. "It is an example of real collaboration. It was a lot of work to source and secure the various funding opportunities and our team did a remarkable job in facilitating the process. Without the hard work of the team and the support of the various partners, this project would not have happened," she added.

The park incorporates the existing topography and a range of landscaping elements to provide a multi-generational gathering space and play area that encourages children to make discoveries and interact with their environment.

The first phase, installed in August 2015, features a water-wise grass maze.

Phase two began with the installation of a 900 square-foot interlocking brick patio, shade trees and picnic benches in May 2016 and was followed by the addition of balancing stumps and logs, stone seats, a tractor tire, sandbox, and water pump and stone stream.

Phase three expands upon the earlier construction with the addition of a Parkour-style climbing structure, a Supernova (a large slanting ring which children can set in motion) and a multi-goal where the existing basketball net is located.

Phase four of the project envisions the addition of a reading circle/outdoor classroom and a perimeter trail, and is dependent on obtaining further funding.

For project background and photos, visit: <http://www.slrd.bc.ca/inside-slrd/current-projects-initiatives/childrens-nature-play-park>.

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The Pemberton and District Recreation Service is operated by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and funded by Area C of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and the Village of Pemberton. It operates and programs the Pemberton & District Community Centre, the REC (Youth and Senior Centre), Pemberton Meadows and Signal Hill fields, as well as Gates Lake Community Park. The Pemberton Valley Utilities and Services Committee (PVUS) is a committee of the SLRD Board convened to discuss recreation and other shared services between SLRD Electoral Area C and the Village of Pemberton.

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