



For immediate release
July 5, 2023

NEWS RELEASE

Gravitron Trail re-developed and renamed Kacwepcwépa by Líl'wat Nation in honour of the late Graham Haywood

Public invited to participate in trail dedication and renaming ceremony July 15, 2023

Pemberton, BC – With funding from the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD), the Pemberton area mountain bike trail formerly known as Gravitron has been redeveloped and renamed, in honour of former SLRD staff member, Graham Haywood.

Haywood passed away in 2020. He was the SLRD's Senior Project Coordinator, and had also served as Interim Director of Legislative and Corporate Services. Prior to joining the SLRD, Haywood was employed as a Land Manager with Líl'wat Nation. An avid mountain biker, he also served as a Board member and volunteer of Pemberton Valley Trails Association (PVTA).

In consultation with his family, the SLRD has partnered with Lil'wat Nation and the PVTA to recognize Haywood.

The SLRD's Electoral Area Directors (EAD) Committee provided funding of up to \$12,000 to the PVTA for the Gravitron trail project in Haywood's memory. The PVTA used the funding to revitalize the double-black diamond, experts-only trail, repairing drainage and trail surfaces while retaining the exhilarating experience for riders. The redeveloped trail will be maintained and operated by the PVTA.

Líl'wat Nation has honoured Haywood's memory by renaming the trail **Kacwepcwépa** (Ka-kwep-kwep-a), the Ucwalmicwts phrase for "to come back to memory".

The public is invited to attend a trail dedication and renaming ceremony on July 15, 2023 at the trail head (adjacent to the transmission tower, approximately 9.5 kilometres up the Mackenzie Basin Forest Service Road) with representatives from Líl'wat Nation, the PVTA and the SLRD in attendance.

"The SLRD team is humbled by the commitment that Graham had to his work, to his family and to his community," said SLRD Board Chair, Jen Ford. "Not only was Graham a much-loved and respected member of the SLRD team, he was also an ambassador for the region, and an outdoor adventure enthusiast who volunteered locally to help build some of the trails that continue to be enjoyed by many. It is our hope that this tribute will be one more way of ensuring that Graham's memory lives on in the community that he so greatly loved."

“Graham’s kind-hearted nature, and compassion were greatly valued in Lil’wat, as we are sure they were everywhere he went,” said P’sit7 – Casey Dick-Wyatt, Director of Lands & Resources at Lil’wat Nation. “Graham developed lasting bonds and left good feelings in the hearts of those who he worked closely with and those he met briefly along the way. To this day, his name is mentioned in admiration. His love of the land and good intentions allowed for deep trust and honest exchanges with those around him. We know he left doing what he loved, and his legacy in Lil’wat will not be forgotten. We all remember his silent, cheeky smile.”

“Graham was a positive, energetic force with an infectious smile and a great sense of humour. He completed projects with passion and knowledge and was always 100 per cent committed to anything he was involved with. He played a pivotal role in the development of the Pemberton Trails Master Plan and signage on the Pemberton trails. said former Pemberton Valley Trails Association president Bill Stiles. “It was an honour to have Graham on the PVTA board. He dedicated many volunteer hours to the PVTA and his service to the community will always be remembered. The PVTA is honoured to be a part of the trail dedication to Graham.”

Members of the community with questions about this project can contact:

Allison Macdonald
Parks and Trails Coordinator
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
Telephone: 604-894-6371 x 243
www.slrd.bc.ca | AMacdonald@slrd.bc.ca

Roxanne Joe
Coordinator, Lands and Resources
Lil’wat Nation
Telephone: 604-894-6115 ext. 2467
www.lilwat.ca | roxanne.joe@lilwat.ca

Allie Gilchrist
Executive Director
Pemberton Valley Trails Association (PVTA)
www.pembertontrails.com | director@pembertontrails.com

- 30 -

About the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

Located in southwestern BC, the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) is a local government federation consisting of four-member municipalities (the District of Lillooet, the District of Squamish, the Village of Pemberton and the Resort Municipality of Whistler) and four unincorporated, rural electoral areas (A, B, C, and D). Headquartered in Pemberton, which is the approximate geographic centre of the region, the SLRD delivers a wide range of local, regional and sub-regional services to approximately 50,496 residents (2021 Census as certified by the Minister of Municipal Affairs).

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District is found within the traditional territories of several First Nations, including the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), St'át'imc and Lil'wat. Small parts of the SLRD also overlap with the traditional territories of the Stó:lō, Tsleil-Waututh, Nlaka'pamux, Tsilhqot'in, and Secwepemc Nations. While the SLRD does not provide direct services to the residents of the First Nations communities located within the region, the organization is committed to enhancing relations with the Indigenous communities and First Nations within whose territories the SLRD operates.

About Lil'wat Nation | www.lilwat.ca

The majority of Lílwat Nation citizens live near beautiful Mount Currie, British Columbia. The community is home to the majority of the nation's more than 2,000 members. The people of the Lílwat Nation are engaged in all economic sectors while continuing to celebrate, and engage in, traditional ways. Fishing, hunting and harvesting indigenous plants for food and medicine are among the cultural practices that have endured since time immemorial. The Lílwat Nation's Traditional Territory boundaries extend south to Rubble Creek, north to Gates Lake, east to the Upper Stein Valley and west to the coastal inlets of the Pacific Ocean. This 791,131 ha of land occupies a transition zone that goes from temperate coastal environment to the drier interior of British Columbia.

About the Pemberton Valley Trails Association | www.pembertontrails.com

The PVTA is a registered not-for-profit charity organization run primarily by volunteers with a mandate to build, maintain, and advocate for trails in Pemberton, BC. As a united front the PVTA aims to enhance and preserve the trail network for everyone in the region.

Media Contact

Vanessa Murphy
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
Communications Coordinator
Telephone: 604-894-6371 x 260
Email: VMurphy@slrd.bc.ca