

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW HARRY JEROME COMMUNITY REC CENTRE TO START THIS SPRING

City of North Vancouver, BC...March 1, 2022 – Yesterday, City of North Vancouver Council gave the greenlight to start development of the new Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre (HJCRC), which will bring a new arena, more aquatic space, new seniors centre and many other improved recreation amenities to the city.

Work will begin in March with site preparation and excavation for the new community recreation centre which will be located on the north side of 23rd Street East between Lonsdale Avenue and St. Georges Avenue.

“We are moving forward and preparing the site of the new Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre for construction,” said Mayor Linda Buchanan. “People have waited a long time for the project to reach this exciting new phase. Council and City staff have been steadfast in advancing this state-of-the-art facility that will promote and sustain healthy living. I’m proud we are delivering this long-awaited community amenity and I look forward to breaking ground shortly.”

A report to Council details the construction phases, design, financials and impacts associated with the project. After site preparation and excavation begins, Council will receive the final project cost estimate in June which, upon approval, will enable construction of the building to proceed. The existing HJCRC will stay open and operating during construction and regular updates will be shared with the community.

The new centre will provide a vibrant and social heart to the community and will include an arena with a 500-spectator capacity, more aquatic space, indoor and outdoor fitness amenities, new skate park, preschool and youth spaces and a new facility for Silver Harbour Seniors’ Activity Centre. Underground parking will maximize the site’s buildable space.

“We’ve been working closely with our design and construction partners to make sure the project reflects what we’ve heard from users and residents, and to try to minimize the impacts of construction as much as possible,” noted Barbara Pearce, the City’s Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and Project Lead. “We’re looking forward to delivering a new facility that addresses the needs of our community.”

Construction timing and impacts

Construction will take place between spring 2022 and 2025. The proposed schedule includes:

- March 2022 - Site preparation and excavation works start while staff proceed with tendering of the construction for the new HJCRC and Silver Harbour Seniors’ Activity Centre.
- May 2022 - Foundation works start
- Summer 2022 - Financing finalized; authorization to move to construction phase
- Fall 2022 – Building permit obtained; building construction commences
- 2025 – new HJCRC completion

The City is working with North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission and is committed to keeping the public and users updated on the project’s progress and construction impacts (e.g. changes to hours or program locations, noise levels, parking and traffic) through an email newsletter, website and social media updates, on site signage and other means.

In order to make way for the new HJCRC and all the amenities that it will deliver to our community, the City must first demolish existing site components on the north side of 23rd Street East including the parking lot, skate park and Norseman Field.

Parking on the site will be limited throughout the construction. While some alternative parking will be made available in the area, users will be encouraged to make alternate arrangements, take transit, walk or cycle.

Users of the skate park and Norsemen Field are encouraged to use alternative amenities in the community, and can look forward to a large new park on Lonsdale between 21st & 23rd and improved skateboarding amenity when the project is completed.

As part of the redevelopment of the site, 86 trees will be removed to facilitate construction, with 209 new trees to be planted. For every tree removed, 2.4 trees will be planted. Council has directed staff to contribute \$40,000 from the project to the City's tree planting program.

Project Financing

The total funding required for the HJCRC capital program is unchanged at \$226 million, which includes \$181 million for the community recreation centre and \$23 million for Silver Harbour Seniors Centre. The final cost will be more certain when all tenders are submitted in June 2022. At that time, a final recommendation for the project budget will be presented to Council for approval.

The capital program – which includes the new HJCRC and other facilities and amenities – will be funded in part by an existing levy, community amenity contributions (CACs) and development cost charges (DCCs) combined with low-interest, short-term financing from B.C.'s Municipal Financing Authority (MFA). The loan will be paid back through disposition of city-owned land when the project is completed in 2025.

For more information and to view the project video and renderings please visit cnv.org/hjrc.

- 30 -

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