

December 7, 2009

Province supports expansion of popular Chestermere park

Chestermere... The Alberta government is building on community fundraising efforts by helping to expand and redevelop John Peake Memorial Park in the Town of Chestermere.

“To take advantage of the short summer season, spending time at a lake or river is a common activity for Albertans and visitors,” said Lindsay Blackett, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit. “This redevelopment will have a positive impact for Chestermere and surrounding areas for many years to come.”

Support for the project will help offset construction and associated costs for redeveloping John Peake Memorial Park, including: shoreline realignment; lakebed reclamation to protect the retaining wall foundation; developing a launch parking area; recreating the promenade; and irrigation and landscaping.

“Whether it’s for boating, swimming or walking, John Peake Memorial Park is a picturesque and well-used gathering place for people of all ages,” said Rob Anderson, MLA, Airdrie-Chestermere. “These upgrades will help to ensure the park remains a safe, relaxing and barrier-free location to spend time with family and friends.”

The provincial government contributed just over \$1 million to the project from its Major Community Facilities Program (MCFP). Started in 2007-08, the MCFP was a two-year \$280-million lottery-funded program that helped municipalities, not-for-profit organizations and Aboriginal communities plan, upgrade or build major public-use facilities that enhance community life.

Funds were provided on a matching basis, meaning a great deal of community support was required to make the grant possible. Although the MCFP has ended, benefits like local employment will be seen for years to come. The Government of Alberta has a wide variety of community investment programs that create stronger and safer communities. For more information, visit www.culture.alberta.ca.

The Government of Alberta has a clear plan for a strong economic recovery. *The Way Forward* will bring Alberta back into a surplus position in three years by trimming government spending; using cash reserves to protect key programs; continuing to invest in public infrastructure; and ensuring that our province's industries are competitive and

continue to attract investment to provide jobs and prosperity.

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