

Parks Foundation Calgary Celebrates New Park with First Ever Haultain and First Urban Festival

Calgary, Alberta (September 13, 2009)- The Parks Foundation Calgary will officially open Haultain School and Park today at 2nd Street and 13th Avenue SW at 11:30 am. This new urban park in Calgary's Beltline area boasts a fully accessible playground, a mini-soccer field, dozens of trees, seating areas and pathways. Its main feature is the historic Haultain School, built in 1894 and Calgary's oldest surviving school building; the restored school has been the home of Parks Foundation Calgary since 2003.

"After seven years of hard work, we are thrilled to see Haultain Park open to the public," Myrna Dubé, president of Parks Foundation Calgary, says. "This project is a prime example of how partnerships between government and citizens can bring about important and lasting change for our city."

"The Haultain School and Park Restoration project holds a special place in our hearts because it is literally our home," Mark Terrill, chairman of Parks Foundation Calgary, says. "We believe it is important to preserve, conserve and restore Calgary's heritage and natural beauty and to create places where people can play, gather and relax".

Deputy Mayor and Alderman for Ward 8 John Mar, says, "The City of Calgary is proud to see both the grounds and buildings of this historical site being renewed and revitalized. Projects like this one are change for the better and change for the future. We congratulate Parks Foundation Calgary for leading this project".

The final phase of the school and park restoration is set to begin in the spring of 2010 and includes the restoration of the sandstone exterior of the school. Funded by the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation fund, the restoration of the exterior will complete this exciting project. MLA for Calgary-Fort Wayne Cao recognizes the importance of restoring this historic site. "Keeping this site vibrant and alive is a way of keeping our province's and city's history alive. And it's a way of creating legacies for the future", Cao says.

Several hundred people are expected to attend the opening of Haultain School and Park; among them Mr. J.C Anderson, who provided the keystone private donation that helped the park become a reality.

The opening of the park kicked off the first-ever Haultain and First Urban Festival. The festival is hosted by Parks Foundation Calgary and Victoria Crossing BRZ and runs from 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. today. It features events event Haultain Park and a block party on First Street S.W. with live music, local foods, bicycle competitions and numerous children's activities and entertainment in the park. More than 1,000 Calgarians are expected to attend the festival, which celebrates community, sustainability and the urban experience.