



### **Comox Field Upgrade Complete**

*June 24, 2010*- Thursday marked the grand re-opening of the recently upgraded Comox Sports Field. The field has been converted from a granular “all-weather” surface to a natural turf surface which includes proper drainage and irrigation. The project was a partnership between the City of Nanaimo and the Vancouver Island (VI) Raiders football association.

Prior to the upgrades, the Comox field was classified as a category “C” field and was largely underutilized by sports groups in Nanaimo. The recent improvements have changed the classification to a category “B” field, which lends itself to a wider variety of sports, and makes it an ideal location for the VI Raiders to practice.

While the VI Raiders play at Caledonia Park, the championship team requires practice time well into the fall, necessitating a lighted field. In partnership, the City of Nanaimo and the VI Raiders organization came together to split costs on the project 50/50.

“This is a wonderful example of the City partnering with a community group to enhance a City facility for the benefit of several user groups,” says Mayor John Ruttan. “We are pleased to be able to provide a better playing surface not only for our partners, the VI Raiders, but also for a number of minor sports organizations in Nanaimo.”

The field will not be used exclusively by the VI Raiders, but will instead accommodate additional practice and playing time for minor sports organization in Nanaimo. Soccer, field lacrosse, field hockey and minor softball are expected to make use of the new surface, as well as students at the nearby Ecole Pauline Haarrar.

For more information on the Comox Sports Field upgrades, please contact Jeff Ritchie, Senior Manager of Parks and Civic Facilities at 250-755-7503.

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