



## Spirit Square Opens

For Immediate Release

*July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009*- The Spirit Square at Maffeo Sutton Park was officially opened Wednesday as a part of the Canada Day festivities. Over time, Nanaimo's Maffeo Sutton Park has developed from an industrial site into a destination urban waterfront park. In February 2008, Nanaimo was awarded a grant from the provincial government for \$500,000.00 for the development of a 'Spirit Square'. This funding allowed for existing park improvement plans in place to begin.

The 'Spirit Square' is located near the Cliff Street entrance to the park, and covers approximately one third of the park site. It includes a large multipurpose plaza for special events, enhanced park access, a spirit eagle feature, and improved routes for pedestrians, cyclists, the physically challenged, as well as service and emergency vehicles. A covered structure is the focus of the plaza and features interpretive information about the history of the site and downtown. One of the special touches to the new area is the paving stones that indicated the original shoreline of the area.

"Maffeo Sutton Park is one of Nanaimo's most popular parks and the grant we received from the provincial government has allowed us to move ahead with some upgrades we had been planning for quite a while. The improved special event space is great, especially as we continue to get more requests to host public events here along the waterfront," said Larry McNabb, Councillor and Chairperson of Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission.

Construction within the park will continue for the rest of the month. An additional forty seven parking stalls will be added along with some other finishing work. The City thanks the public for their patience during construction. For more information about the Spirit Square and Maffeo Sutton Park, please contact City of Nanaimo, Parks, Recreation and Culture at 250 756 5200.

-30-

### **Media Contact**

Kirsty MacDonald  
Parks & Open Space Planner,  
City of Nanaimo  
250 755 7506  
[Kirsty.macdonald@nanaimo.ca](mailto:Kirsty.macdonald@nanaimo.ca)