

NEWS RELEASE

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Nanaimo chosen for Rogers Hometown Hockey tour

Summary

The City of Nanaimo has been chosen as a stop on the upcoming Rogers Hometown Hockey tour, a coast-to-coast festival celebrating the shared passion for hockey that unites fans and families across Canada.

Now in its third year, the Hometown Hockey event will pull into Nanaimo on February 26, 2017. Each of the 24 communities visited are highlighted on the Rogers Hometown Hockey broadcasts and hosted live on site by Canadian sport broadcaster icon, Ron MacLean, and headlined by an NHL game broadcast every Sunday on Sportsnet.

Preparations for the February event are now underway with major community festivities involving skating and music being planned for Maffeo Sutton Park. For more information leading up to the event, residents are encouraged to watch and listen for advertisements, following the City on Twitter @cityofnanaimo or visit our website - www.nanaimo.ca

Strategic Link: Recreation, Culture, Sports, and Tourism - this priority supports a healthy, active, thriving community for the benefit and enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.

Key Points

- The Rogers Hometown Hockey Tour – Canada's ultimate hockey festival – is ready to hit the road, stopping in 24 Canadian communities throughout the 2016-17 NHL season.
- The City of Nanaimo is the 18th stop on the tour.

Quotes

"Having Nanaimo named as a stop on the Rogers 2016-17 Hometown Hockey Tour will create a fun-filled occasion for our community while also serving as a fantastic opportunity for Nanaimo to demonstrate its calibre as a host city for major sporting events. Along with the rest of Council, I am greatly looking forward to what will no doubt be an exciting time leading up to the February 26 event, and a very special day when Ron MacLean and the Rogers team arrives in Nanaimo!"

Bill McKay
Mayor
City of Nanaimo

"Rogers Hometown Hockey is a fantastic event and what a privilege it is for Nanaimo to be chosen as one of the host cities for this season. The event provides an opportunity for all families, children of all ages and of course hockey fans, to participate in this interactive event and share in our National Sports great history with amazing hosts, Ron and Tara!"

Bill Bestwick
Committee Chair / Councillor
City of Nanaimo

"I am thrilled that Rogers Hometown Hockey has chosen Nanaimo as a host city this year. The popular feature will provide a national showcase for our beautiful city and our strong hockey history. Local athletes who have been inducted into the Nanaimo Sports Hall of Fame include former NHL players Barry Pederson, Al Hill, Gene Carr, and Wayne Bianchin, as well as referee Lloyd Gilmour. I think it is very appropriate that Nanaimo be a host for Hometown Hockey"

Ian Thorpe
Councillor
City of Nanaimo

Quick Facts

- Over the last two NHL seasons, the Rogers Hometown Hockey Tour has visited 49 communities across Canada, travelling 56,000 km while welcoming 400,000 visitors to the festival.

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