



MAJOR RENOVATION OF BANFF ROTARY PARK MOVES FORWARD WITH \$1 MILLION DONATION FROM THE WIM & NANCY PAUW FOUNDATION

Fundraising activities ongoing until September 1 to raise additional \$250,000

Banff, AB – July 12, 2024 – The Rotary Club of Banff will undergo a transformative renovation plan for Banff Rotary Park with financial support from the Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation. Located in the 500 block of Banff Avenue, the Rotary Club has maintained this community park in partnership with the Town of Banff since the 1970s.

The Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation has committed \$1,000,000 as a funding partner for this community-focused project. This financial support will help develop a fully inclusive playground that caters to users of all abilities, including those with limited or restricted movement. The Foundation plans to provide additional funding earmarked for creating public art installations, building on the space's energy and making it more engaging for users.

"We are pleased to be a part of this incredible initiative," said Cathy Geisler, Executive Director of the Wim & Nancy Pauw Foundation. "We believe in the power of community and the importance of accessible recreational spaces for fostering connections and promoting well-being. This project aligns perfectly with our mission to enhance the quality of life in the Bow Valley, and we are proud to contribute to its success."

The park redesign includes a brand-new playground featuring state-of-the-art equipment, a day shelter, a new washroom facility, and a covered picnic area. Additionally, a sports court will offer outdoor skating in winter and a multi-use basketball/pickleball court in spring and summer.

Initially, the project was estimated to cost \$1.1 million. However, over the past two years, due to necessary and planned changes as well as general cost increases, the estimated amount has risen to between \$1.45 million and \$1.5 million. The project is slated for completion by November 2024.

An additional \$250,000 is needed to advance the project. To start the fundraising efforts, the Banff Rotary Club is hosting an online silent auction, encouraging community participation. The auction is currently open and will run until September 1, 2024.

"We are grateful to the Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation for their generous support," said Dean Cooper, President of the Banff Rotary Club. "With their help, we can now move forward with our vision of creating a park that will be enjoyed by children and families for years to come. This partnership exemplifies the power of community collaboration and active living."

Because of the support from the Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation, Banff Rotary also received a \$563,000 matching grant from the Government of Alberta through the Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP). CFEP grants offer financial support for upgrading, expanding, purchasing, or constructing public-use community facilities.

For more information about the project, to learn how you can get involved, or to participate in the online silent auction, please visit: banffrotary.org.

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About the Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation

Established in 2013, the Wim & Nancy Pauw Foundation is a private foundation in Banff, Alberta, Canada. Funded by the profits of Banff Caribou Properties Ltd. and Banff Lodging Company, the goal of the Foundation is to reinvest in Banff and the Bow Valley by supporting projects that contribute to a more active, vibrant and happy community.

About Rotary Club of Banff

The Rotary Club of Banff has been serving the community since 1924, focusing on initiatives that improve the quality of life for all residents. The Banff chapter is part of Rotary International, a global network of 1.2 million neighbours, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change.

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