

RDN and Community Honour Contributions of Maureen Young

The contributions of the late Maureen Young, past Electoral Area C Director, were honoured on June 15 with a commemorative plaque at Extension Miners Community Park. Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) representatives were joined for the plaque unveiling by the Young family, park volunteers and community members. Maureen was an RDN Director for 16 years until her passing in November 2021 and was a tireless advocate for many projects and programs that helped improve life in the region including parks, drinking water and watershed protection and rural firefighting services. She served on several RDN committees including parks and trails, community grants, transit, agriculture, and fire services, and represented the RDN on external committees with the City of Nanaimo and Mt. Arrowsmith Biosphere Region, to name a few.

As a life-long resident of Extension, she was also passionate about her local community and its rich history. Maureen was particularly pleased that Extension's coal mining past was recognized through Extension Miners Community Park, making it a perfect location for her commemorative plaque.

In addition to the plaque, other features nearing completion at Extension Miners Community Park include the construction of a protective timber structure over the coal car, fencing, interpretive signage and the installation of a salvaged mine shaft ventilation fan.

Coal Car No. 521 dates to 1890 and is one of only two coal cars left in Canada. In collaboration with Extension area volunteers, RDN Parks staff prepared a site plan to place the coal car in Extension Miners Community Park. The coal car was rebuilt by a local volunteer, with support from several others, and moved into the park in 2020. It continues to be a highlight for history buffs of the region's coal mining past.

For information on parks in the RDN, visit rdn.bc.ca/parks-services.

Quotes

"It was a pleasure to work with Maureen Young on the Regional District of Nanaimo Board. The plaque in her honour is well-deserved and recognizes the commitment she had to her community and to the many duties that come with being an elected official. She is missed but her legacy will shine brightly for years to come in the community she loved."

Tyler Brown, RDN Chair

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“Maureen Young was a recognized and respected member of the community due to her years of devoted service and genuine concern for the future of the region and well-being of residents. Her contributions were countless and affected many. I enjoyed working with Maureen as her alternate on the RDN Board and, as the newly elected Electoral Area C Director, will continue to champion the interests of the area she held so dear.”

Charles Pinker, RDN Director, Electoral Area C

"I had the pleasure of working with Maureen on many committees, both in my capacity as an RDN Board Director and as a City of Nanaimo Councillor. She served for many years as Area C representative on the Nanaimo Parks, Recreation, and Culture Commission. Her devotion to fulfilling the responsibilities of her role as an RDN Director extended well beyond the electoral area residents she represented. Maureen was a humble and dedicated person. She truly believed in making the region a better place for all."

Ian Thorpe, RDN Director

“Maureen, our mom, is missed every day. Her passion for her role as Director of Electoral Area C knew no boundaries and was a big part of her life for the past 16 years. She enjoyed living as well as working for the community she grew up in as she dedicated countless hours listening and being a voice for all the residents. We are honoured to have a plaque at the Extension Miners Community Park that recognizes her contribution. Commemorating mom in this way for all the time and effort she put into the entire Electoral Area C; she and our dad, Allan Young, who was a Commissioner with Nanaimo Parks, Recreation and Culture and also very involved with this park, would both be very proud.”

Heather, David and Kevin Young

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