



Friends of Ben Lee Park Society

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HISTORY AND ACTIVITIES OF THE BEN LEE SKATEPARK COMMITTEE

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Starting in 1997, City Council started to approve the development of the new Ben Lee Park through the annual budget process. In April of 1998, the Ben Lee Park Committee was formed with the assistance of Partners in Parks, and this committee later became the properly registered *Friends of Ben Lee Park Society*. In October of 1998, a sub-committee of the Society was created for the expressed purpose to raise money, awareness and community interest for the development of a skateboard park facility. This Ben Lee Skatepark Committee has now been very active for over two years and their activities and history include:

- ◆ Recommendation to the Parks and Leisure Services Department on August 14, 1997 requesting Skate-park be built,
- ◆ Friends of Ben Lee Park Committee was established on April 15, 1998,
- ◆ A Ben Lee Skatepark Committee was formed on October 22, 1998,
- ◆ The majority of the members come from direct involvement and experience with the sport of skateboarding,
- ◆ Some committee members had assisted in building and designing of other parks in BC, including the ones in Whistler and Vancouver,
- ◆ Many committee members have skated in many skateparks throughout North America and have considerable knowledge and experience as to the best design features, especially from the technical expertise perspective,
- ◆ Most committee members have been involved in the design, construction and fund raising aspects for this skateboard park facility,
- ◆ The Ben Lee Skatepark Committee has;
 - ◆ organized open forums,
 - ◆ conducted a contest with local skateboard outlets which attracted over 100 submissions,
 - ◆ conducted skateboarding demonstrations, e.g. Green Bay Bible College competition,
 - ◆ visited other skateparks to see which components of a skatepark would best suit riders of varying experience and skill levels, (Vernon, Whistler, Lake Country, Vancouver, Burnaby),
 - ◆ conducted some fund raising initiatives, (hot dog sales, 50/50 draw),
 - ◆ constructed a 8' x 8' model of the skateboard park to promote and generate interest,
 - ◆ gained support and involvement from local skateboard shops,
 - ◆ reviewed many concepts and designs,
 - ◆ explored the internet and visited over 20 sites that specialize in skatepark design and components to gain even more knowledge about successful skatepark design components,
- ◆ Following ~ 20 months of obtaining this current knowledge, the Ben Lee Skatepark Committee invited two of the best firms they could identify, to submit design proposals,
- ◆ On November 22, 2000 the committee recommended to the Society to negotiate with the firm of van der Zalm and Associates Inc./New Line Skatepark Inc,
- ◆ On December 11, 2000 the Ben Lee Skatepark Committee reviewed and revised the proposal for design and building of the new facility with City staff and van der Zalm and Associates Inc./New Line Skatepark Inc.
- ◆ the Ben Lee Skatepark Committee believe that 2 1/2 years spent on research has given us the knowledge to proceed van der Zalm and Associates Inc./New Line Skatepark Inc

