

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For further information, contact:
Chad Neufeld at 604-467-5315
cneufeld@mapleridge.ca

New Port Haney Park Honours Pioneer Family

Maple Ridge, BC: Council has announced the new neighbourhood recreation space in historic Port Haney as 'Beckett Park', recognizing a pioneer family who moved to Maple Ridge in 1885 and successfully ran the Haney Brick and Tile Company.

Staff engaged the Maple Ridge Museum and Archives for the history of the Port Haney neighbourhood to determine if there were families associated with these lands. Council selected the name 'Beckett Park' in recognition of the contributions of Henry Robert Beckett and his family.

Henry Beckett was partially responsible for the establishment of 'Fraser Brick Works' which eventually became 'Haney Brick, Tile and Terra Cotta Company' in 1891. Henry's eldest son, Ernest Beckett took the position of 'Municipal Clerk' for the town in 1895, a position he would hold, on and off, for 22 years. Ernest was also active in the Maple Ridge Agricultural Association. Walter, Henry's youngest son, called Port Haney home for over fifty years. More information on the Beckett family can be found at mapleridgemuseum.org/henry-robert-beckett-family/.

This new park will be completed at the end of July and features a small off leash dog area, a sports court, playground, pedestrian pathways, scooter track and other amenities for the neighbourhood to enjoy. It will also feature an information marker about the Beckett family and their deep history in the Port Haney neighbourhood.

"Council is pleased to honour its commitment to provide this greatly needed amenity to the residents of Port Haney, recognizing that there have been some significant challenges for this neighbourhood over the last couple of years. We look forward to celebrating the opening of this park, an event that will celebrate an important milestone for the community," said Mayor Morden.