FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATUS ON COLDSTREAM PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES

This past weekend the Provincial Health Officer indicated that BC had “flattened the COVID-19 curve.” As a result, the Provincial Health Officer has begun planning on how and when the current restriction in place could be lifted or modified. These changes could be implemented mid-May.

In response to these statements, the District of Coldstream has developed a phased approach for re-opening its parks and public spaces while observing a few guidelines:

• The health and safety of our employees, residents and parks users is a top priority;
• We need to ensure that people maintain proper social physical distancing when outside;
• We want to encourage local use of our parks. We don’t want people driving into our residential neighborhoods to access facilities (including the Rail Trail);
• There is an active Provincial Health Officer order prohibiting gatherings in excess of 50 people.

If you are planning to get outdoors, think of this first: **If you need a car, you are going too far!**

**Effective immediately,** Phase 1 will re-open our green spaces **only** as follows:

**Phase 1: Open Green Spaces including Dog Parks**

• All park green spaces will be opened. This will include the Cemetery.
• All equipment and facilities in the parks will remain closed due to high touch points and an inability to keep enough distance between individuals. This includes playground equipment, tennis courts, skateboard park and washroom facilities.
• Parking lots that are currently closed will remain closed.

Residents and park users are reminded to **follow the directives of provincial and federal health authorities while using these spaces.** If you visit a Coldstream park:

• maintain a physical distance of at least 2 metres (6ft) between yourself and others;
• Do not gather in groups;
• Only attend outdoor spaces with people you live with;
• Continue practicing sound hygiene (cough into an elbow or sleeve, and wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds).

If park users gather in groups and do not follow social distancing orders, the District may close these parks in the future.

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