

COOPERATION BETWEEN CITY AND KWIKWETLEM FIRST NATION REOPENS TRAIL

Port Coquitlam, BC – February 9, 2010... The Traboulay PoCo Trail is officially a complete loop again, thanks to a new agreement between the City of Port Coquitlam and the Kwikwetlem First Nation.

A portion of the 25-kilometre trail south of Pitt River Road has been closed since 2009 due to erosion. However, a Dyke Maintenance, Repair and Access Agreement signed on February 8, 2010 by Mayor Greg Moore and Chief Ron Giesbrecht allows the trail to once again cross through the Kwikwetlem reserve lands, using the dyke route that has been fenced off for several years.

“It’s great news for our community that the Traboulay PoCo Trail is fully operational again,” Mayor Moore said. “I see the gates re-opening as being symbolic of our relationship with the Kwikwetlem. Those gates were a symbolic barrier between our two communities. I think the fact that I’m a new Mayor and he’s a new Chief has allowed us to create a new beginning.”

Moore said he’s looking forward to building on this relationship to address issues of common interest in the future.

Chief Giesbrecht agreed with Moore’s comments, noting that improving relationships with neighbouring communities was discussed at length at the Assembly of First Nations conference he attended in Calgary last year.

“We’re neighbours, so we have to work together and make our relationship more positive,” Giesbrecht said. “Both communities will benefit from that.”

The trail through the reserve will be open year-round, other than temporary closures for Kwikwetlem funerals or ceremonies, which Giesbrecht said would be no more than a few times a year. In exchange for public use of the trail through the reserve, the City has agreed to continue maintaining the dyke, and to provide interpretive signage in that section of the trail and two concrete picnic tables in the Colony Farms section.

The pride of Port Coquitlam’s extensive trail network, the Traboulay PoCo Trail traverses a varied landscape that includes forest and creek, meadow and marsh, riverfront and urban development. The re-opened route through the Kwikwetlem lands is near a popular access point – the Red Bridge on Pitt River Road – and will enable easier access to the serene and natural Colony Farm section.

The Kwikwetlem First Nation is offering guided bike tours from their main entrance to Colony Farm Regional Park, giving riders the opportunity to access an amazing diversity of wildlife that live in and visit these wetlands. More bike tour information is available at www.kwikwetlem.com.

For more information about the Traboulay PoCo Trail, visit www.portcoquitlam.ca/parks .

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Jim Maitland
Manager of Finance
City of Port Coquitlam
Tel 604.927.5443
Email maitlandj@portcoquitlam.ca
www.portcoquitlam.ca