



Co-op donates \$75,000 to Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary

Victoria, BC (June 27, 2016):– Co-op is protecting, beautifying and enhancing spaces in 21 communities across Western Canada in 2016, including Victoria.

A \$75,225 donation from the Co-op Community Spaces program will help the Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary build bridges to nature with a new boardwalk.

“The boardwalks are in much need of repair and the revitalization project has been undertaken in two phases, the first in 2015 of the North portion and Phase II of the Floating Boardwalk slated for 2016. The Community Spaces donation will go a long way to seeing the completion of the second phase,” said Kathleen Burton, Executive Director with Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary. “The Floating Boardwalk Campaign of \$800,000 is needed to ensure a safer, environmentally friendly solution that will provide a better guest experience for the over 65,000 visitors to the sanctuary and over 10,000 students that participate in the programs. The first phase of boardwalk replacement was completed in 2015, and was facing possible closure until the funding of \$350,000 was secured. And now we see the real possibility of completing the second phase with the help of the Co-op’s funding.”

The Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary is home to many native plants and animals and features more than 1,000 feet of floating boardwalks, which are used as outdoor classrooms. Co-op’s donation will help replace the existing structure with a new aluminum boardwalk, which will be safer and guarantee longevity.

“All of us at Peninsula Co-op are excited to see the floating boardwalk revitalization come to fruition for Swan Lake in Victoria, where we know it will be enjoyed for years to come,” said Penny Sopel, Marketing & Community Relations Manager of Peninsula Co-op. “We believe everyone benefits when we support organizations and improve our surroundings. This is the heart of the Co-op Community Spaces initiative in more than three dozen communities across Western Canada.”

Far-reaching effects

Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary is one of 21 community organizations to receive funding from Co-op Community Spaces in 2016. Community Spaces has been developed to help protect, beautify and improve spaces across Western Canada so we can enjoy the spaces that bring us together. This year’s recipients received \$1.5 million from the program, supporting the ongoing commitment to invest in the communities we serve. Eligible projects that improve the places Canadians meet, play, learn and share include recreation, environmental conservation and urban agriculture initiatives.

Since launching in 2015, Co-op Community Spaces has supported 37 projects in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia with approximately \$2.5 million. The program is administered by Federated Co-operatives Limited on behalf of the more than 200 independent retail co-operatives that form the Co-operative Retailing System.

Registered non-profits, registered charitable organizations or community service co-operatives can apply. For more details about the Co-op Community Spaces program, see www.communityspaces.ca.



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About Peninsula Co-op

Peninsula Co-op is a Vancouver Island based co-operative owned and guided by our 84,000 member-owners. Our core business includes groceries, petroleum, cardlock and home heating products. We have 16 gas stations and convenience stores located between Victoria and Duncan including Comox. Peninsula Co-op employs over 300 part and full-time employees. Since we opened our doors in 1977 we are a different kind of business – we are locally invested, community-minded and offer lifetime membership benefits including patronage refunds, quality products, quality services and fair prices. Additional information is available at www.peninsulaco-op.com

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