



PLAYLAND'S WOODEN ROLLER COASTER BACKGROUND

Vancouver, BC - July 11, 2009 - Since 1958 thrill seekers from across British Columbia, Canada and around the globe have made the pilgrimage to pay homage to one of the greatest amusement rides ever constructed, the Playland Wooden Coaster.

There is no doubt, the world's amusement park industry has had several legendary rides during its iconic, and often storied, history - rides that are held in special esteem and looked upon with fond memories or special reverence. The Cyclone at Coney Island, the Loch Ness Monster at Busch Gardens, and Cedar Points' Millennium Force are some of the most famous, but few roller coasters have achieved the legendary status among true aficionados that the classic Playland Wooden Roller Coaster has.

An old world, all-time classic, the Playland Coaster has a gritty ambiance and rough and tumble exterior. Hobbyists' and fans that have braved the Coaster are familiar with the dramatic and unsuspected jerk of motion as the sixteen-passenger train is locked into position on the uptake chain at the base of the first hill. The clicking sound that follows is as universally known by Coaster fans as the stomach-churning first hill plunge and the camel-hop drops that are as signature to the ride as the picture of its iconic, skeletal frame set against the Vancouver skyline.

Through good times and bad the Playland Wooden Coaster has weathered the storm and is still around to thrill a new generation of coaster enthusiasts that flock to its base.

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COASTER FAST FACTS

- The Playland Wooden Coaster was built throughout 1957 and early 1958
- The Coaster officially opened in 1958
- The Coaster was designed by Carl Phare
- Head of construction was Walker LeRoy
- Each train is made up of eight two-person cars (total capacity per train: 16)
- Maximum speed of trains - 45 mph
- Maximum track height - 75 feet at highest point (1st hill)
- Track length is 5/8th of a mile
- Ride time is 90 seconds
- Coaster rides an average of 1/2 million guests annually
- Number of trains – 3
- The Coaster is powered by a 75 hp electric motor which lifts the 16 passenger specially designed train up the first hill. Once each train passes over the first hill it is driven through a series of climbs, dips, banks, horseshoe turns and a classic reverse curve only by the laws of gravity.
- Original cost of construction: \$200,000
- Built from Douglas fir

Unique Features:

- Entire ride is momentum driven after first hill
- Lap bar safety system (no overhead seat restraints)
- Considered to be a "living" (wooden) Coaster (rather than steel)

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