



CHALLENGER MAP SET TO RETURN TO ITS ORIGINAL HOME AT HASTINGS PARK!

Friends of the Challenger Map Launch Fundraising Drive to Bring the Map Home after 24 Years

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Vancouver, BC: The Pacific National Exhibition is thrilled to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the family of the late George Challenger and his son, the late Robert Challenger, creators of the famed Challenger Map. The MOU will see both organizations working together to bring the map home to Hastings Park!

“This is an important day, one that has been a long time coming and we are thrilled to be bringing it home,” says PNE President and CEO Shelley Frost. “The Challenger Map is a part of PNE and BC history that holds a special place in the heart of our organization as well as in the hearts of generations of British Columbians.”

A provincial treasure that took Challenger, his children and grandchildren seven years to construct, the Challenger Map occupied 1,850 square metres of floor space at its original PNE home in the BC Pavilion complex. Proudly on display from 1954 until 1997, the Map is a topographical scale model of British Columbia made from fir plywood cut into 986,000 pieces.

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“Our family is so excited that my grandfather’s Map will be returning to its rightful home at Hastings Park,” says Bill Challenger, President of the Challenger Relief Map Foundation and son and grandson of the Map’s creators. “We believe the Map is an incredible asset to the people of British Columbia and we’re grateful that it will be on display once again.”

When the B.C. Pavilion was demolished in 1997 to make way for the Hastings Park Sanctuary, the Challenger Relief Map was placed in storage at an Air Canada hangar at the Vancouver Airport, where it remained until a portion was restored and temporarily displayed at the RCMP detachment in Richmond for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Fundraising is now underway for the restoration of the Map and costs related to the permanent installation at Hastings Park, likely in the historic Livestock Barns with a goal of having the full Challenger Map on display at the 2022 PNE Fair.

A number of organizations have already stepped up to contribute, and corporations or individuals interested in donating to the Challenger Map initiative should visit www.ChallengerMap.ca or contact the PNE at: 604-253-2311.

A portion of the Challenger Map will be on special display, free with admission at the PNE Fair August 21st – September 6th.

Event information: www.pne.ca

Tickets: www.TicketLeader.ca

Challenger Map – Fast Facts

- ⇒ It took George Challenger and his family over seven years starting in 1945. The completed map was revealed for the opening of the British Empire Games in 1954 at the PNE as a marquee feature in the BC Pavilion complex.
- ⇒ The map was built from three-dimensional cut-outs of quarter inch fir plywood donated by MacMillan Bloedel. A doall jigsaw was used to cut the individual pieces.
- ⇒ The Map is built to a scale of one inch to one mile horizontally and to a scale of one inch to one thousand feet vertically.
- ⇒ The full Map is bigger than two tennis courts, over 6,000 square feet.
- ⇒ The PNE will display 8 sections (4%) of the Map, which, when displayed in its entirety consists of 196 sections.
- ⇒ The rest of the map, thanks to the generosity of Air Canada is being stored in a climate-controlled building at their airport facilities in Richmond.

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About the PNE:

Owned by the City of Vancouver, the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) is a healthy and vibrant non-profit organization dedicated to delivering over 2 million visitors a year with memorable experiences through access to first-class cultural, music, sporting and family entertainment events, as well as access to public space for passive recreation. Founded in 1910, the PNE's home is Hastings Park, a multi-facility venue in Vancouver where the organization manages four activity streams: the annual PNE Fair, Playland Amusement Park, Park Care and Facility Maintenance and an expansive portfolio of year-round events. All revenues generated are invested back into park space, community programs and non-revenue generating educational and entertainment experiences.

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