



PNE UNDERTAKES MAJOR REFURBISHMENT OF PLAYLAND WOODEN COASTER

Ride to Reopen Spring 2022

For Immediate Release
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Vancouver, B.C. – One of Canada’s most iconic amusement park rides, the Playland Wooden Coaster, will remain closed for the remainder of 2021, including throughout the annual PNE Fair.

Although incredibly disappointing for ride enthusiasts, the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) has made the decision to undertake a major refurbishment project in order to ensure the beloved ride is ready in time for what is expected to be one of their busiest full seasons ever in 2022.

“The Wooden Coaster is one of the most highly maintained rides in the country, but as a living structure built from wood, we must undertake regular maintenance prior to the opening of the park each year,” says PNE spokesperson Laura Ballance. *“As we approached summer 2021 there were many unknowns as to how much, if any, of the Playland season would be saved due to COVID-19 closures. With the park potentially being closed already due to the pandemic, and in consultation with our engineering consultants, it made sense to continue with the refurbishment plan at this time, which unfortunately means the Coaster will need to remain closed for 2021,”* says Ballance.

The refurbishment is not related to any specific safety issue but rather an overall upgrade. The project is estimated to be completed prior to the opening of the Playland Park Season in spring 2022 and has an initial estimated cost of \$500,000 - \$750,000. Doing this larger refurbishment during a quieter COVID season, combined with wanting to make sure that the Coaster is ready for the next 60+ years as a flagship attraction within the Playland Redevelopment Plan makes this the right timing.

Built board by board in 1958, the Wooden Roller Coaster is Playland's most historic and spectacular attraction that has been bringing back guests every year for 63 years. It is the #1 Wooden Roller Coaster in Canada and ranked 12th in the world (*ElloCoaster*).

COASTER FAST FACTS

- The Playland Wooden Coaster was built throughout 1957 and early 1958
- 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)
- Powered up the first hill by a 75 hp electric motor. 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 law of gravity.
- 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
- Original cost of construction: \$200,000
- Built from Douglas fir
- Annual ridership: 500,000
- Honoured in two categories by the American Coaster Enthusiasts (ACE)
 - 1) Coaster Classic
 - 2) Landmark Coaster

For more information about Playland, please visit: www.pne.ca.

About the PNE:

Owned by the City of Vancouver, the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) is a healthy and vibrant non-profit organization dedicated to providing over 3 million visitors a year with first-class cultural, sporting and family entertainment events. Founded in 1910, the PNE operates from a 114-acre site at Hastings Park, a multi-facility venue in Vancouver where the organization operates four activity streams: an annual 15-day Fair, Playland Amusement Park, maintenance and care of the Hastings Park site and management of the site's year-round facilities. These facilities are utilized to celebrate a variety of hockey, amateur sporting, music, community, social, cultural and commercial events throughout the year.

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