



## ICONIC WOODEN COASTER REOPENS AFTER MILLION DOLLAR RESTORATION

**For Immediate Release**  
**July 22, 2022**

**Vancouver, BC** – Following an 18-month, one-million dollar restoration Playland Amusement Park is thrilled to announce the Playland Wooden Roller Coaster is once again open!

*“It’s exciting that our beloved Wooden Coaster is now open,”* says PNE spokesperson Laura Ballance. *“A ride on the Coaster is a tradition that goes back for generations in British Columbia, and this retrofit ensures it will be in top form to ride millions more thrill seekers for years to come.”*

Considered one of the greatest wooden coasters in the world today, the Playland Wooden Coaster has won countless accolades including Coaster Classic and Coaster Landmark from the American Coaster Enthusiasts (ACE), the world’s leading Coaster enthusiast organization. Over the past twelve months, the Playland Wooden Coaster has undergone the most extensive retrofit in its 64-year history, including undergoing the addition of lap belts in the train to meet incoming safety standards.

The Coaster is a “living” structure, made entirely of wood outside of the friction plates where the train’s metal wheels meet the frame of the ride structure.

The international engineering team assembled to complete the extensive project sought to ensure the signature Playland Wooden Coaster ambience of yesteryear was retained and respected in the modern retrofit.

An old-world, all-time classic, the Playland Coaster has a gritty ambience and rough and tumble exterior. Hobbyists’ and fans who’ve 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.

### **2021/2022 COASTER RETROFIT FAST FACTS**

- Over 1,200 lengths of structural grade Douglas Fir have been installed – this equates to over 12,000 feet of lumber
- More than 4,700 man-hours have been invested in this project
- Engineering lead on the project is: Martin and Vleminckx Rides (MVR) a world leader in the design, manufacturing, fabrication, installation and restoration of wooden roller coasters

- MVR is globally known for constructing the very first, all-wood, barrel-roll roller coaster in Jinan, China
- MVR has constructed thirteen new wooden roller coasters, worldwide, in the last 10 years, including: China, Australia and across North America

## **PLAYLAND WOODEN 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
- The train is made up of eight two-person cars (total capacity: 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
- 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 law of gravity
- Original cost of construction: \$200,000
- Built entirely from Douglas Fir
- Listed as an American Coaster Enthusiasts (ACE) – “Coaster Classic” and “Coaster Landmark”

Stay tuned to Playland and PNE social media for more information.

Twitter: @PNE\_Playland

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For more information about the 2022 Playland season or to purchase tickets visit: [www.PNE.ca/playland/](http://www.PNE.ca/playland/)

### **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 3 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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