



MEDIA RELEASE

North Perth Breaks Ground for Future Listowel Memorial Arena Park

North Perth, May 7, 2024 – The sod has been turned and construction is officially underway at the future site of the Listowel Memorial Arena Park (MAP '59). The ground-breaking marks a significant step forward in honouring the memory of the tragic events of February 28, 1959. The collapse of the former arena structure claimed eight lives, including seven young hockey players and their referee/recreation director.

The initiative to create the Listowel Memorial Arena Park stems from the community's desire to commemorate the lives lost and provide a space for remembrance and recreation. The MAP '59 Fundraising Committee has spearheaded efforts, raising over \$700,000 towards the project, showcasing the community's unwavering support and commitment.

"MAP '59 is extremely important to the community and important to SHIFT Landscape Architecture as well. The construction of this space will serve to create a public space that is both a memorial to the tragic arena collapse and to those that were affected, as well as becoming a place of enjoyment and recreation for the community," expressed Michael Barker of SHIFT Landscape Architecture.

The park's design, influenced by public input gathered over several years, will feature both active and passive elements, including a walking path, and open space. Commemorative and reflective pieces, along with gardens, trees, and a natural playground, will honor the memories of those lost while providing opportunities for reflection and recreation for future generations.

"The Municipality is excited to see this historically significant park get underway. A special thanks to the MAP'59 Fundraising Committee, Shift Landscape Architects, and Horst Excavating for their vision and hard work on making this space a reality," said Jeff Newell, Manager of Facilities for the Municipality of North Perth.

Upon completion, the Listowel Memorial Arena Park will stand as a testament to the resilience and unity of the community, honoring the past while providing a space for present and future generations to come together, reflect, and enjoy.

Construction is expected to be completed in late 2024. Donations towards the project are still being accepted, demonstrating ongoing community support for this meaningful endeavor.

In attendance at the ground-breaking ceremony were members of the MAP '59 Fundraising Committee, SHIFT Landscape Architecture consultants, Municipal Staff, North Perth Mayor Todd Kasenberg, and Horst Excavating.

For more information and to donate towards the Listowel Memorial Arena Park, please visit www.northperth.ca/donate.

For questions, please contact:

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