



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Boulders Climbing Gym drives competition climbing up the wall

Dec. 9, 2011, Central Saanich, BC – Today, the Boulders Climbing Gym Society welcomed Ron Cannan, Member of Parliament for Kelowna-Lake Country, on behalf of the Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, along with Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development for the Province of BC, the Honourable Ida Chong, to the official grand opening of the 7,500 sq. ft. climbing terrain expansion to their facility at Stelly's Secondary School. The facility now includes 13,000 sq. ft., making it a cornerstone of Canada's competition climbing program.

"I am proud to be here today to highlight our Government's investment in this important facility," said MP Cannan, on behalf of the Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification. "With this funding, the Central Saanich community has an improved recreational facility that will benefit many of its residents. Through projects such as this our Government has been working to create jobs and opportunities for growth across British Columbia."

"This is a great example of a multi-faceted facility that is responsive to the needs of families, as well as athletes participating in elite level sports," said Ida Chong, "The supports available through joint funding programs and gaming grants mean that the community benefits sooner than would otherwise be possible."

More than \$1.3 million in federal-provincial funding was provided through the Building Canada Fund-Communities Component (Top-up) program. The Government of Canada also provided \$616,978 through the Recreational Infrastructure Canada program, and the Province of British Columbia added a gaming grant of \$250,000 from the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. The Credit Union Foundation and District of Central Saanich also contributed to the project. In addition to these partnership commitments, the Boulders Climbing Gym Society is pleased to announce a further donation of \$100K from the Gwyn Morgan and Pat Trottier Foundation.

"We're excited to have Canada's first world-class competition climbing facility right here in the capital region," said Kimanda Jarzebiak, board chair of The Boulders Climbing Gym Society. "This expansion to the Boulders Climbing Gym gives us the opportunity to host world championships, provide an elite training facility for Canada's youth and national team and to help provide more exposure to the sport of competition climbing."

In a region known for high-performance Olympic athletes and facilities, it is not surprising to see a high level of interest in growing and challenging sports, such as competition climbing. The Boulders Climbing Gym Society is grateful for donations from local businesses, residents and the climbing community, as they have helped raise further funds needed to complete this expansion. A fundraising drive to raise a further \$365,000 will begin in January 2012.

The Boulders Climbing Gym will host the 2013 World Youth Climbing Championships (Aug. 15-19, 2013), an event that will attract more than 500 competitors from 50 countries and an anticipated crowd of more than 2,000 spectators. This is the first time that this event has been held in North America. Throughout the year, annual local, regional and national competitions will be held at the gym, making the facility a cornerstone of Canada's competition climbing program.

In addition to climbing, the expanded facility includes a new cross-training studio (for dance, yoga and pilates). The Boulders Climbing Gym will also be the new home of Vancouver's Aeriosa Dance Society, an aerial dance company specializing in choreography in the vertical realm.

The Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RIInC) program invested \$500 million in recreational facilities nationally over a two-year period. Visit the websites for the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RIInC) program in the West, or Canada's Economic Action Plan for more information.

The Canada-British Columbia Building Canada Fund – Communities Component is a federal-provincial program that addresses the unique infrastructure needs of both rural and urban communities with populations of less than 100,000.

Through this unprecedented Building Canada infrastructure plan, the Federal Government is providing long-term, stable and predictable funding to help meet infrastructure needs across Canada. Building Canada supports a stronger, safer and better country.

Since October 2008, over \$5.6 billion has been committed by the province to over 900 infrastructure projects in British Columbia, which are estimated to create more than 36,000 jobs over the life of the projects.

To learn more about The Boulders Climbing Gym Society, please visit www.climbtheboulders.com.

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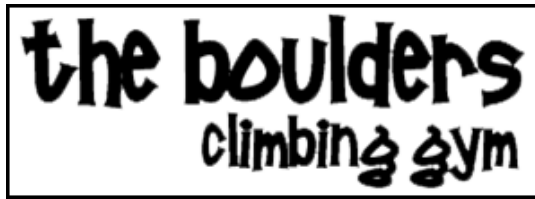
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Expansion Details

- The Boulders Climbing Gym Society operates a world-class competition climbing facility at Stelly's Secondary School, with 13,000 sq. ft. of climbing terrain.
- The new climbing wall was constructed by Walltopia Canada, one of the world's leading climbing wall manufacturers.
- The facility includes a 50 ft. by 50 ft., 40-tonne, south facing door, which allows spectators to watch events and to allow for cleaner air and self-cooling of the building during winter months.
- The new climbing wall has facilities to train participants in outdoor climbing skills, including multi-pitch climbing and rappelling, as well as the capacity to teach high angle rescue and other skills required by emergency services personnel.
- The Boulders Climbing Gym will host the 2013 World Youth Climbing Championships (Aug.15 - 19, 2013), an event that will attract more than 500 competitors from 50 countries and an anticipated crowd of more than 2,000 spectators.
- The society has also built a cross-training studio for Stelly's Secondary School (for dance, yoga, and pilates), new washrooms and change rooms, as well as two outside-accessible washrooms for the public who rent the school's athletic fields.
- The Boulders Climbing Gym is open to the public on weekday evenings and weekends, with small entrance fees being charged to fund a range of community programs, from adaptive recreation and climbing therapy programs (including stroke rehabilitation and autism therapy), to a range of youth and school-based programs.

History

- In 1993, teachers at Stelly's Secondary School started a small climbing wall on the outside of the school gymnasium (approximately 1000 sq. ft of climbing terrain).
- In 2005, the first major expansion of the facility saw the development of an additional 4000 sq. ft. of climbing terrain, operated by The Boulders Climbing Gym Society.
- In September 2011, in partnership with School District 63, the society created the Boulders Climbing Academy at Stelly's Secondary School allowing students to receive credit for climbing-related content. In its first few months, the academy attracted students from British Columbia and Alberta. International students will start during the spring semester in February 2012. This is the only program of its kind in North America.

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