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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 26, 2023**

## **‘Arson Destroys Playground at Centennial Park’**

**DUNCAN** – The City of Duncan is deeply saddened by the destructive fire that occurred at Centennial Park in the early morning hours of Friday, May 26.

At approximately 2:40 a.m., RCMP officers were dispatched to Centennial Park playground in response to a distress call made to the Duncan Fire Department. Sadly, the fire resulted in the complete destruction of the playground structure within the park. We are currently cooperating with the RCMP, who are actively investigating the incident and searching for the individual(s) responsible for this destructive act.

Despite the devastation caused to the playground, we are relieved to report that the adjacent water park remains unaffected and will remain open daily from 10 am to 8 pm. The City's staff and maintenance crew are working diligently to ensure the safety and enjoyment of residents and visitors who utilize the water park.

"Centennial Park holds significant value for our community, providing a safe and inclusive space for families and children to gather and play. It is disheartening to witness such destruction. We are fully committed to rebuilding the playground for our community's enjoyment," stated Mayor Staples.

"Thank you to the RCMP and the Duncan Fire Department for their prompt response," said Peter de Verteuil, CAO. "We urge anyone with information or video camera footage to come forward and assist the RCMP in their investigation by calling 250-748-5522."

Public Works are exploring all available options to restore and rebuild the playground, ensuring that our residents and visitors can once again enjoy the recreational amenities that Centennial Park has to offer. At this time, we don't have a cost estimate or a timeline for installing replacement play equipment.

- 30 -

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