Information Bulletin
City of Coquitlam

Photo Backdrops and Frames Help Grads Celebrate

**COQUITLAM, B.C., May 26, 2020 –** Coquitlam has put a fun twist on one typical graduation ritual – photos – to support the class of 2020.

As part of its CoquitlamSPIRIT program, the City has installed tall blue Grad 2020 photo backdrops at scenic spots around Coquitlam and created Facebook profile photo frames to support local grads as they mark the end of their high school days.

The project was initiated to provide grads with fun and safe options for celebrating this important milestone, in a year when they will miss out on much of the traditional pomp and circumstance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Showcasing Coquitlam’s Gardens**

Coquitlam’s parks abound with brilliant floral displays and gardens. Six locations throughout the community were selected to feature the Grad 2020 backdrops:

* Burke Mountain Pioneer Park (1428 Collins Rd.) – Near the giant horse sculpture
* Centennial Rose Garden (640 Poirier St.)
* Como Lake Park (700 Gatensbury St.) – At the south end directly off parking lot
* Inspiration Garden at Town Centre Park (3099 Guildford Way) – At the butterfly bench
* Lafarge Lake, Town Centre Park (1299 Pinetree Way) – Beside the giant maple leaf near TD Community Plaza
* Mackin Park parterre (1046 Brunette Ave.) – Far north end of the park, parking by skateboard park

Although group grad shots are discouraged for public health reasons, local grads are encouraged to scout out the backdrops and take photos on their own or with family to mark the occasion, then share them on Twitter or Instagram with #CoquitlamGrads2020 and tagging @cityofcoquitlam.

Backdrop locations are listed in the Outdoors section at [www.coquitlam.ca/spirit](http://www.coquitlam.ca/spirit).

**Social Media Frames Cheer on Local Grads**

Two custom Facebook photo frames are now available for parents, grandparents and others who want to cheer on Coquitlam’s grads. Simply click “update” on your profile picture, click “add frame” and search for the two options: “Proud of my Coquitlam Grad 2020” and “Proud of our Coquitlam Grads 2020.”

**Bringing the Community Together**

The grad photo projects are part of CoquitlamSPIRIT, a program within the City’s pandemic response that is helping residents of all ages have fun, learn something, work up a sweat, support local businesses, engage with others and connect to resources online.

CoquitlamSPIRIT centres around the themes of caring, connections and community to support residents and businesses through these difficult times. The underlying goals are to support community well-being, create new bonds and build lasting civic spirit and pride.

New content and activities are continually added. Find out more at [www.coquitlam.ca/spirit](http://www.coquitlam.ca/spirit).

**Join Coquitlam’s Efforts to #SupportLocal**

The City of Coquitlam has joined the Tri-Cities #SupportLocal campaign to assist local businesses, many of which are struggling at this time. Coquitlam also strongly encourages residents to #SupportLocal for their shopping and meals; view business listings at [www.wegotthistricities.com](http://www.wegotthistricities.com/) and [www.visitcoquitlam.ca](http://www.visitcoquitlam.ca) for a directory of 150+ Coquitlam restaurants offering takeout, delivery and dine-in options.

**Supporting Our Community During the Pandemic**

The City of Coquitlam is here to help, with these resources:

* Visit [www.coquitlam.ca/csrp](http://www.coquitlam.ca/csrp) to learn about the City’s Community Support and Recovery Plan, which is providing immediate and long-term support for the non-profit sector, businesses and residents;
* Visit [www.coquitlam.ca/spirit](http://www.coquitlam.ca/spirit) for a free library of activities for all ages, including fitness, arts and culture, outdoor activities and ways to connect with your community; and
* Visit [www.coquitlam.ca/covid19](http://www.coquitlam.ca/covid19) for updates on City services and initiatives and COVID-19 health resources.

Coquitlam residents and businesses are also encouraged to follow the City of Coquitlam on social media ([Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/cityofcoquitam), [Instagram](http://www.instagram.com/cityofcoquitlam) and [Twitter](http://www.twitter.com/cityofcoquitlam)) and download the [CoquitlamConnect mobile app](http://www.coquitlam.ca/coquitlamconnect) for up-to-date City information.

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