

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY

September 7, 1965

HIS WORSHIP THE REEVE
AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Gentlemen:

REPORT OF THE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Before submitting the recommendation for Burnaby's Centennial Project, your Centennial Committee wishes to extend its very sincere gratitude to the members of the Selection Committee, Dr. P. McTaggart-Cowan, Magistrate Murray Hyde and Mr. C. W. Hunter. These gentlemen gave unstinting and grave time to their deliberations and reached a unanimous decision. The Centennial Committee, in turn, unanimously concurs with this decision and recommendation.

It is perhaps needless to state that it would be impossible to present a recommendation that would be universally acceptable to all citizens and groups within the municipality. As desirable as this might be it would be too much to expect. It is hoped, however, that the proposal will receive the unanimous endorsement of the Council.

In studying the various projects, certain criteria had to be established. Briefly, the submissions and final recommendation were expected to possess

- (1) the qualities of a worthy memorial to Canada's 100th birthday;
- (2) a considerable degree of universality that would surmount the interests, however laudable, of special groups or of individuals and would be generally acceptable by the whole of Burnaby;
- (3) qualities that would seize the imagination of the citizenry in such a manner as would ensure a perpetuating enthusiasm.

High tribute must be paid the many groups and individuals of Burnaby and neighbouring municipalities who submitted the many proposals received. Any one of these is a worthy project and it is fervently hoped that, eventually, Burnaby will succeed in acquiring the benefits of all of them. However, when subjected to scrutiny it was necessary, albeit reluctantly, to reject each in turn for one or several reasons.

- (1) It was felt that the Fine Arts Center failed to meet the requirements of universality and that its requirements having no urgency could be met, in some degree at least, by the facilities available at Simon Fraser University.
- (2) The Carillon proposed for Simon Fraser University would be a splendid memorial but of somewhat specialized interest and possessed no urgency.
- (3) The Planetarium was also an excellent submission but in these days of rapid scientific development it could be soon outdated.

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- (4) The Lord Byng development is indeed a worthy proposal but it did not possess the quality of uniqueness and is a project that could be developed with equal ease anywhere.
- (5) The Barnet Beach proposal was carefully considered but, despite its great desirability, it was felt that this development could well come under a recreational by-law and was, indeed, somewhat of a local and relatively expensive interest.
- (6) Woodsmoot is a worthwhile proposal but could or should be developed by the lumber industry.
- (7) It was not felt that the purchase of the Universal Foundation property came within the scope of a Centennial project.
- (8) As the Federal and Provincial regulations governing the acceptance of a Centennial project imposed restrictions regarding certain proposals the concept of a Senior Citizens home had to be summarily rejected.
- (9) The two proposals, the Botanical Gardens (Floribunda) and the Wildlife Preserve will receive recognition in the recommended proposal.

It is perhaps unfortunate that these many excellent submissions should be dismissed so briefly in this report but a more complete elaboration of the reasons would serve no useful purpose. It is with unanimous enthusiasm that the Centennial Committee endorses the Selection Committee's choice of the development of Burnaby Lake as a worthy Canadian Centennial memorial for the Council's sympathetic consideration for the following reasons:

- (1) It was felt that such a proposal would meet with the majority consent of the citizens of Burnaby. The proposal had the quality of universality not only in regard to all sections of Burnaby but also to the whole metropolitan area.
- (2) The development of Burnaby Lake challenges the imagination of any or every person or group who has ever given or will give consideration to the subject. Looking to the immediate present and, especially, to the future, its potential is wonderful and incalculable. Imaginatively, the horizons have no limit.

In addition to the foregoing, the proposal possesses the quality of inevitability. The time has come when "the bull must be taken by the horns" and a start be made on the creation and development of this marvellous and unique asset located in the heart of Burnaby and the metropolitan area. With many similar areas in North America and Europe in mind, the Centennial Committee feels assured that Burnaby could have in its midst a park and recreational district that could be fantastically practical and beautiful.

The Committee is fully aware of past and present dilemmas concerning the Lake and of the present engineering survey now being conducted but it is also of the opinion that, faced with the appalling prospects if nothing is done, immediate practical steps can be taken to create a park area and a 2000 meter rowing course. It further proposes that some modification of the Burnaby Lake Boosters Association plan be made by minimizing the proposed building programme and, instead, create a retaining wall on the north side of the lake by some type of suitable piling. Dredging would fill in the area behind the wall.

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Your Committee has every reason to believe that, certainly for the initial stages of development, biological methods would have an immediate and effective control over weed growth.

Your Committee further proposes to have an area at the west end set aside for a Botanical Garden and that a portion of the east and south side be created as a wildlife preserve. It does not feel that proper and controlled development of the lake would necessarily interfere with the wildlife presently finding refuge there.

It is realized that, as set forth, the proposal lacks certain minor requirements but, nevertheless, endorses and presents to the Council the submission of the BURNABY LAKE BOOSTERS ASSOCIATION for its acceptance. It is to be hoped that all doubts and hesitations will be set aside and that immediate steps be taken to have the development of Burnaby Lake take place as a worthy tribute to Canada's 100th birthday and Burnaby's participation thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

C. J. Frederickson,
Chairman,
BURNABY CANADIAN CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

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