

14. Re: Greater Vancouver Regional District Information Pamphlets

Mr. D. J. (Bud) Elsie, Public Relations and Communications Consultant, has written a letter to the Clerk asking if the Municipality will mail a Greater Vancouver Regional District Information Pamphlet to Burnaby property owners with tax notices in May. Following is an excerpt from the letter:

"Three years ago the Greater Vancouver Regional District prepared a small pamphlet describing its powers and functions. With the cooperation of the municipalities in the region, over 200,000 of the pamphlets were distributed with 1970 tax notices.

The GVRD has assumed additional responsibilities and functions in the last three years. This week the Regional District executive approved the preparation of a new pamphlet outlining the GVRD's role, how it works, what it does, etc. We would again like to enlist the cooperation of the municipalities in distributing the pamphlet, which we would have ready by the end of February. It will likely be four panels, folding to a size of approximately 3½ inches by 7 inches and weighing possibly 1/2 an ounce (it will likely be printed on 60 lb. paper)."

A copy of the GVRD pamphlet that was distributed in 1970 is attached for the information of Council.

The Treasurer advises that plans have already been made to include with the mailing of 1973 tax notices the following items of information: R.C.M.P. "Stop Thief" brochure, an article that explains the Provincial Home-Owner Grant Act and a bulletin that contains miscellaneous information of interest to Municipal residents. All of the preceding items can be mailed in an envelope that requires eight cents postage.

If the subject GVRD pamphlet is included with the mailing of tax notices, postage costs will increase by approximately \$1,800. It is therefore recommended that the pamphlets not be mailed with notices in 1973, but that consideration be given to the mailing of the pamphlets with notices in 1974 if this meets with the approval of the GVRD.

Mr. Elsie has advised that the proposal to distribute the subject pamphlets will not be implemented if a sufficient number of Councils reply in the negative.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT Greater Vancouver Regional District Information Pamphlets not be distributed with tax notices in May, 1973; and

THAT Mr. Elsie be advised that the Municipality will consider inclusion of the pamphlets with tax notices in 1974; and

THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Elsie.

HOW OFTEN, AND WHERE, DOES THE REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD MEET?

The full board meets at least once a month, usually the last Wednesday in the month. Its meetings are open to the public and the press. The Board's nine-man executive usually meets once or twice a month.

The District's offices are at 2294 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver.

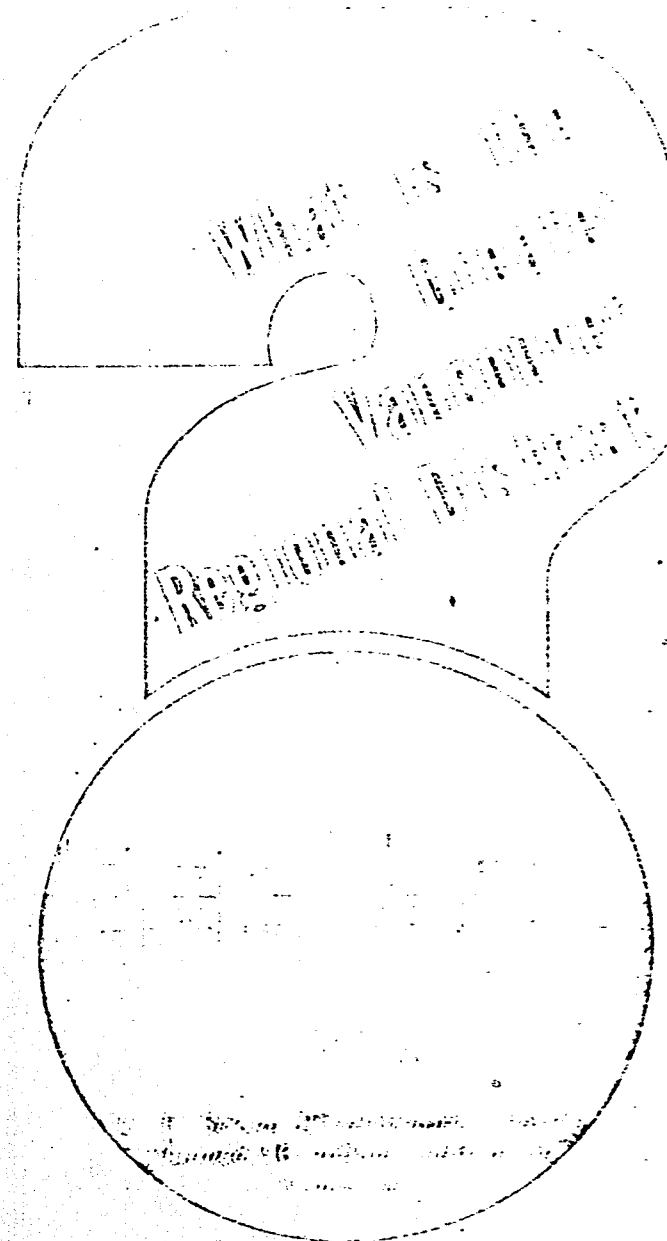
WHAT IS THE REPRESENTATION FROM EACH OF THE 17 MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES?

In all but the three provincially-administered areas (University Endowment Lands, Bowen Island, Ioco-Buntzen) the representative (or representatives) is appointed from the local municipal or city council. Because the provincially-administered areas do not have local councils, their representatives to the Regional District are elected directly by the electors.

Each of the 17 member municipalities has one vote for every 20,000 population. Members with less than 20,000 population have one vote. The District Board is composed of 22 representatives —officially called directors— who have a total of 56 votes.

Vancouver has 5 directors with a total of 21 votes; Burnaby 2 directors with a total of 6 votes; Surrey 1 director with 5 votes; Coquitlam 1 director, 3 votes; Delta 1 director, 2 votes; Fraser Mills 1 director, 1 vote; New Westminster 1 director, 2 votes; North Vancouver City 1 director, 2 votes; North Vancouver District 1 director, 3 votes; Port Coquitlam 1 director, 1 vote; Port Moody 1 director, 1 vote; Richmond 1 director, 3 votes; West Vancouver 1 director, 2 votes; White Rock 1 director, 1 vote; University Endowment Lands 1 director, 1 vote; Bowen Island 1 director, 1 vote; Ioco-Buntzen 1 director, 1 vote.

The first chairman of the Greater Vancouver Regional District was Ald. Earle Adams of Vancouver, who served for two and a half years, from its inception until the end of 1969. The Chairman for 1970 is Mayor Ron Andrews of North Vancouver District and the Deputy Chairman Mayor Robert Prittie of Burnaby. Members of the 1970 Executive Committee are Mayor Andrews, Mayor Prittie, Mayor Tom Campbell of Vancouver, Ald. Ernie Broome, Vancouver, Mayor Henry Anderson of Richmond, Mayor Alex Forst of West Vancouver, Mayor Dugald Morrison of Delta, Mayor Muni Evers of New Westminster and Mr. Allan Kelly of the University Endowment Lands.



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ITEM 14
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 15
COUNCIL MEETING Feb. 26/73

WHAT IS THE GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT?

It is a public body composed of elected representatives from 6 cities, 8 district municipalities and 3 provincial government administered areas in Greater Vancouver. It is, in effect, a federation of 17 neighbouring but autonomous municipalities. The regional district concept was established by the Provincial Government; there are 28 different regional districts in British Columbia.

The Greater Vancouver Regional District held its first meeting on July 12, 1967.

WHO ARE THE 17 MEMBERS OF THE GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT?

Vancouver, West Vancouver, North Vancouver District, North Vancouver City, Burnaby, New Westminster, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Fraser Mills, Richmond, Delta, Surrey, White Rock, University Endowment Lands, Bowen Island and Ioco-Buntzen.

Total population living within the Greater Vancouver Regional District, at December 31, 1969, exceeded 1,000,000.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT?

Its prime purpose is to take joint action in providing services that are of mutual benefit to its members, service that can best be handled on a co-operative basis rather than by each municipality on an individual basis.

WHAT FUNCTIONS HAS THE GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT ASSUMED?

Hospitals, regional planning, air pollution control and marketing of bond issues for public works in member municipalities.

IS IT CURRENTLY CONSIDERING ASSUMPTION OF OTHER SERVICES?

Yes, it is considering assumption of a number of other services including water supply and sewage disposal, transportation, major parks, public housing, garbage disposal and the construction and operation of a juvenile detention home.

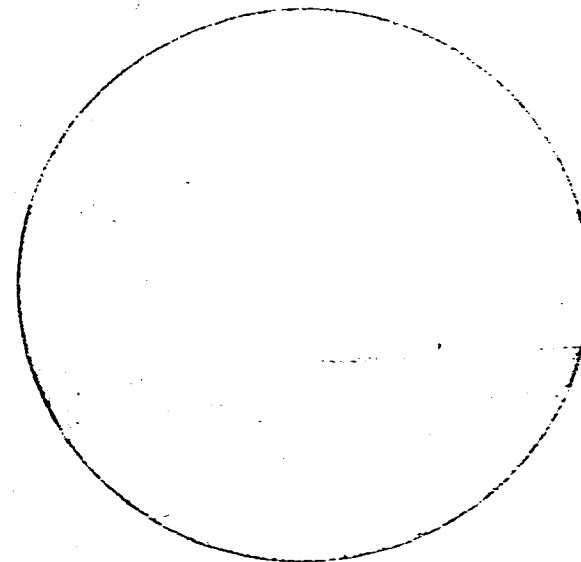
WHAT HAS THE DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHED?

It has allocated, in two years, over \$45 million for badly-needed hospital facilities throughout the region. The money is provided from the \$51 million bylaw approved by ratepayers in October, 1967. Debt charges on funds borrowed for hospital purposes are shared by the provincial government (60%) and the Regional District (40%).

Hospital planning on a regional basis avoids the possibility of costly duplication by providing facilities where they will best suit the needs of all the people in the area. Funds for construction, equipment or planning have been allocated to virtually every eligible hospital in the region including the Burnaby General in Burnaby; the Lions Gate Hospital on the North Shore; the Surrey Memorial in Surrey; the Royal Columbian and St. Mary's in New Westminster; the Children's, Vancouver General, St. Paul's, St. Vincent's, Holy Family, G. F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre and Mount St. Joseph's hospitals in Vancouver; the Richmond General in Richmond, the Peace Arch District Hospital in White Rock.

In addition to hospitals, the District has established an efficient administration system, moved into the field of regional planning (while leaving local planning in the hands of individual municipalities), initiated an extensive rapid transit study, is preparing air pollution control regulations and raised funds, through the sale of bond issues, for municipalities.

To assist in its decision-making, the District Board is aided by a number of advisory bodies, including the Hospital Advisory Committee which is composed of hospital and medical authorities.



*Addition to Surrey Memorial Hospital,
built at a cost of \$8.1 million.*

WHO DECIDES WHAT FUNCTIONS THE REGIONAL DISTRICT WILL ASSUME?

The members themselves, by majority vote. When it was suggested, for instance, that air pollution control should be a responsibility of the Regional District the matter was considered by a special committee, by the individual local councils and then by the Regional District Board. Board members voted unanimously that it should be a Regional District function.

DOES THE REGIONAL DISTRICT HAVE POWER TO LEVY TAXES?

No. Unlike metro governments, regional districts do not have direct taxing authority. They cannot impose millrates or collect taxes from ratepayers. The municipalities that benefit from a particular function or service share the cost.

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