

ITEM 10  
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 76  
COUNCIL MEETING Nov. 18/74

Re: Youth Services Committee Report

Following is a report from the Youth Services Committee on its activities for the period May 31 to August 31, 1974.

This is for the information of Council.

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Re: Youth Services Division

Attached you will find a copy of a report covering the activities of the Youth Services Division for the period May 31 to August 31, 1974.

This is for the information of Council.

  
C. C. MacKENZIE  
ADMINISTRATOR

COM/SP  
Enc.  
14.11.74

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**YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION**

**Report to Council**

**May 31st - August 31st  
(1974)**

The Youth Services Division has continued to receive referrals from the established municipal agencies and departments regarding youth problems. Listed below is a summary of the referrals received between May 31st and July 31st, 1974:

<b>Number Referred</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Problem</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
1	Parks & Recreation	Behavior (Individual)	Counselling
1	Parents	Behavior & Unmanageable	Assessment Referral
1	Parent	Unmanageable	No Action Taken
1	Parent	Runaway	Counselling (Concluded)
1	Parent	Runaway	Concluded
1	Parks & Recreation	Disturbance	Concluded
1	Parks & Recreation	Arson	No Action Taken
1	Municipal Manager	Disturbance	Investigated (Concluded)
1	(Municipal Manager)	Disturbance	Under Investigation

The Division was asked by the Youth Advisory Committee to make every effort to counsel before referring the matter to another agency. Effective counselling with youthful offenders seems to be more significant the earlier it is begun. Crisis arising in the community, for the most part, are the result of a number of acting out individuals who, within themselves, have problems.

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The Division's records on youth crisis in the community indicates most of the youths to be adult age or near to adult age. Not ideal for counselling.

The Division began research for a method that would allow earlier intervention into the families of individuals where a son or daughter is showing signs of pre-delinquent, delinquent, or overt behavior. Our records indicated that those juveniles apprehended for car theft, vandalism, illicit sex and drugs and community rowdiness, for the most part, began their 'delinquent careers' with Truancy and Petty Theft.

The Method:

We saw theft under \$200.00, an offence of the Criminal Code of Canada, Section 294B, as a possible method. If the stores victimized and the Police Department would allow us to intervene, in an effort to offer counselling with those juveniles apprehended, it was felt that the directions of the Committee could best be served. The program plan and method has been tentatively approved by all concerned, and the program was begun August 1st, 1974 with the following results:

Number Referred	From	Problem	Outcome
4	Hudson Bay (Lougheed Mall)	Theft u/200	Referral
2	Woolco (Lougheed Mall)	Theft u/200	Referral
2	Simpsons-Sears	Theft u/200	Referral
2	Simpsons-Sears	Theft u/200	Counselling

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These figures indicate a substantial increase in referrals and represent a potential for increased counselling. Of the ten (10) referrals listed, eight (8) referrals were in regard to juveniles apprehended in Burnaby under Theft under \$200.00 but who lived outside of Burnaby. Therefore, the Youth Services Division was unable to offer counselling. Referrals are made to the Department of Human Resources, R.C.M.P., and Probation in each community.

At the time of the writing of this report nine (9) more referrals have been received on shoplifting, five (5) of which refer to Burnaby youths and three (3) of those are already under counselling.

Community Problems:

The Youth Services Division has investigated complaints received regarding Beecher and Ron McLean Parks.

Complaints received regarding Beecher Park, as outlined by the Municipal Manager, were three-fold:

- (1) Poor street lighting.
- (2) Brush bordering the park conceals activity in the park.
- (3) There is prowling by night, disturbances created by unknown person(s) mischievously ringing doorbells accompanied by usual disturbing noises associated with cars coming and leaving the park at late hours.

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Upon investigation, the Youth Services Division's staff discovered real concern on the part of citizens in the area regarding the safety of their children.

The physical environment in the Beecher Park area has a potential for youth problems. There is no lighting along the 1300 block Crestlawn or along the south end of Beecher Park on Parklawn. The brush along Parklawn at the south end of Beecher Park conceals the park from observation.

The Youth Services Division's staff observed Beecher Park on Sunday night September 15th, 1974 at 9:30 p.m. There were approximately 75 youths in the park. Some were playing football but the majority were lying on the slope at the south end of the park and appeared well-behaved. Early Sunday morning at 1:00 a.m., September 22nd, the staff again observed the park; no one was in sight.

To supplement their findings the Youth Services Division's staff met with a Burnaby R.C.M.P. zone commander. He felt at this time there is no youth problem in the Beecher Park area, but substantiated that a potential youth problem could exist. The R.C.M.P. commander feels the area could be better policed with lighting and the brush thinned out to allow better visual observation into the park.

The Youth Services Division in an effort to control anti-social, pre-delinquent behavior in Burnaby is requesting the names of offenders in the Beecher Park area from the R.C.M.P., at their discretion.

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Complaints received regarding Ron McLean Park, as outlined by the Parks and Recreation Administrator, included disturbing noises until the smaller hours of the morning, drinking, and so on.

Complaints regarding Ron McLean Park were directed at the Municipal Parks and Recreation Administrator. The Parks and Recreation Administrator, in a memo to the Youth Services Division on September 16th, outlined the complaints he had received and questioned whether or not the Youth Services Division had received any complaints. The Youth Services Division had not received any complaints but upon receipt of the Park Administrator's memo, staff of the Division did an investigation into the problematic situation reporting the following findings:

Residents in the area are extremely upset with the delinquent behavior that is being exhibited in their neighbourhood recently. Their complaints were numerous and varied. Some of the complaints were as follows:

- (1) drinking in the park and breaking bottles,
- (2) smoking marijuana in the park,
- (3) malicious damage,
- (4) one incident of a bottle being thrown through a resident's window,
- (5) one incident of a youth threatening a child with a knife,

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(6) creating a disturbance at night, and

(7) residents are unable to spend their evening leisure time in the park.

The residents generally feel that the R.C.M.P. are not providing strict enforcement in the area and they are seriously questioning why these offences are being allowed to continue. They claim that these youths are clearly breaking laws and they are getting away with it. One of the residents has sent a complaint in the form of a letter to both Mayor Tom Constable and the Attorney-General.

The Youth Services Division's staff then met with the R.C.M.P. zone commander. He concurred that there is a problem in the park; however, he does not feel that the problem is out of hand. The zone commander stated that the youths are causing a disturbance during the evening hours. However, the zone commander feels that the police are doing the best job they can considering their staff shortage and also the awkwardness of policing such a wide-open, bushy area as Ron McLean Park.

The zone commander concluded by saying that his department will continue to do their best to control the youth problems in that area.

The Youth Services Division in an effort to control these anti-social behaviors have requested the names of the offenders in an attempt to do some effective counselling with these youths.