

ITEM	19
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	23
COUNCIL MEETING	Apr. 12/76

RE: LETTER FROM MR. ROD CRUICKSHANK THAT APPEARED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE MARCH 22, 1976 MEETING OF COUNCIL.
 (ITEM 9, REPORT NO. 18, MARCH 22, 1976)

Appearing on the agenda for the March 22, 1976 meeting of Council is a request from Mr. Rod Cruickshank for permission to rent canoes at Burnaby Lake during the summer. Following is a report from the Parks and Recreation Administrator on this matter.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Rod Cruickshank.

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TO: MANAGER APRIL 9, 1976
 FROM: PARKS AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATOR
 RE: RENTAL OF CANOES AT BURNABY LAKE - LETTER FROM
 ROD CRUIKSHANK

The Parks and Recreation Commission received a further report from staff at its meeting of April 7, 1976. Staff advise that two factors to be considered are the safety of the boat user and preservation of the Bird Sanctuary, particularly in the eastern portion of the lake.

With regard to the first factor, the silty peat mixture which constitutes a very unstable condition on the perimeter of the rowing course creates a hazardous situation whenever a boat tips or a boating accident happens for some reason. Several very difficult rescue operations have been encountered to date involving competitive canoers and rowers as well as casual boaters on the rowing course.

Secondly, the preservation of the bird sanctuary on Burnaby Lake is a fundamental part of the future development of this area as a regional park and it would be virtually impossible to restrict the use of the rental boats to a specific area of the lake. This matter has been discussed with the Planning Department who support the principle of restricting access to the bird sanctuary and, therefore, also recommend against the operation of a public boating concession on the lake as this would encourage intrusion into the nesting areas at the eastern end of the lake.

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Staff have also discussed this matter with the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and have been advised that they have recently discontinued the boating concession on Lost Lagoon because of harrassment of the bird population by the public.

It is not suggested that casual public boating on the lake by individuals who bring their own craft to the site be restricted. The experience of staff to date is that the numbers using the lake on this casual basis are of minimal proportions and, in general, they have exercised responsible behaviour in relation to the bird population on the lake.

A further consideration if a public boating concession was to operate on Burnaby Lake would be the need to limit the times of operation because of the training of canoers and rowers and competitive events on the Burnaby Lake water-course.

A boating concession on Deer Lake would be a much more satisfactory type of service to the public. In the opinion of staff, Deer Lake has natural features which make it a much safer site for this type of activity and there are also guarding staff on duty during the summer months to exercise the necessary guarding and rescue operations that have been required in the operation of a concession of this type in the past. During periods of warm weather in the summer months, young people who are often the renters of the boats will swim from the craft and cause the guards at Deer Lake a great deal of concern regarding the personal safety of these individuals and a power boat is kept on alert at all times during the summer season.

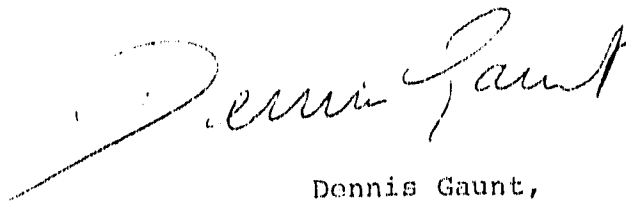
The Burnaby Family "Y" did operate a rowing boat concession at Deer Lake but chose to discontinue the operation some time ago because of the fact that the existing boats required replacement and, in their opinion, it was not economically feasible to continue the operation.

During the past few years, a private individual has operated several paddle wheel boats and canoes on Deer Lake. The individual concerned was simply given permission to operate this service with no formal agreement drawn up between her and the Corporation of the District of Burnaby.

With growing interest in a concession of this type, it would be the staff's recommendation that this matter be publicized and bids obtained for the right to operate a boating concession on Deer Lake.

The Parks and Recreation Commission adopted the recommendation that a boating concession not be permitted on Burnaby Lake but that a boating concession be permitted on Deer Lake. The Parks and Recreation staff have been instructed to obtain competitive bids for the operation of a boating concession on Deer Lake and to report back to the Commission.

This report is for the information of Council.



Dennis Gaunt,
ADMINISTRATOR.

AG:gl