

ITEM	SUPPLEMENTARY	10
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.		11
COUNCIL MEETING	1982 02	22

RE: THE USE AND PHASING OUT OF THE OAKALLA LANDS  
 A CHRONOLOGY  
 (ITEM 9, REPORT NO. 11, 1982 FEBRUARY 22)

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the attached revised chronology dated 1982 February 22 be received by Council for information purposes.

REPORT

Appearing as Item 9 on pages 120 - 124 is a chronology on Oakalla lands. A further review of events pertaining to this matter has produced four additional items which, if inserted in the chronology, would make it more meaningful and complete. The items are those that are numbered 1, 2, 3 and 17 on the revised attachment.

Council is requested to receive the revised chronology instead of the chronology that appears as item 9 on this evening's agenda.

\* \* \* \* \*

ITEM SUPPLEMENTARY	10
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	11
COUNCIL MEETING	1982 02 22

CHRONOLOGY (REVISED 1982 FEBRUARY 22)

1. 1952 October 07

Council advised Attorney General Robert Bonner that the prison farm should be removed from Burnaby and a start made on a new, modern facility at some other location.

2. 1952 October 09

Attorney General Robert Bonner replied that Burnaby's opposition to further expansion of Oakalla would be considered during a search for a permanent solution to the overall problem.

3. 1964 April 24

Attorney General Robert Bonner said that Oakalla will be abandoned in 10 years and in its place will be developed a prison organization made up of smaller institutions in scattered localities.

4. 1973 November 02

The Honourable James Lorimer, Minister of Municipal Affairs, announced that the Oakalla prison would be phased out within five years and that the prison farm area is to be developed into a park.

5. 1974 January 28

The Municipal Council approved in principle a town park concept for the Deer Lake area as contained in the report "Deer Lake Development Concept". One of the recommendations of the report which was also adopted by Council states:

"The ultimate use of the prison buildings and its surrounding areas to be the subject of a further study, but should be of a recreational and/or public nature."

6. 1974 March 11

The Attorney-General's Department indicated its acceptance in principle of the development plan as outlined in the report "Deer Lake Development Concept". The plan had designated the area presently occupied by the prison buildings for public/recreational purposes.

7. 1975 June 21

The Province and Burnaby signed an Agreement to Lease 158.34 acres of the Oakalla lands for park purposes for 99 years at one dollar a year. Provision is made for the formal lease to be executed on 1976 April 01.

8. 1976 July 19

The Municipality entered into an agreement with Charles Torrence Consultants for the preparation of a more detailed parks plan for the Deer Lake area. The concept plan as contained in the report "Deer Lake Park" was ultimately approved in principle by the Municipal Council. This concept also saw the replacement of the prison buildings by more public uses complementary to the park.

9. 1977 May 16

The Province grants a 20 year lease to Burnaby for Deer Lake for recreational purposes.

10. 1977 August 30

The Honourable Alex Fraser, Minister of Highways and Public Works, announced the formation of a committee to study the Oakalla lands with the following terms of reference:

- "1. The Committee should recommend a phase by phase dismantling of the present Oakalla site, together with recommendations for the proper use and disposition of those lands as they become available.
2. The Committee should recommend to the government the best possible use and disposition of those portions of land adjacent to Burnaby Lake (Deer Lake) and Royal Oak Avenue in Burnaby not now being used in connection with the prison. The recommendations could be consistent with proper use and the aims and aspirations of the citizens of Burnaby."

11. 1977 October 03

Burnaby in pressing the Province to execute the lease for the 158.34 acres received a letter from the Honourable Alex Fraser, Minister of Highways and Public Works which states in part:

"The June 21, 1975 agreement with the former government was an agreement with the intent to lease the land on April 1, 1976. As you know, the government changed on December 11, 1975, and we decided to have a more thorough look at this lease. Consequently, we are now striking a citizens' committee to study and recommend to the government the best use of the Oakalla lands, which include the 158 acres."

12. 1978 July 20

The Committee's report was submitted to the Honourable Alex Fraser. The report only addressed the second part of the Committee's mandate. With respect to the first part, the Oakalla Citizens Committee in its report to the Provincial Government stated:

"This report covers the disposition of one hundred and seventy-five acres of the Oakalla Lands. The balance of the land, fifty-three acres, is also of critical importance to the citizens of Burnaby. The Committee, consistent with their terms of reference, plans an active program to develop opinion and alternatives relative to the disposition of this land. It is anticipated that suitable acceptable recommendations will be placed before the government for their consideration prior to the time that these lands are available.

13. 1979 April 25

As a condition of transfer of the lower portion of the Oakalla lands to Burnaby, the Provincial Government requested Municipal concurrence of the conditions of transfer as set forth in the Oakalla Citizens Committee report. The conditions are outlined as follows:

"That the lower lands be deeded to Burnaby Municipality subject to the following provisos being accepted and implemented:

1. Burnaby irrevocably set aside both this land, and the adjacent Municipal land as presently owned, and that designated for acquisition for purposes of a park, in perpetuity, for the benefit of all the citizens of British Columbia. (Sketch and legal descriptions of subject properties included in Committee report).
2. Burnaby undertake immediately a program with respect to water quality in Deer Lake, which will include the establishment of suitable ground water improvement from the present residential areas and designated park areas to bring water quality to levels acceptable to recreational purposes before major park development is authorized.
3. Access to the land described above to be provided as soon as the conditions of these recommendations are accepted by the Municipality of Burnaby."

14. 1979 April 30

In considering the conditions of transfer of the lower portion of the Oakalla lands to Burnaby, Council adopted the following motion:

"THAT the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the District of Burnaby agree to the conditions of transfer of the lower portion of the Oakalla lands to the Corporation of the District of Burnaby as set out in the letter dated 1979 April 25 from the Honourable Elwood N. Veitch, Minister of Tourism and Small Business Development, and that the Minister be advised immediately of Council's acceptance of these conditions."

15. 1979 May 10

Documents were registered in the Land Registry Office transferring 158.34 acres of the Oakalla lands from the Province of British Columbia to The Corporation of the District of Burnaby in fee simple, subject only to the conditions previously agreed to by Council.

16. 1980 September 29

The Municipal Council approved the retention of Beak Consultants Ltd. to undertake a study of methods of maintaining and enhancing the water quality of Deer Lake for recreational purposes.

17. 1980 October and December

Attorney General Allan Williams reiterated the Provincial Government's decision to phase out Oakalla by 1985. The plan is to accomplish this by constructing a number of smaller prison facilities at other locations. Even if it is decided to keep some portion of the existing prison at the Oakalla site it will, according to the Attorney General, "be reduced in size by 75 percent."

18. 1981 January 05

Mr. F. Rhodes, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of The Attorney-General, met with former Mayor D. Mercier to ask for staff cooperation in supplying information for a feasibility study to be undertaken in connection with Oakalla.

19. 1981 May 14

The Municipal Manager met with Mr. B. May (Planner/Programmer) of B.C.B.C. and Mr. J. Carlberg (Architect) at the request of B.C.B.C. as a follow up on the meeting between Mr. Rhodes and former Mayor Mercier on 1981 January 05. At the meeting, Mr. Rhodes introduced a preliminary design for a new men's and women's maximum security prison on the Oakalla site. The proposal being developed also contemplates the removal of all but two of the existing buildings. The male prison population will be 150 and will require maximum security based on sentencing. The female population will be 117 and will cover those sentenced and those being remanded.

20. 1981 June 02

The Municipal Manager outlines to Mr. F. Rhodes the reasons why the construction of a new men's and women's maximum security prison on the Oakalla uplands is in direct opposition to Municipal policies for the area.

21. 1981 September 23

The secretary of the Oakalla Citizens Committee confirms that the Committee has been disbanded and will not be reviewing the future use of the area presently occupied by the Oakalla prison as was set out in its original terms of reference.

22. 1981 September 28

Council inquired about the status of any redevelopment plans that might be under consideration for the Oakalla lands.

23. 1981 October 21

In response to Council's inquiry the matter was referred to Mr. Frank A. Rhodes, Assistant Deputy Minister of Support Services in the Office of The Attorney-General. His reply to the Municipal Manager was as follows:

"Thank you for your correspondence of September 30 dealing with the above matter and advising of questions raised at Municipal Council dealing with this issue. In the interval since our exchange of correspondence in June 1981 staff of this Ministry with the British Columbia Buildings Corporation, have continued to develop proposals for the general development of correctional facilities in this Province. Included in those proposals were preliminary recommendations to the Attorney General to reduce the capacity of facilities presently located on the Oakalla properties. This would entail the development of one new facility for sentenced males and an additional facility for remanded and sentenced female offenders. I would clearly underline that these proposals have been developed as a result of feasibility studies only for the consideration of the Attorney General. It is my understanding that the Attorney General is considering these matters, with his colleagues, and will therefore be meeting with the Mayor and Council of the Corporation of Burnaby concerning the Ministry's intention.

I trust this provides the information which you require and I would be pleased to keep you posted further as discussions with the Attorney General continue."

24. 1981 November 02

Former Mayor D. Mercier received a copy of a letter from the Honourable Allan Williams, Attorney General which states in part:

"The current facilities for males and for females on the Oakalla site are outdated and require replacement. Consequently, a feasibility study concerning the development of alternative facilities has recently been undertaken. The recommendation of the study is to reduce the approximate 750 bed capacity currently on the Oakalla properties to 289 beds. This would include a 150 bed facility for sentenced males and a 127 bed facility for remanded and sentenced female offenders. Clearly, the recommendations do not include an expansion, but rather propose a significant reduction in the number of prisoners to be held on the Oakalla property.

I expect to be taking these recommendations to Cabinet shortly for their review and for a decision on the future of Oakalla lands."

25. 1981 November 09

Former Mayor D. Mercier reported to Council on information that he had received from the Attorney General's Office. The report noted that the Provincial Government has sole authority on this matter; however, the Attorney-General and his senior staff have given an assurance that Burnaby Council will be kept fully informed prior to any decision being taken by the Provincial Government on Oakalla.

The Mayor met with the Premier, Attorney General and the Minister of Provincial Secretary & Government Services to present Burnaby's case for the phasing out of the prison facilities at Oakalla. The Provincial authorities made only one commitment: That there will be no re-construction on the site for five years.

27. 1982 February 08

Council passed the following resolutions:

"WHEREAS the citizens of Burnaby have for many years and by subsequent Provincial Governments been led to believe that the Lower Mainland Regional Correctional Centre would be phased out; and

WHEREAS a Provincial Government appointed citizens committee was given terms of reference as follows: 'The committee should recommend a phase by phase dismantling of the present Oakalla site, together with recommendations for the proper use and disposition of those lands as they become available'; and

WHEREAS many of the citizens of Burnaby feel that the Oakalla buildings have outlived their usefulness and are not compatible with abutting parkland uses; and

WHEREAS the present Council has not, by resolution, stated a policy with regard to the Oakalla prison;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Burnaby Council request the British Columbia Provincial Government that they take steps to phase out as soon possible the Lower Mainland Regional Correctional Centre generally known as Oakalla prison and the the buildings be demolished; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we also request that there be no construction of a prison facility to take place in this area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Attorney General be advised of this Council's policy by letter, with copies to the Premier and to the Minister responsible for the British Columbia Buildings Corporation."

28. 1982 February 15

Council passed the following resolution:

"THAT the Provincial Cabinet be requested to provide Burnaby with a signed commitment by agreement and that said agreement to close Oakalla include firm dates for the complete dismantling of the prison buildings.

29. 1982 February 18

Staff expects a draft report on the water quality study from Beak Consultants Ltd. in late February. It is expected that this will be ready for referral to Council sometime in March.

\* \* \* \* \*