

R E P O R T S
Regular Council Meeting
1984 July 09

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY

TO: MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
RE: PIONEER TALES - AN HISTORIC RECORD

Madam and Gentlemen:

I am attaching for Council's information the two former reports with reference to the Pioneer Tales, an historic record:

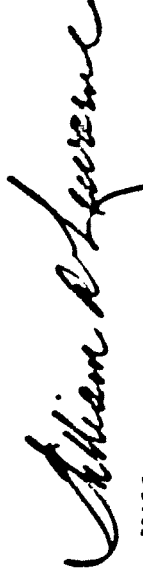
- (a) Former Mayor Mercier's report of 1981 November 16, where Council approved \$10,000. to spend; and
- (b) My report of 1983 August 08, where a suggestion was made that the Author make application for a Canada Council Explorations Grant.

Also attached, is the present proposal by Mr. Michael Sone.

Since this publication has been dragging on for such a long time, and since I believe it is of considerable importance to the community, I would recommend as follows:

1. THAT Mr. Michael Sone be retained to author Burnaby Pioneer Tales at a fee of \$5,000.
2. THAT an honorarium be given to selected Burnaby students to assist in the research, interviewing and writing, in the amount of \$2,500.
3. THAT publication fees to photo file agencies for pictures to be used in modern-day Burnaby sections be approved in the amount of \$500., with the leasing of word processing equipment to facilitate editing and compiling of materials in the additional amount of \$2,000.

Respectfully submitted,



William A. Lewarne,
M A Y O R

Agenda 1984 July 09

COPIES:- MANAGER
- DIRECTOR FINANCE

~~R E P O R T S
Regular Council Meeting
1983 August 08~~

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY

TO: MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

RE: "PIONEER TALES" - HISTORICAL RECORD

Madam and Gentlemen:

In response to the item of correspondence from Mrs. Pixie McGeachie appearing on this week's Agenda, I must report the status of Burnaby "Pioneer Tales".

On November 16, 1981, the then Mayor, Mayor David M. Mercier, reported and received approval from Council for the expenditure of \$10,000. for the publication of this historical document (report attached). This amount was not placed in a reserve.

Since that time, we have contacted some of the persons who attended the 1981 Pioneer Tea, using the resources of the Journalism classes of B.C.I.T. and Burnaby Secondary Schools. This information has added to the essay file that we have for this publication.

I have discussed with the former Mayor the commitments that he had with Mr. Michael Sone, the author, as well as the costs that would be associated with Mr. Sone's work. There appears to be some commitment to have Mr. Sone do the work for the fee of \$10,000.

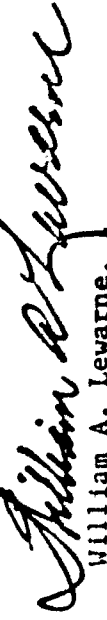
Several months back, Mrs. McGeachie offered her services to myself as a potential author to complete the work to publishable form, the fee for her services to be based on the amount of time required. Mrs. McGeachie was the author of "Bygone Days Of Burnaby".

Because I am informed that the total cost for publishing such an historical record could be as high as \$30,000., with a recovery by sales of the book, I investigated the possibility of a Canada Council Grant through our local M.P., Mr. Svend Robinson. He reported that Canada Council Grants are only available to individuals. It was suggested that the author who does the re-writes of stories could qualify for a Canada Council Exploration Program Grant. When the re-writing is done and passed through a publisher under the program, the publisher may then apply for a publisher's grant. The deadline is September 15th but approval will not be allocated until January of '84. Again, no grants can be given to municipalities or Cities.

I would therefore recommend:

- (1) That the Mayor be given the authority to select the author.
- (2) That the author make application for a Canada Council Grant under the Exploration Program.
- (3) At the completion of the manuscript, the Mayor be authorized to select a publisher.
- (4) The publisher make application to the Canada Council for a publisher's grant.
- (5) That the Mayor report from time to time on the progress of

Respectfully submitted,


William A. Lewarne,
MAYOR

~~REPORT~~
~~Regular Council Meeting~~
~~1981 November 16~~

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY

TO: MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

RE: "BURNABY PIONEER TALES" - HISTORICAL RECORD

There were two major events which highlighted the current term of office of this Council and stimulated an overwhelming response from our early "pioneers". One was the "Tea With The Mayor And Council" held in May, 1980, and the other was "Burnaby Pioneer Tales Contest" culminating in a reception and presentation of prizes to the finalists in August of this year.

We have since received many calls from the "pioneers" as well as those who read their stories, and all have expressed keen interest in having a book made of the "pioneer tales" and other interviews that would be conducted with almost 500 pioneers who attended the "Tea".

For obvious reasons, the sooner such a project is underway, the better.

The financial exposure for the production of the book is estimated to range from \$10,000. loss after the sale of the books at say \$10.00 a book, to \$10,000. profit within a three to four-year period.

It is recommended that Council sponsor the book from Contingency Funds in the Budget, subject to an acceptable financial report showing publication costs and expected revenues.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Mercier,
M A Y O R

BURNABY PIONEER TALES - A Proposal and Request

Mr. Mayor and members of Municipal Council ... three years ago, I was asked by Mayor David M. Mercier to help launch Burnaby Pioneer Tales Contest, an idea he had had for some time. Subsequently, I set the guidelines, wrote the rules, arranged for publicity and served on the panel of judges along with Burnaby Today editor Renee Blackstone and then-alderman Bill Lewarne.

The contest was a marvellous success. Most of the 2,000-word entries, first-person reminiscences of Burnaby prior to 1930, were up to excellent literary standards, and interesting and informative as well. So good, in fact, that Vancouver Sun Page Six editor Trevor Lautens was delighted when I asked him to consider winning stories for publication. After screening the winning entries, he selected second-place finisher Mrs. Frances L. Fleming and agreed with me that the achievement level was astonishing indeed.

The contest itself galvanized Burnaby's senior citizens into action and provided an invaluable chronicle of municipality history. Mayor Mercier told the participants [\$2,000 in prizes distributed, with each also receiving a special wood plaque], promised them, that the entries would eventually be edited and published as a "coffee-table book" which could be sold and/or given as gifts by the municipality to visiting dignitaries.

At the same time, the judges recommended that when the works were published, first-person stories from ethnic pioneers (i.e. Chinese farmers, East Indian lumber operators, etc.) should be added, the fear being such stories were not forthcoming because of the language barrier. We also knew, of course, that holes in the chronology would have to be plugged. Many of the entrants called to offer us use of old photos from the family album.

I must say without prejudice that I was not paid a penny for the long hours involved, the tacit understanding being that I would eventually be hired to edit, lay out and otherwise complete the

(2)

book. In fact, I clearly recall the figure \$10,000 banded around as a fee.

Earlier this year I applied for a Canada Council grant of \$10,000 with the backing of the municipality. Recommendations from Mayor Mercier and Vancouver Sun columnist Denny Boyd were enclosed. For reasons unexplained, the request was turned down [a funding shortage is suspected] but a warm letter from the Explorations section of Canada Council praised the project, and hoped that somehow our goal of publication would be realized.

It is with this background in mind that I ask for a \$10,000 grant from Municipal Council. As I have further outlined below, this would bring us to the "publication-ready" stage, the first step of a twofold project.

- MICHAEL SONE

WHAT WE PRESENTLY HAVE are 40-plus submissions which provide a unique and fairly comprehensive history of the municipality up to 1930.

WHAT WE MUST DO to achieve a smooth chronology is (1) fill in the holes by interviewing selected pioneers; (2) interview selected ethnic minority pioneers; and (3) edit and, if necessary, beef up existing stories.

WHAT WE MUST ALSO DO is the following:

- (1) Borrow photos offered by entrants, choose, size, write captions and lay out with stories which would be divided into decades;
- (2) Write heads and italic overlead connectors;
- (3) Select color photos, lay out and write captions for a pictorial addendum on modern-day Burnaby.

(3)

APPROXIMATE BREAKDOWN OF \$10,000 GRANT:

"Honoraria" to selected Burnaby students to research, interview and write	\$2,500
Publication fees to photo file agency for pictures to be used in modern-day Burnaby section	500
Leasing of word processing services to facilitate editing and compiling of material	2,000
Author's fee to Michael Sone	5,000

\$10,000

DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION

December 31, 1984 if the summer period can be used by vacationing students for research etc. as previously outlined.

MONITORING THE PROJECT

I would request that a councillor be appointed as a liaison and overseer.

REFERENCES

References as to the writer's literary ability and personal integrity are available upon request.

PUBLICATION

I offer my services to seek a commercial sponsor to either underwrite wholly, or defray, the costs of eventual publication which, I repeat, is the subsequent step and is not considered here. This proposal, if fulfilled, brings us to the "publication-ready" or "ready-for-typesetting" stage.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Sone
MICHAEL SONE

June, 1984