

1994 MARCH 09

TO: CITY MANAGER

FROM: DIRECTOR RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO BURNABY'S HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE: To provide supplementary information regarding organizations which have contributed to Burnaby's historical development in connection with the Gavel Society's proposal for a Museum building.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

Arising from the proposal by the Gavel Society to build a facsimile heritage lodge at Burnaby Village Museum have been questions regarding the recognition of various citizen organizations which have contributed to Burnaby's historical development.

The following points are made for Council's guidance.

1. Such recognition is considered to be an important part of Burnaby's Museum experience.
2. The nature of our current "living" Museum limits the opportunity for such recognition.
3. The construction of the proposed facsimile lodge building would allow an immediate opportunity to enter into such a program.
4. The Gavel Society representative concurs that this is a desirable use for this building.
5. Parks and Recreation Museum staff will undertake to start a process of canvassing Burnaby citizens to establish the number, scope and activities of organizations that might qualify under this process. Following which, a draft proposal could be prepared for the consideration of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Some preliminary work has already been conducted along these lines. Early in 1993, the Museum staff did a preliminary survey of women's organizations which had contributed to Burnaby's development. It was our intention to build on this as time permits. A two page copy of the preliminary findings is attached for information. Additional work is called for.

6. The proposed displays would be more than just the placing of plaques. By way of illustration, the Museum staff are completing a project at the entrance to the Museum which outlines some of Burnaby's history in words, photographs, and artifacts. Copies of photographs of this display will be available at the Council meeting to illustrate the type of display that could be used to fulfil this new "citizens organizations" objective.
7. The project would be included in that part of the building which is being turned over to Burnaby for our direct use.
8. Examples of such organizations are:
 - The Knights of Columbus
 - Victorian Order of Nurses
 - The Independent Order of Foresters (Seaforth Court at Lozells Hall and Burnaby Court at St. Albans Hall, Edmonds and Canada Way)
 - The Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire
 - Boy Scouts of Canada
 - Girl Guides of Canada



DENNIS GAUNT
Director Recreation &
Cultural Services

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Women's Organizations in Burnaby Prior to 1926

During the time period of Burnaby Village Museum (1890 to 1925), men often joined formal clubs which met at distinct club "headquarters" outside the home, such as a lodge or clubhouse. Women's organizations tended to be oriented toward community service, and much of their work was done from members' homes, churches or schools.

Women's Organizations in Burnaby

The following organizations are known to have been active in Burnaby during our time period:

- Victorian Order of Nurses (V.O.N.)
- Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire (I.O.D.E.)
- Girl Guides
- Women's Institute
- Woman's Benefit Association (Burnaby Heights area)

Women also worked on committees associated with local churches and schools. Because women's groups tended to be home-based and informal, they do not always appear in the "official" histories. Some of those which have been recorded in local history publications and historical records include:

* Woman's Benefit Association, Vancouver Heights Chapter, No. 16, under Commander Mrs. Emma Hutchinson of 3880 East Georgia Street (1925-26).

* I.O.D.E. - The 1st "Col. Burnaby Chapter" was organized c. 1914 by Mrs. Peers (who lived near Sperling and Douglas Rd.). It provided money for Burnaby's fighting men in World War I, and also served as a social outlet for young people.

* I.O.D.E. - The 2nd & 3rd chapters ("Campbell Collins Chapter" and "Col. Hart McHarg Chapter") were set up in 1916. They were named for Burnaby servicemen who had lost their lives in the war. They provided small luxuries for Burnaby servicemen overseas.

* Girl Guides - This group was active by 1914. They rolled bandages, knitted socks, sponsored a bed at Royal Columbian Hospital and printed a newspaper for local men overseas during World War I.

* V.O.N. - This group was established in Burnaby by 1912 and a nurse named Miss Calhoun was hired in 1913.

The V.O.N. was absorbed into the Burnaby Health Department as the "Home Care Service" in 1976.

* Mrs. Lohead's boarding house near Curtis St. served as an informal meeting place for community groups such as the Ratepayers, and was also the venue for a concert series organized and hosted by Mrs. Lohead during the winter of 1912-13.

* Mrs. W. G. Broom served as Superintendent of a Sunday School at Duthie School for 14 years, beginning in 1911.

Women's history in Burnaby is an area in which more research is required.

Other Organizations Active in B.C.

The following organizations were active in B.C. during our time period, and may well have had members from the Burnaby area, although more research would be required to document this:

- Graduate Nurses' Association of B.C.
- University Women's Club of Vancouver
- National Council of Jewish Women (Vancouver, 1924)
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (mid-1920's)
- Political Equality League (became the New Era League in 1916)
- Vancouver Women's Canadian Club
- Vancouver Local Council of Women
- Suffrage League of Canada

Other Organizations Active in Canada

The following organizations were active in Canada during our time period, and may have had members from the Burnaby area, although more research would be required to document this:

- Canadian Girls in Training (C.G.I.T.)
- Junior Red Cross
- Women's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.)
- Young Women's Christian Association (Y.W.C.A.)
- Catholic Women's League of Canada (C.W.L.C.)