

ITEM	4
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	20
COUNCIL MEETING	94/03/28

TO: CITY MANAGER 1994 MARCH 23

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING OUR FILE: 11.800

SUBJECT: **OPENING OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION  
CENTRE ON SATURDAY 1994 APRIL 09**

PURPOSE: To provide Council with information on the new environmental education centre and the official opening and open house on 1994 April 09.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to the Burnaby School Board.

**R E P O R T**

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

In 1993 February, City Council adopted a motion directing staff to investigate the feasibility of establishing an environmental resource and education centre at a suitable location in Burnaby in conjunction with the Burnaby School Board. Subsequent investigations by staff and discussions with the School Board identified city-owned property in the 4800 block Still Creek Avenue next to Burnaby's recycling depot. This location is across the street from the GVRD compost demonstration garden which provides excellent access for school children to both these facilities. A plan for locating a classroom-sized building at the site was developed by the City and School Board. In 1993 August City Council authorized staff to proceed with establishing the centre.

Early in 1994, the centre was complete and ready for occupancy. The City provided the portable building which is designed as a classroom. A variety of environmentally friendly features including extra exterior wall insulation, double-glazed windows and Powersmart approved electrical fixtures improve the classroom's energy efficiency. The building is also equipped with low flow plumbing fixtures. Motion sensors on office and washroom light switches automatically turn off lights when these rooms are vacant. The building and washrooms are wheelchair accessible.

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The School Board provided furnishings for the building including tables, chairs, desks, audio-visual equipment, and a wide range of educational materials. Whenever possible, furnishings containing recycled materials or classified as Powersmart were chosen. Burnaby science teachers developed educational materials for exploring various properties of water, the first educational theme to be featured at the centre. Self-contained kits for conducting the various activities are available for classes to use on visits to the centre. The centre will not be staffed and will be made available on a pre-booking basis.

The day-to-day running of the centre is covered by an operating agreement between the City and the School Board. Council authorized the execution of the agreement in 1993 October.

## 2.0 OFFICIAL OPENING AND OPEN HOUSE

The official opening of the centre, co-hosted by the City and the School Board, is scheduled for Saturday 1994 April 09 at 10:00 a.m. A name for the centre was selected through a contest open to students in the Burnaby School District 41. A sign with the winning name, "Burnaby Environmental Classroom", will be unveiled and a tree will be planted next to the building.

The opening will be followed by an open house that will last until noon. Burnaby School District students will demonstrate various science activities using the self-contained kits prepared for the centre. Councillors, school trustees and other elected officials will be invited to the opening. Newspapers advertisements in the community newspapers will extend the invitation to all Burnaby residents.

  
D. G. Stenson, Director  
PLANNING & BUILDING

  
SGdb

cc: Director Administrative & Community Services  
Director Engineering  
City Clerk  
City Solicitor