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TO: HIS WORSHIP, MAYOR W.J.COPELAND AND COUNCILLORS DATE: 1995 JAN. 26

FROM: COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION OUR FILE NO:

SUBJECT: BURNABY HERITAGE CREEK NAME PROJECT

PURPOSE: To obtain Council approval of historic and community names for 26 Burnaby Creeks

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council approve the final list of 26 historic and community names gathered by Phase I of the Heritage Creek Name Project outlined in Appendix I of this report

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND:

The Heritage Creek Name Project began in 1993 as part of the City of Burnaby's River's Day Program and the production of the 'Waterways of Burnaby' Map. The map project was produced as a joint project of the Heritage Advisory Committee and Environment and Waste Management Committee. The Heritage Committee requested the public's assistance in discovering historic and community names of Burnaby creeks.

It was determined through discussions with Members of Council, City Committees and staff that providing every creek in the City with a name, whether historically used or provided by the community during a public process, would assist with the City's goal of waterway preservation and enhancement. A complete map of names would provide a common understanding of each creek's unique identity, drainage course, and facilitate improved communication between all groups involved in waterway management.

At present, creeks throughout the City have been given different names or numerical designations by City departments, community organizations and other levels of government including the Department of Fisheries. Common agreement on names would also allow for future joint projects involving signage of creeks and greater public awareness of the 60 creeks which remain in an open condition throughout the City of Burnaby.

2.0 PHASE I - HISTORIC AND COMMUNITY CREEK NAMES:

The first phase of the project involved the publication and distribution of the Waterways of Burnaby Map in 1993 (see attachment). The map has been widely acclaimed as a successful project by residents. Over 6,000 copies of the map have been distributed to the public through the schools, libraries and at River's Day events throughout the City. The map has also been used by other municipalities and government agencies which have requested the map as an example of their own public awareness projects.

The Heritage Advisory Committee chose to extend the duration of the distribution of the map and allow a number of newspaper articles to appear which would highlight the project to the community. The intention was to allow for more time to obtain additional names from the general public whether they were used historically or currently. In total the Heritage Creek Name project generated eleven formal responses, eight phone calls and three letters. In addition, staff continued to cull historic source material for as many references to Burnaby creek names as was possible. The original Waterways of Burnaby map offered the names currently used for creeks and any names known to have been in general use historically or currently in the City's three watersheds. At present there are 60 open water ways of which only 26 have names attributed to them. Appendix I provides a complete list of City creeks with a historical attribution to names commonly used by the community in the past or currently. The Heritage Commission is requesting that Council adopt these historic names as permanent names for future use by City departments and outside agencies in all future map and signage projects.

3.0 PHASE II - BURNABY CREEK NAMING PROJECT:

The second phase of the project is to obtain names and suggestions from the community for the 34 unnamed creeks of the City. This should be seen as an opportunity to raise public awareness and interest in this civic heritage and environmental resource.

The Community Heritage Commission proposes to conduct a process to select names for the 34 creeks in the City which do not currently have historic or community name. This initiative could be launched as part of the City's Environment Week held in June, 1995 which will involve the community, local clubs and associations, schools, post secondary institutions, businesses and Committees of Council.

The overall aim of the project is to establish a unique local identity and promote the awareness of every City waterway. The process would include approaching local schools and community groups to make specific suggestions for creeks in their immediate neighbourhoods. In addition, the wider community would be encouraged to offer suggestions through newspaper articles and a travelling display. This co-operative process would serve to encourage the widest variety of interested individuals and groups in the community. The names submitted would be reviewed by the Community Heritage Commission and selections made for Council approval.

The process could be concluded in time for River's Day in September, 1995 when the final list of names could be announced by Council.

4.0 CONCLUSION:

The Heritage Creek Name Project has been very successful in documenting historical and community names for 26 creeks; 12 of which have been previously unknown and not documented by the City. The proposal to establish community derived names for the balance of 34 unnamed creeks will provide an excellent opportunity to raise public awareness concerning this important heritage resource. The ongoing opportunity to provide a common understanding of the unique routes and character of each waterway would be enhanced.

D. A. Lawson
Chair

D. P. Drummond
Vice Chair

Members:

Ron Brown
Allen Diamond
Linda Johnston
Lee Lightfoot
Pixie McGeachie
Lauren Prentice
Jennifer Ryan
Lorraine Shore

APPENDIX I

BURNABY CREEK NAMES

BURRARD INLET WATERSHED

The Burrard Inlet Watershed includes fourteen open waterways of which only one creek has been named. A total of thirteen creeks remain to be named.

Rainbow Creek (Recently discovered historic name)

The name Rainbow Creek for the waterway in Confederation Park was submitted by Mr. George Pendencygrasse a Vancouver Heights pioneer resident who remembered the children of the area naming it after the Rainbow Trout there as early as 1912.

CENTRAL VALLEY WATERSHED

The Central Valley Watershed includes the valley and hills of central Burnaby which drains through the Brunette River to the Fraser River. For the interest of clarity this watershed has been defined by the drainage areas of Deer Lake and Burnaby Lake.

DEER LAKE WATERWAYS

Deer Lake has nine waterways of which only three have been named. A total of six creeks remain to be named.

Deer Lake Brook

As the only outflow of the Deer Lake it has been logically dubbed this name historically. Once known as Little Lake or Small Lake in relation to Burnaby Lake, Deer Lake was named in the 1880s being well known for its abundant game.

Buckingham Creek

This name appears to have been used in modern times to reflect its path through the historic 1912 Buckingham Street subdivision and the more modern Buckingham Heights neighbourhood.

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Beaver Creek (Recently discovered historic name)

This creek which provides the main flow into Deer Lake was named "Deer Creek" on some 1912 Engineering Department maps. However, long-time Burnaby residents Dinty Moore and Dave Bellinger, who both responded to our project, were vehement that throughout the 1920s and 30s the waterway was known to "everyone" as Beaver Creek. Given that Beavers continue to dam the stream it would appear that this unique historic name should be retained for use.

BURNABY LAKE

Burnaby Lake has twenty-seven waterways of which twelve have been named. In total fifteen creeks remain to be named.

Still Creek

Named Still Creek since the 1890's because of the placid surface of the waterway, this historic name has been gazetted with the B.C. Geographical Names Unit.

Spring Brook (Recently discovered historic name)

This name was provided by Flora and Margaret McCallum pioneer residents of the Broadview District who remembered this name being used by area residents as early as 1912. The name refer to the Brook having flowed throughout the summer months from a artesian spring which kept the water cold and clear.

Chub Creek (Recently discovered historic name)

Mr. Ken Mabbut related the name of Chub Creek for a northern branch of Still Creek which remains open today through the Bridge Business Park. Although named after the Chub fish that likely frequented its muddy waters Mr. Mabbut recalled that in the 1930s that no chub were to be found there.

Guichon Creek (Recently discovered historic name)

This historic name was taken from the Charles Guichon family who owned District Lot 33 from 1883 to 1908 and had a hunting cabin at the ravine near Willingdon and Moscrop.

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Beecher Creek

This creek has been known as Beecher Creek for many years. A Mr. Jimmy Beecher was a local character who owned a farm on Springer Avenue where today Beecher Park is located. Mr. D.H. Stevens remembered that as far back as the 1930's this creek did not have a name. When Mr. Beecher's farm became Beecher Park the creek soon became associated with this name.

Eagle Creek

This name refers to the pair of American Bald Eagles which nested in a fir tree at the mouth of this creek at Burnaby Lake in the early 1900s and were known to the community of Lozells.

Silver Creek (Recently discovered historic name)

This name is mentioned in a number of sources, as early as 1942. It might refer to the American term "Silver Salmon" used to describe the Coho species.

Stoney Creek

This name has been gazetted with the B.C. Geographical Names Unit and refers to the stoney stream bed of Burnaby Mountains largest waterway.

Brunette River

This is Burnaby's oldest waterway name having been placed on the first hydrographic chart of the Fraser River printed in 1860 and it remains gazetted with the B.C. Geographical Names Unit. It was named upon its discovery in 1858 by the Royal Engineers based in Sapperton because of its brown waters stained by the peat bog of Burnaby Lake.

Buena Vista Creek (Recently discovered historic name)

This creek wends its way through the old Buena Vista subdivision which opened in 1911 on the Burnaby Lake Interurban line.

Ramsay Creek (Recently discovered historic name)

This creek forms the major element of Robert Burnaby Park and was in the 1930s named Massey Creek after the Massey family who lived as caretakers in the park. However, Betty Massey was adamant that the name should be Ramsay Creek as it was known by before her family moved into the park. The Ramsay home was built there in 1905 and they were residents until the early 1920's.

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Lubbock's Creek (Recently discovered historic name)

This creek runs through the Lubbock's Woods Park which was once part of the farm at the corner of Canada Way and Burris Street operated by the Lubbock family between 1912-1975.

FRASER RIVER WATERSHED

The Fraser River Watershed includes all those open waterways which drain the south slope of Burnaby directly into the Fraser River. Of the ten creeks that remain all have been given a historic or community name.

Boundary Creek

A modern creek name which refers to the location of the creek at Boundary Road.

Kaymar Creek

Named after Kaymar Drive this name replaced the name of Dump Creek used in the 1930s which referred to the garbage dump that filled the ravine above Rumble Street.

Glen-Lyon Creek (Recently discovered Historic name)

Named after the Glen-Lyon Estate (now the New Haven Correctional Centre) built by Duncan Campbell MacGregor in 1902 which was named after a place near his former home in Scotland.

Sussex Creek

Named after nearby Sussex Avenue which was opened in 1912 and named after Sussex, England.

Gray Creek

Named after nearby Gray Avenue which is believed to have been named after Peter Gray a pioneer resident of the Central Park District.

Froggers Creek

This creek flowed from a large pond located north of Sidely Street which was famous locally for containing a large number of frogs.

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John Matthews Creek

This creek appears not to have had a historic name. In 1972 the park was named John Matthews Creek Ravine Park as a "memorial" for this active member of the Parent Advisory Committee for Clinton Elementary School serving as President from 1967-69.

Power House Creek (Recently discovered historic name)

This now small arm of Byrne Creek once provided the water to feed the steam-powered electric generating engines of the Westminster and Vancouver Railway Company Power House located at Griffiths Avenue. Its name was supplied by Mr. Dugald Patterson an early resident of the Edmonds District.

Byrne Creek

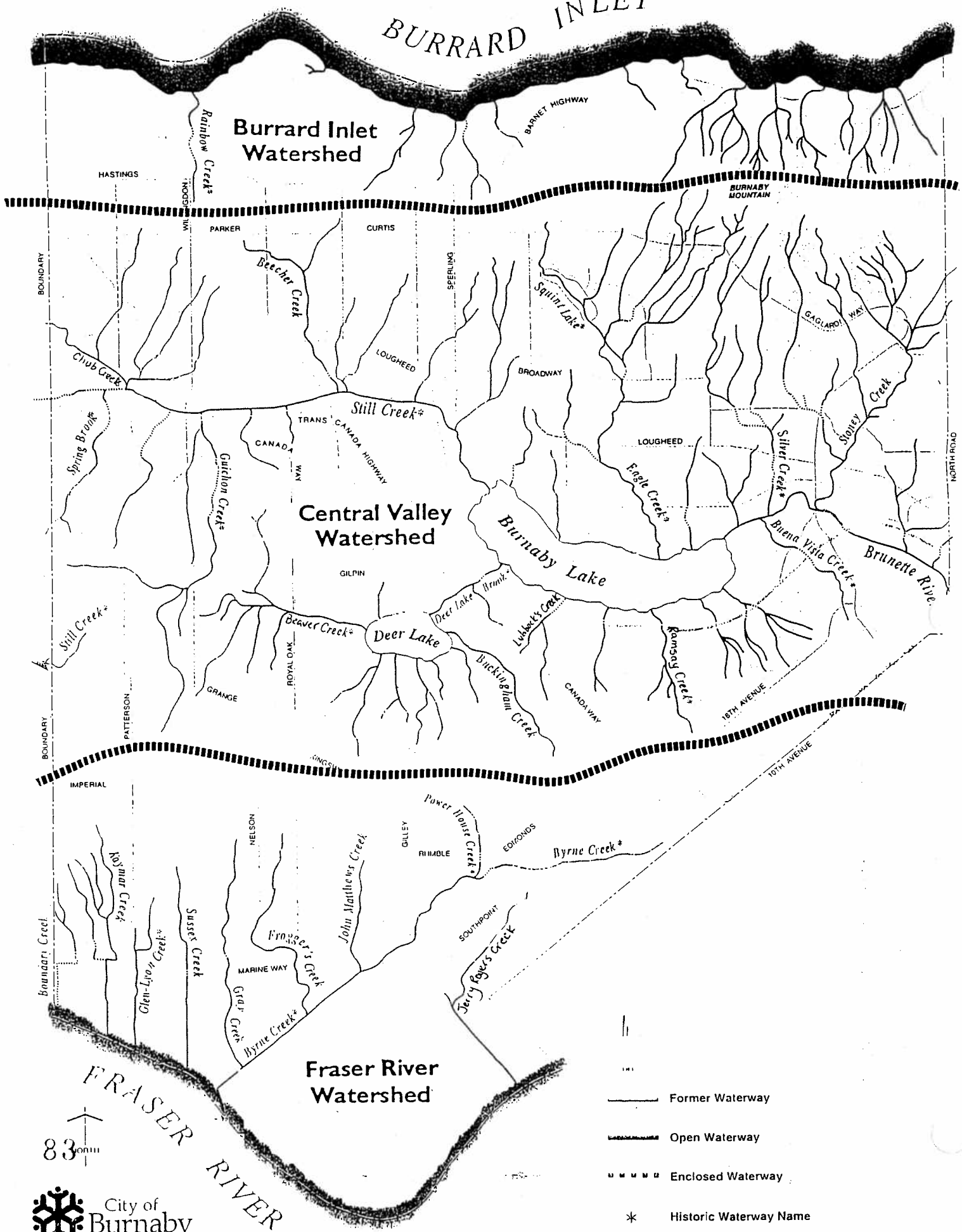
The largest of South Slope creeks Byrne Creek was once known briefly as Woolard's Brook and once flowed eastwards through the Big Bend bog. It was rerouted in 1893 by Peter Byrne along Byrne Road and has been known as Byrne Creek ever since.

Jerry Rogers Creek (Recently discovered historic name)

Pioneer west coast logger Jerry Rogers used this creek to feed a system of ditches to float logs to the Fraser River and up river to New Westminster sawmills in the 1870s and 1880s.

JW:yg




BURRARD INLET



Burrard Inlet Watershed

Central Valley Watershed

Fraser River Watershed

-  Former Waterway
-  Open Waterway
-  Enclosed Waterway
- * Historic Waterway Name

Note: This map represents approximate routing and status of Burnaby's waterways. It is not intended for legal purposes and is subject to future revisions and corrections.



City of Burnaby

Heritage Advisory Committee
Environment and Waste Management Committee

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