

REPORT
1998 July 13

CITY OF BURNABY

TO: BURNABY CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

SUBJECT: HISTORY OF BURNABY MOUNTAIN PARK TRAIL NAMES

PURPOSE: To respond to correspondence received by Council on 1998 March 23 from Mrs. Winn Roff regarding the historic development and name of a Burnaby Mountain trail.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration.

REPORT

The Community Heritage Commission, at its meeting held on 1998 June 18 received the attached report responding to correspondence received by Council on 1998 March 23 from Mrs. Winn Roff regarding the historic development and name of a Burnaby Mountain trail referred to in the past as "Joe's Trail", "Burnaby Mountain Trail" and "Centennial Trail".

Arising from consideration of the history of the trail which spans over at least forty years, the Community Heritage Commission unanimously recommended that the subject trail be officially named "BURNABY MOUNTAIN PARK TRAIL" and that the Parks and Recreation Commission be so advised.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Doreen Lawson
CHAIR

Councillor Celest Redman
VICE CHAIR

COPY: City Manager Director Planning and Building Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
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TO: COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION
FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING
SUBJECT: History of Burnaby Mountain Park Trail Names

1998 June 10

Our File: 10.346

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Community Heritage Commission request that Council forward this information report to the Parks and Recreation Commission for their information.

REPORT

1.0 Background:

Council, at the regular Council meeting held on 1998 March 23 received the correspondence from Mrs. Winn Roff regarding the historic development and name of a Burnaby Mountain trail now commonly referred to as "Joe's Trail".

Arising from this correspondence, Council resolved to refer the letter to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Community Heritage Commission for consideration.

The Community Heritage Commission, at its meeting held on 1998 April 09, received the above noted letter and adopted the following recommendation: "THAT the letter regarding the Burnaby Mountain Trail be referred to staff for report regarding the history and naming of the trail."

2.0 Historical Review of Trail Names:

"Burnaby Mountain Trail"

The Burnaby Mountain Trail was created in 1958-59 by the Burnaby Horseman's Association as a bridle path along the north edge of Burnaby Mountain Park. According to Wynn Roff the trail was first blazed by herself, Isabel Heard and Phil Kine. It incorporated sections of old logging trails.

The name "Burnaby Mountain Trail", as the path was called by the Horseman's Association, was not approved officially by the Burnaby Parks and Recreation Commission. The name does not appear to have been officially adopted and no community maps incorporated this name.

"Centennial Trail"

In 1967 the Canadian Youth Hostel Association initiated a Canadian Centennial project termed the "Centennial Trail". This was envisioned as a hiking trail that would stretch from Simon Fraser University on Burnaby Mountain to Merritt. Later the trail concept was extended to Alberta.

A few documents have been located that outline the extent of this trail, which confirms that it utilized part of the original "Burnaby Mountain Trail". Several small plaques marking the trail were affixed to trees to commemorate this trail which was officially dedicated on September 15, 1967 by Recreation and Conservation Minister W.K. Kiernan. Burnaby Parks and Recreation Commission were involved with this project and provided some approvals.

The name "Centennial Trail" has been all but forgotten on Burnaby Mountain. It was rediscovered in 1992 when it was suggested that a trail be named in honour of Burnaby's Centennial and records determined that this trail name already existed.

Recently the original concept of the Centennial Trail has been reborn as the Trans-Canada trail system which will use part of the original Centennial Trail on Burnaby Mountain.

"Joe's Trail"

When Simon Fraser University was established in 1965 the old Burnaby Mountain park trails became intensely utilized by students and faculty. In 1969, a Kinesiology Department project was undertaken by Mr. William Ross, assisted by Dr. Eric Bannister.

This project or experiment centred on the belief that exercise could improve the human condition. Several candidates from Vancouver's "Skid Row" were selected to conduct the series of exercises that were intended to improve the candidates' cardio-vascular health. Two candidates identified for privacy purposes only as "Joe" and "Mel" also undertook clearing and improving trails as part of the project. Their efforts were 'immortalized' through the naming of trails in their honor; a connecting trail was dubbed Cardiac Hill.

It should be noted that these trail names were widely promoted through signs and published maps and later by organizations such as the S.F.U. Outdoor Club and the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society. They have become standard terms used widely by the University and some community groups and also for general identification through the Burnaby Mountain Management Plan.

COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

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3.0 Conclusion:

The history of the trail in question spans over at least forty years in time. The common usage of various names has been sporadic and tied to the trail's use and sponsorship over time. The current name "Joe's Trail" is known to some park users, but has never been made official by the Parks and Recreation Department upon the recent transfer of the lands to the City of Burnaby from the Province. The term Centennial Trail was approved in the past and covers at least part of the trail system in use on Burnaby Mountain today.

As the Parks and Recreation Department is currently undertaking the Burnaby Mountain Park Management Plan, it would be appropriate to provide this historic review of park trail names to the Parks and Recreation Commission for their information.



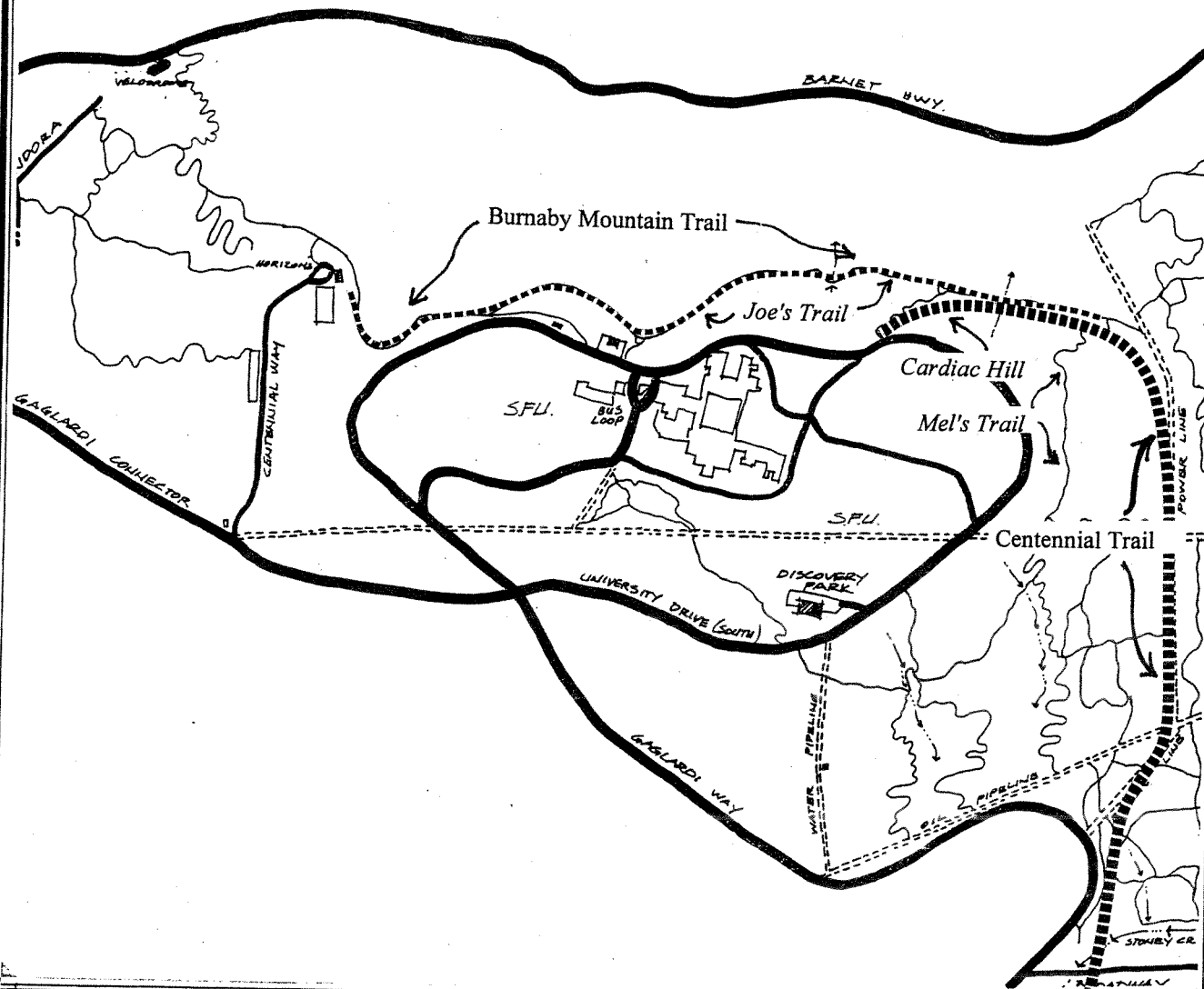
D. G. Stenson
Director Planning and Building

JW:hr

Att.

cc: Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

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Date: 11.06.98

Scale: N.A.

Drawn By: JW



City of
Burnaby
Planning & Building Dept

CONFLICTING HISTORIC TRAIL NAMES
IN BURNABY MOUNTAIN PARK

