

REPORT
1998 SEPTEMBER 14

CITY OF BURNABY
COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: BURNABY HERITAGE CREEK NAME PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council adopt the names submitted by the public and recommended by the Community Heritage Creek Name Project Ac-hoc Committee as the official new names for these waterways.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to the Environment and Waste Management Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission and all City departments for their information and cooperation with the implementation of the proposed creek names.
3. THAT staff be authorized to revise the Waterways of Burnaby map and that a draft of the new map be unveiled at the B.C. Rivers Day event at Fraser Foreshore on 1998 September 26.
4. THAT a copy of this report be sent to all participants who contributed proposed creek names.

REPORT

The Community Heritage Commission, at its meeting held on 1998 September 10 received and adopted the attached report proposing official new names for Burnaby's currently unnamed waterways.

Sincerely,

Councillor Doreen Lawson,
Chair

Councillor Celest Redman,
Vice Chair

CC: -DIR. PLNG & BLDG
-DIR. PRKS, REC. & CULT. SVCS
-DIR. ENGINEERING
- CITYMANAGER

TO: COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

1998 September 10

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

SUBJECT: BURNABY HERITAGE CREEK NAME PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Community Heritage Commission adopt the names submitted by the public and recommended by the Heritage Creek Name Project Ad-hoc Committee as the official new names for these waterways and seek the concurrence of Council.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Environment and Waste Management Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission and all City departments for their information and cooperation with the implementation of these creek names.
3. **THAT** staff be authorized to revise the Waterways of Burnaby Map and that a draft of the new map be unveiled at the B.C. Rivers Day event at Fraser Foreshore Park on 1998 September 26.

REPORT

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's extensive network of 60 creeks.

It was determined through discussions with Members of Council, City Committees and Commissions 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 completed map of named creeks 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 alphabetical/numerical designations by City departments, community organizations and other levels of government

including the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Ministry of Environment. Common agreement on names would also allow for future joint projects involving the 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 CREEK NAMES:

The first phase of the project involved the compilation of historic creek names through 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 for their own public awareness projects.

The Community Heritage Commission 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 in more modern times. 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 waterways of which only 26 have names attributed to them. Appendix I (see *attached*) provides a complete list of City creeks with a historical attribution to names commonly used by the community in the past or currently. The Community Heritage Commission and Council have adopted these creek names for future use by City departments and outside agencies in all future map and signage projects on 1995 February 06 (see Appendix I *attached*).

3.0 PHASE II - NEW CREEK NAMES:

The Heritage Creek Name Project has been ongoing since the production of the Waterways of Burnaby map in 1993. After the collection of all available historic names, the Community Heritage Commission sought suggestions from the public and local schools to name 34 unnamed creeks located in the Burrard Inlet, Deer Lake and Burnaby Lake Watersheds. On 1996 May 22 the Commission appointed an Ad-Hoc Committee to review name submissions.

In total, 80 individual suggestions were received including submissions from three Burnaby Elementary schools, including Armstrong Elementary School, Windsor Elementary School and Maywood Elementary School. These were reviewed by the Committee based on how the name reflected the unique nature of the creek's location, history or the wildlife which use it. From the names submitted and reviewed by the Committee, 34 names have been recommended to identify currently unnamed waterways. It should be noted that three additional historic names were

submitted during Phase II and are recommended for adoption. These include Simon Creek, Sumner Creek and Pollywog Creek.

PROPOSED NEW CREEK NAMES FOR BURNABY:
(See Fig. 1 *attached*)

BURRARD INLET WATERSHED

BI-2 Berry Point Creek

The Committee recommends this name to further emphasize the importance of this landmark peninsula on Burrard Inlet named in 1859 by the Royal Engineers which surveyed Burrard Inlet on the H.M.C. Plumper commanded by Captain Richards. The name was on the first hydrographic chart of the area published in 1860.

BI-3 Capitol Creek

Suggested by resident Mike Belus to emphasize the origin of the creek's headwaters draining the north slope of Capitol Hill named in 1912 a residential subdivision promoted during the real estate boom.

BI-4 Squatter's Creek

The Committee felt that this location was the most appropriate creek to commemorate the community of squatters that occupied the Burrard Inlet foreshore from circa 1912 to 1960 and used this creek as a water supply.

BI-5 Heron Creek

As suggested by Mayor Doug Drummond and Burnaby Council to recognize the unique Heron Rookery located in this ravine.

BI-6 Dynamite Creek

It was suggested by resident Dave Bruce to name a creek after the old Dominion Explosives factory which was located on this part of the waterfront before the refineries were built. The Committee felt that the name Dynamite Creek would be an appropriate commemoration of this early and unique Burnaby industrial use.

BI-7 Kask's Camp Creek

The committee recommends this name to commemorate the Kask's Camp established here by William and Jenny Kask in 1925 who rented land for the construction of cabins that numbered as many as 30 and were served by a steam bath, general store and service station. This creek was used as a source of water.

BI-8 *Thluk-Way-Tun Creek*

This name was recorded by Vancouver Archivist J.S. Matthews in 1937 from the memory of August Jack Haatsalano grandson of Chief Haatsalano (Kitsilano) as the local native name for Barnet Beach. It means "Where bark gets peeled in the spring." This is one of the few documented aboriginal names recorded in Burnaby.

BI-9 *Simon Creek*

Resident Dave Bruce provided this name as it has been called this name by the North Burnaby Fish & Game Club and Department of Fisheries and Oceans for many years ever since the start of their salmon enhancement project on Burrard Inlet. It was derived from the property being once part of the Simon Fraser University lands.

BI-10 *Nichols Creek*

After the Nichols Chemical Company located here since 1905 which used this creek as a source of water for the plant's production.

BI-11 *Submarines Creek*

After the Russian Submarines assembled as a top secret project at the old Western Canada Fish Plant during World War I where this creek enters Burrard Inlet.

BI-12 *Crab Creek*

After the numerous Crabs found on the shoreline of the estuary where this creek meets Burrard Inlet.

BI-13 *Cougar Creek*

After the large population of magnificent cougars that once populated Burnaby Mountain.

BI-14 *Aliceville Creek*

After the community of Aliceville established at the foot of North Road in the 1880s to serve as a ferry landing to Port Moody and was the location of two hotels until the turn of the century. The community was named after the daughter of one of the property owners John Webster.

CENTRAL VALLEY WATERSHED

Deer Lake

DL-3 *First Beach Creek*

As suggested by resident Larry Cormack who remembers this name being used for this swimming location by himself and other local children in the 1930s.

DL-4 Chickadee Creek

Suggested by resident George Clulow who wrote, "The name Chickadee Creek is apt for this creek because both black-capped and chestnut-backed chickadees are found in abundance in this forested area."

DL-5 Flume Creek

Suggested by long time Deer Lake residents Joan & Dinty Moore as this creek was used to fill a water flume to transport shingle bolts the hillside to the Deer Lake Lumber Company sawmill, located at the beach at Sperling Avenue between 1905 - 1920.

DL-6 Edgar Creek

After Robert and Maude Edgar who built the first house on the south side of Deer Lake which still stands today as a designated heritage building.

DL-7 Third Beach Creek

As suggested by resident Larry Cormack who remembers the sandy point here being called Third Beach by himself and other local children in the 1930s.

DL-8 Oakalla Creek

The committee felt that this creek created by the Prisoners of the Oakalla Prison Farm should be named after the prison as this historic Burnaby name would be lost from the landscape otherwise.

DL-10 Owl Creek

Local resident Mr. Randy Findlay and son Tyler Findlay suggested that this creek be named to recognize the Great Horned Owls nearby that have roosted in the forest here.

Burnaby Lake

BL-2 Murrin Creek

This creek's outlet to Still Creek is located beside Royal Oak Avenue where it once crossed the well-known Burnaby Lake interurban tram line. Murrin Station, which was located here between 1911 - 1953, was named after W. G. Murrin, the manager of the B.C. Electric Railway.

BL-3 Ardley Creek

This local area took its name from the old Great Northern Railway Station established here in 1904, Ardley Station, on July 01, 1909.

BL-5 Sumner Creek

As suggested by Brian Romer of Slough Estates who discovered old survey plans showing this

waterway as "Sumner's Ditch" which was named after the Sumner Ironworks which proposed to build a factory here in 1911.

BL-8 Chubb Creek.

This creek, formerly a separate waterway, is now a tributary of the existing Chubb Creek, a historic name previously approved by Council. The committee decided to name it after Chubb Creek of which it is a tributary.

BL-10 Sunken Engine Creek

Named after the famous Burnaby story of the Great Northern Railway train engine that, in 1912, disappeared into a sink hole being filled by railway workers at the peat bog where this creek enters the Still Creek.

BL-11 Crab-Apple Creek

Named by the Committee, this area of the creek was described in the 1890's as having a thick growth of wild crab-apple by pioneer logger William Rowling. The trees created a bowered tunnel along this section of Still Creek and was a favoured spot for boaters who admired the blossoms in the Springtime.

BL-12 Pollywog Creek

This name was suggested by Robert Douglas a long-time resident who remembered this name being used by the neighbourhood kids in the 1920's. It refers to the commonly used name for the tadpole stage of frogs.

BL-13 Station Creek

Named after the "Burnaby Lake" Station established on the Great Northern Railway near this creek in 1904.

BL-15 Skid Creek

Named after the skid road built along this creek by the B.C. Mills Timber and Trading Company to drag timber by horse teams from their lands on the slope of Burnaby Mountain in 1906. A portion of the old skid still remains preserved in Burnaby Lake Park nearby.

BL-16 Salamander Creek

Named after a submission by resident Ryland James (age 9) who has caught many Salamanders in this creek.

BL-19 Lost Creek

Named by the committee as this creek, which flows open just north of Cameron Street, is lost under the pavement at Lougheed Mall, only to reappear at Lougheed Highway, and then is lost again until

it resurfaces at the Brunette River.

BL-20 *Holmes Creek*

Suggested by resident Mori Hillman because this creek runs through land that belonged to William Holmes Burnaby's first settler.

BL-23 *Cedar Creek*

Named by Mrs. Taylor's Grade 5 class at Armstrong Elementary School after the large stand of Western Red Cedar which dominate this ravine.

BL-24 *Osprey Creek*

Several residents suggested naming a creek in Burnaby after the small population of Osprey that continue to fish in Burnaby Lake.

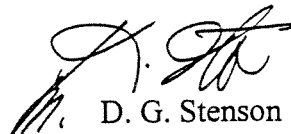
BL-26 *Crayfish Creek*

Named by the committee after the small crustacean that resides in this creek and is well known to children locally.

4.0 CONCLUSION:

The Heritage Creek Name Project has been very successful in documenting historical and community names for 29 creeks, 15 of which have been previously unknown and not documented in City records. The community derived-names for the balance of 31 previously unnamed creeks provides an excellent opportunity to raise public awareness concerning these important natural heritage resource.

With the establishment of a complete list of creek names for the City of Burnaby, staff will now prepare an exhibit for the Rivers Day event held at Fraser Foreshore Park on 1998 September 26 that will highlight the approved names and existing known watercourse routes for public information. This will provide an opportunity for the public to contribute to a new Waterways of Burnaby map. The revised publication of this map will endeavor to continue to publicize the important role that these creeks and rivers play in the environmental diversity and livability of Burnaby.



D. G. Stenson
Director Planning and Building

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Atts.

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Burrard Inlet

