

CITY OF BURNABY

ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS**

1998 JULY 22

RE: B.C. RIVERS DAY

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council proclaim 1998 Sunday, September 27 B.C. Rivers Day in Burnaby.
2. **THAT** Council approve the proposed preliminary Rivers Day community events outlined in this report.
3. **THAT** Council approve \$2,500 for advertising and implementing the proposed Rivers Day community events outlined in this report.
4. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to Karen Hodson, Program Coordinator, Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia, 334-1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

B.C. Rivers Day is an annual event sponsored by the Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C. occurring on the last Sunday in September each year to celebrate B.C.'s spectacular natural and cultural heritage of rivers. Throughout the province, citizens, local community and environmental groups, government agencies and educational institutions organize river related events and invite members of the public to participate in appreciating, protecting and enhancing B.C. waterways.

The City of Burnaby was the first municipality in 1993 to officially proclaim B.C. Rivers Day and coordinate and participate in Rivers Day events. Last year, 97 municipalities proclaimed B.C. Rivers Day with 250 organizations implementing 99 events in 47 communities. During the past 5 years, the City has coordinated in partnership with BCIT - Burnaby Lake Systems Project, local environmental groups and the community, a variety of public events including interpretive walks, creek clean-ups, riparian plantings and the development of environmental media including posters, brochures and murals for Rivers Day. These efforts have been extremely successful and well received.

2.0 PROPOSED RIVERS DAY WEEKEND EVENTS

2.1 Spirit of the Salmon Swim at Fraser Foreshore Park, Saturday September 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m

It is proposed that the main public Rivers Day event in Burnaby take place on Saturday September 26 at Fraser Foreshore Park between 10 a.m and 2 p.m. On this day, Fin Donnelly, who first swam the length of the Fraser River in 1995, will swim from Maquabeak Park in Coquitlam to False Creek (a total distance of 60 km) accompanied by a flotilla of native and non native canoes in the Spirit of the Salmon Swim. The purpose of this event, sponsored by the Rivershed Society of B.C. (a non-profit organization), is to highlight the delicate nature of the Fraser River estuary and celebrate the richness of the Fraser River watershed and Burrard Inlet. The event will draw attention to our dependence on these aquatic ecosystems and the importance of protecting and restoring them.

In addition to focusing on the Spirit of the Salmon Swim, (the flotilla is expected to arrive at around noon) other activities proposed for Saturday September 26 at Fraser Foreshore Shore Park include:

- 1) an interpretive walk along the Fraser River, led by members of the Burnaby Lake Steering Committee and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.
- 2) Project *WET*, an environmental activity developed by Environment Canada and led by members of the Rivershed Society
- 3) shoreline monitoring/clean up and youth presentations, coordinated by the Rivershed Society of B.C., Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program (BIEAP) and the Fraser River Estuary Management Program (FREMP) with participation from secondary school students from Burnaby Central, Burnaby South and Cariboo Hill Schools; and

- 4) water quality testing, led by the Rivershed Society with participation from Scouts Canada.

It is proposed that these activities occur between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. In addition, a number of displays highlighting environmental and stewardship groups and initiatives will be on site which the public can visit before or after Fin Donnelly and the flotilla arrive. Groups/agencies which have been or will be contacted to have a display on site include: the City, B.C. Hydro, Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, BCIT Burnaby Lake Systems Project, the GVRD, Burnaby Streamkeepers, Burnaby Lake Partnership Steering Committee, Brunette Basin Task Group, North Fraser Harbour Commission, B.C. and Canadian Heritage Rivers Program and the Rivershed Society of B.C. Refreshments would also be available during the morning.

When Fin Donnelly and the flotilla arrive, it is proposed that the Mayor and the Chair of the Environment and Waste Management Committee welcome the flotilla to Burnaby and highlight the importance of B.C. Rivers Day in Burnaby. After being welcomed, Fin Donnelly, on behalf of the Rivershed Society of B.C., would then make a brief speech on the objectives of the Spirit of the Salmon Swim.

The Rivershed Society of B.C. has requested \$2,500 from the City of Burnaby to help sponsor the Spirit of the Salmon Swim. The Rivershed Society has also requested the same amount from the Cities of Coquitlam, New Westminster, Richmond and Vancouver. In addition, sponsorship has been requested from a number of corporations, foundations and other government agencies. In return for sponsoring the Swim, the City would be recognized as a sponsor of the event in press releases, posters and brochures promoting the event.

In previous years, Council has approved from \$1,500 to \$1,800 for Rivers Day activities. Given the planned focal event of Rivers Day in Burnaby will be the Spirit of the Salmon Swim and related activities at Fraser Foreshore Park on Saturday September 26, it is recommended that a grant of \$1,500 be given to the Rivershed Society of B.C.. The remaining \$1,000 requested for Rivers Day events would be used to advertise and implement the other Rivers Day activities proposed for Sunday September 27, as described below.

2.2 Updated Burnaby Waterways Map

The City's Community Heritage Commission has recently concluded the Heritage Creek Name Project through the approval of 34 new creek names. It is proposed that the current Burnaby Waterways Maps be revised to show the new creek names, once they have been approved by Council, and that a draft of the revised map be unveiled

at the B.C. Rivers Day event at Fraser Foreshore Park on Saturday September 26. The map would highlight Burnaby's waterways and would be used to elicit comments from the public who would be asked to contribute further information regarding the cultural and natural history of Burnaby's 3 main watersheds and individual creeks. The draft Burnaby Waterways Map would be a major component of the City of Burnaby's display at Fraser Foreshore Park.

2.3 Streamkeeper Events, Sunday September 27

A number of Burnaby's Streamkeeping groups are proposing to hold various streamkeeping events on Rivers Day on Sunday September 27. Union approval from CUPE Local 23 will be sought once the event times and locations are finalized. Proposed streamkeeping events include:

Beecher Creek

The 8th Northview Scouts are proposing to do a clean up and some additional riparian planting along Beecher Creek as a continuation of their work started in the summer of 1997.

Stoney Creek

The Stoney Creek Environment Committee is proposing to do a clean up and possibly some minor riparian planting along Stoney Creek on Rivers Day.

Still Creek

The BCIT - Burnaby Lake Systems Project is proposing to do some riparian planting and enhancements along Still Creek. The group will improve on an area that was planted in 1997 as well as an area west of the Douglas Road overpass where the GVRD is replacing a debris collector.

Lubbocks Creek

A new Streamkeepers group in the Lakeview area is potentially proposing to undertake a clean up of Lubbocks Creek on Rivers Day.

2.4 Guichon Creek - Saturday October 3

In addition to the events occurring on B.C. Rivers Day itself, the Burnaby Association for the Mentally Handicapped in partnership with the BCIT - Burnaby Lake Systems Project are proposing to do a clean up along Guichon Creek. The event

will also involve removal of invasive species and riparian planting on a portion of Guichon Creek on BCIT property. It is proposed that the event occur on the Association's Community Living Day on October 3 but could be included in advertising of Rivers Day events in Burnaby. Discussions are also underway regarding the possibility of a community clean up of Guichon Creek in the surrounding neighbourhood area of Greentree Village.

4.0 CONCLUSION

This report presents a summary of proposed community events to celebrate B.C. Rivers Day in Burnaby. This year it is proposed that the major public event around Rivers Day occur on Saturday September 26. On this day, the Spirit of the Salmon Swim, sponsored by the Rivershed Society of B.C., will be stopping over at Fraser Foreshore Park. A number of activities and displays are proposed in conjunction with this event. On B.C. Rivers Day itself, Sunday September 26, a number of Burnaby streamkeeping groups are proposing to do clean ups and riparian plantings of various creeks in Burnaby.

It is recommended that Council approve an expenditure of \$2,500 for the B.C. Rivers Day events outlined in this report. Of the \$2,500, \$1,500 would be used to sponsor the Spirit of the Salmon Swim with the remainder used to advertise and implement other Rivers Day activities.

Respectfully submitted

Councillor L.A. Rankin (Chair)

Councillor D. Lawson, Member

Councillor D. Johnston, Member

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cc: City Manager
Director Finance
Director Engineering
Director Parks and Recreation
President, CUPE Local 23

