

TO: CITY MANAGER 1999 December 02
FROM: DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES
SUBJECT: HONORARY REEVE OF BURNABY VILLAGE MUSEUM
PURPOSE: To provide Council with an update regarding the establishment of an Honorary Reeve of Burnaby Village Museum.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

At its meeting of 1999 December 01, the Parks and Recreation Commission received the above noted report and adopted the two recommendations contained therein.



Kate Friars
PARKS, RECREATION
AND CULTURAL SERVICES

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SUBJECT: HONORARY REEVE OF BURNABY VILLAGE MUSEUM

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the establishment of an Honorary Reeve of Burnaby Village Museum as outlined in this report be approved.
2. THAT City Council be so informed.

REPORT

The elected leader for Burnaby held office as the Reeve from 1892 to 1968, at which time the title was changed to Mayor. The staff at the Museum have been developing a concept of an honorary Reeve for the Burnaby Village Museum.

The purpose is to select an Honorary Reeve who would participate in programming on at least seven occasions during the year: Spring Opening; Hats Off Day parade; Canada Day; B.C. Day; Labour Day; September Closing Day; and the Volunteers' Christmas Dinner.

The objectives of this program are to make the visitors aware of the existence of this official title in Burnaby prior to the inauguration of the title of mayor in Burnaby; to provide an enriched experience for children and adults visiting the Museum by exposing them to aspects of Burnaby's history via speeches at official occasions; to offer a new marketing element to attract new patrons; to provide a unique opportunity for volunteers; and to have some fun in the Museum's village setting with a new character present.

The Reeve would give speeches and provide information to visitors from researched and prepared scripts provided by programming staff. Source material would be newspapers and council minutes of the period. At parades, the Reeve would be the Village ambassador, and throughout the year the Reeve would participate in various promotional photo opportunities for the Museum.

The first elected Reeve of the District Municipality of Burnaby was Charles R. Shaw, who held the position for the last three months of 1892. From 1932 to 1942, due to Burnaby's precarious financial position, the Province appointed a Commissioner to oversee the local finances and administration, so there was no Reeve during this period. In 1968 April, Reeve Alan Herbert Emmott became the first Mayor of the Municipality of Burnaby.

To select the Honorary Reeve it is proposed that staff recruit a volunteer (preferably one currently or formerly active at the Museum with a good knowledge of the site and the local history) for the role for a one-year term, potentially renewable. The candidate would have to commit to attending at selected activity dates, and would be given full support with briefings, costume and other seasonal paraphernalia.

It is proposed that the first Honorary Reeve be appointed at Easter 2000 at the Museum's seasonal opening with a special ceremony involving the Mayor and Chair of the Commission. This may be seen as a complement to the Year 2000 Burnaby celebrations wherein we honour seniors and the achievements of the past while we enter the new millennium.

The Commission is requested to endorse this proposal and to forward it to City Council for information.

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