

CITY OF BURNABY

ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1999 AUGUST 18

**HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS**

RE: BC RIVERS DAY

: COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIR. FINANCE
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
- DIR. PL. & BLD.
- DIR. PARKS, REC. & CULT SERV

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council proclaim Sunday, September 26, 1999 BC Rivers Day in Burnaby.
2. **THAT** Council approve, in principle, the proposed preliminary BC Rivers Day community events outlined in this report.
3. **THAT** Council approve funding of \$2,400 for advertising, promotions and implementing the proposed Rivers Day community events identified in this report.
4. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission and to Desirée Mou, Program Coordinator, Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia, 334-1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C., for their information.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

BC Rivers Day is an annual event, sponsored by the Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C., which occurs on the last Sunday in September. BC Rivers Day celebrates British Columbia'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 became the first municipality in the province to proclaim and participate in BC Rivers Day in 1993. Last year, approximately 75 municipalities proclaimed BC Rivers Day in their communities with 80 events taking place and a record-breaking 30,000 people participating. During the past five years the City, in partnership with BCIT - Burnaby Lake Systems Project, local environmental groups and the community, has coordinated 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.

As in previous years, BCIT - Burnaby Lake Systems Project and various community environmental groups are proposing public events to celebrate BC Rivers Day in Burnaby. In previous years, the City has participated in Rivers Day by working with community environmental partners in the coordination and advertising of events. This report describes the preliminary proposed program for BC Rivers Day on September 26.

2.0 OUTLINE OF ACTIVITIES FOR BC RIVERS DAY 1999

2.1 Proclamation

It is recommended that the Mayor proclaim Sunday, September 26, 1999 as BC Rivers Day in Burnaby. This will focus attention on the event and demonstrate the City's commitment to respect and celebrate the natural and cultural heritage value of its waterways.

2.2 Events

A number of events focusing on watershed stewardship and enhancement have been proposed by the Committee and Burnaby's local environmental partners. Minor changes are anticipated as these preliminary events are finalized by the various groups. Staff are working with CUPE, Local 23 in obtaining approvals for some events. A final schedule and detailed description of events will be provided to Council in early September.

Beecher Park Watershed Pledge Program Event and Beecher Creek Riparian Planting
BCIT - Burnaby Lake System Project has proposed an event at Beecher Park to highlight the Watershed Pledge Program. The Watershed Pledge Program is intended to improve water quality through greater public awareness of the impacts which homes and businesses have on the Central Valley/Brunette watershed waterways. Council agreed in principle to participate in the Watershed Pledge Program at its regular meeting of 1999 June 14.

It is proposed that this event be a focal point for the BC Rivers Day celebration in Burnaby. Displays of the various pledge components will highlight the actions that residents can take to reduce negative impacts on waterways in the Central Valley watershed. In addition, a pancake breakfast, numerous hands-on activities for children, bird nest box building, and displays of the Brunette Basin Task Group and Stoney Creek Stormwater Management Plan will be featured. The 8th Northview Scouts are proposing a riparian planting along portions of Beecher Creek to happen concurrently. Interpretive walks of the creek will also be offered throughout the event.

Brunette River Interpretive Walk

Local naturalist John Appler and the Wild Bird Centre at Lougheed Mall have proposed a walk of the Brunette River, beginning at Hume Park. This will be Mr. Appler's 1,500th walk of the river. A naturalist from the Vancouver Natural Historical Society will also participate to assist with flora and fauna identification. It is anticipated that the walk will take approximately 2½ hours.

Stoney Creek Enhancement

The Stoney Creek Environment Committee is tentatively proposing an interpretive walk of the creek to highlight improvements and enhancements currently being completed, including a new bridge near the location of the Great Salmon Send Off fish release, and a series of weirs, pools, riffles, and bioengineering works. These improvements are being sponsored by a number of agencies, including the City of Burnaby, the GVRD and grants secured by the Stoney Creek Environment Committee from the Ministry of the Environment Urban Salmon Habitat Program, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Pacific Salmon Foundation. There is also a desire to involve the public in a riparian planting event.

Byrne Creek Interpretive Signage Unveiling, Interpretive Walk and Clean Up

The Byrne Creek Streamkeepers are proposing a clean up of the creek in conjunction with an unveiling of the new interpretive signage for the creek to be located on the creek near the BC Parkway. This signage was commissioned by the City of Burnaby from artist Isabel McLaren, who did the interpretive signage at Deer Lake Park and Burnaby Lake Regional Nature Park. The group is also proposing an interpretive walk guided by the Byrne Creek Streamkeepers and local naturalists.

Lubbocks Creek Clean Up

The Lubbocks Creek Streamkeepers are proposing a clean up of the stream and adjacent area at the foot of Burriss.

Eagle Creek Clean Up and Riparian Planting

The Eagle Creek Streamkeepers, in conjunction with the Douglas College Green Links Program, are proposing both a creek clean up and riparian planting along Eagle Creek near the Greystone Shopping Centre.

Spirit of the Salmon Swim

Fin Donnelly will be making his annual swim of the Fraser River from Coquitlam's Maquabeak Park to False Creek. He will be stopping in Burnaby at the Fraser Foreshore Park on Saturday, September 25, where a number of public activities are anticipated. This event is sponsored by the Rivershed Society of BC to highlight the delicate nature of the Fraser River estuary and celebrate the richness of the Fraser River watershed and Burrard Inlet.

Council has authorized a grant to the Rivershed Society of BC in the amount of \$500. In addition to this grant, the City will participate in the event by providing a City display highlighting some of our waterways initiatives.

2.3 Publicity

Advertisements will be placed in the local newspapers, including a detailed schedule of events and an invitation to the community to participate. It is proposed that one

advertisement, approximately 5" by 12" run in each community newspaper prior to Rivers Day. In addition, information about Rivers Day will be available on the City's web page, through Rogers Cable public service announcements, and an announcement on the City's readograph sign on Canada Way. The cost for advertising and other appropriate promotional materials is estimated at approximately \$2,400.

3.0 CONCLUSION

As an environmental leader, the City of Burnaby was the first municipality to proclaim BC Rivers Day in 1993. Since this time, the City has successfully coordinated community stewardship events for BC Rivers Day with local environmental partners to raise awareness of and protect and enhance our waterways.

It is recommended that Sunday, September 26, 1999 be proclaimed BC Rivers Day in Burnaby; that Council approve, in principle, the preliminary list of events planned for Rivers Day; and that funding in the amount of \$2,400 for the advertising and promotion of community events be authorized.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston (Chair)

Councillor D. Lawson, Member

Councillor C. Redman, Member