



## **SUBJECT: BURNABY'S EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Council.
2. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mrs. W. Roff.

### **REPORT**

At its meeting of 1999 March 01, the Mayor and Council received correspondence dated 1999 February 22 , from Mrs. W. Roff, a member of the Burnaby Horsemen's Association (Attachment "A"). In her correspondence, Mrs. Roff complains about the conditions of Burnaby's Equestrian Centre and the lack of support from the City of Burnaby for this sport. She uses the example of a tree that fell down across the hydro wires. In her letter she reported that the Equestrian Centre requested that the GVRD remove the tree and were told that the tree was Burnaby's responsibility. When Burnaby Parks was asked to remove the tree, staff told the Horsemen's Association that Burnaby did not have the money to remove that tree and the Equestrian Centre would have to hire a tree company to do the job because it is their responsibility.

Mrs. Roff's letter is based on the concerns of an individual, and are not necessarily representative of the Burnaby Horseman's Association as a whole. This report will attempt to address Mrs. Roff's complaint concerning the lack of support from the City of Burnaby for equestrian activities and the responsibilities of the lease.

### **MUNICIPAL SUPPORT FOR EQUESTRIANS**

The City of Burnaby has provided extensive support for equestrians, an activity that has traditionally not received support by municipalities due to the prohibitive costs of the sport, the liability factors and the small numbers of residents who participate in this sport, especially in an urbanized setting. Staff contacted other Lower Mainland municipalities that have equestrian facilities and found that even in municipalities known for their equestrian focus, the level of support in providing land, facilities and tax relief in Burnaby was significantly higher. The following is a listing of the financial and facility support that has been given to the equestrians by the City of Burnaby:

- Land has been leased to the Burnaby Horseman's Association from 1971 until 1999 for a nominal fee of \$1.00 per year from the City of Burnaby.
- A parking lot was built by the City of Burnaby in 1984 for shared use between the equestrians and the GVRD (with the equestrians having priority) for \$30,000.

- A lighted riding ring was developed in 1989, and the City reimburses the Association for the lighting electrical costs every year (approximately \$500-700/year) and provides maintenance of the rings. Current cost of maintaining the rings is approximately \$3,100 per year.
- The City of Burnaby provided a grant of \$84,000 toward the cost of the \$192,000 indoor riding ring. The money was originally intended to provide additional equine trails in Burnaby Lake Park. The Burnaby Horseman's Association placed a higher priority on the indoor ring and requested that the funds be reallocated to the indoor ring.
- The Burnaby Horsemen's Association receives a Permissive Tax Exemption from the City of Burnaby. Permissive Tax Exemptions are granted to community associations that facilitate athletic and recreational services to the public, as recommended by Parks and Recreation staff. Only seven park and recreation organizations are granted tax relief, including the Burnaby Horsemen's Association. Based on the estimated tax rates between 1994 and 1998, the Burnaby Horsemen's Association received an average of \$18,418 of tax relief per year.

### CONDITIONS OF THE LEASE

The lease to the Burnaby Horseman's Association defines the responsibilities of the Lessor (the City of Burnaby) and the Lessee (the Burnaby Horseman's Association). Attachment "B" is a map that shows the land that is leased to the equestrians. The lease document identifies that the Association is solely responsible for the leased land, including the condition, operation, maintenance and management of the premises and any improvements thereon. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department does not have jurisdiction to provide arboriculture services to properties that we do not maintain. The Burnaby Horseman's Association Financial Statements indicate that revenue is collected for maintenance and would cover the costs of maintaining the grounds and making repairs.

The current lease expires September of 1999, and staff have been working with the Burnaby Horseman's Association executive to prepare a new agreement that will seek to address any concerns of the Association and of the City of Burnaby. Also, City staff are working with the G.V.R.D. to develop a management plan for Burnaby Lake and surrounding area that addresses water control and vegetation management.

HIB:hib:dl

Attachments (2)

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cc: City Manager  
Deputy City Manager, Corporate Labour Relations

RECEIVED  
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

Attachment "A"

CORRESPONDENCE  
1999 MARCH 01

FEB 25 1999

Refer To	Initials
<u>KE</u>	<u>H.M.</u>

3860 Edinburgh Street  
Burnaby, B. C. V5C 1R6

Feb. 22, 1999

Mayor and Council,  
4949 Canada Way,  
Burnaby, B. C. V5C 1M2

Dear Mayor and Councilors:

As I survey the dismal conditions of Burnaby's Equestrian outdoor facilities with its two rings totally unusable and its trails that would be more suitable for a boat than a horse -- the drowned cedars and firs flat on the lake-like grounds (a long time condition) for months, not just weeks, and the very overcrowded indoor arena -- to the extent that when two Instructors are giving lessons, (which Burnaby requires us to have) our members can't use it to exercise their horses or themselves -- I feel very sad as I think of the millions of Tax dollars Burnaby Parks and GVRD spend on field sports and ice arenas, etc., and we consider the many injuries resulting from some of these sports, and the cost to the Health Facilities; whereas riding seldom causes a hospital visit. I then can't help thinking about the unbelievable underspending on Equestrians (mostly females), in comparison to the big amounts spent on field and ice sports (mostly males); and at the same time, Doctors report on the radio about the terrific spinal cord, head, and other injuries of males 15 to 30 years old as they try to copy beer and car adds. How ridiculous.

Could you explain why these expensive sports get so much help and money in comparison to a sport like horsemanship that takes intelligence, dedication, consideration for animals, and guts?

I think the women of Burnaby, (and women are  $\frac{1}{2}$  the population of Burnaby) should consider voting for a different party next election if they want things that teach self control and kindness -- which is taught in horsemanship and the Arts.

Can you imagine what it would cost to have CUPE do all the work that mothers and girls, with help from 5 or 6 men, do daily at the Equestrian Centre?

We Taxpayers pay for a lot of trucks for garbage and rubbish removal from Burnaby Parks facilities, whereas the Equestrian centre has to pay a private company \$149.00 a box to haul away 1 box.

Remember, the Equestrian Centre is a Non-profit organization, providing a recreation for the "non-rich"; other sports have janitors, supervisors, gardeners, etc. Are women in Burnaby supposed to go on forever accepting these differences? Don't rely on it fellows!

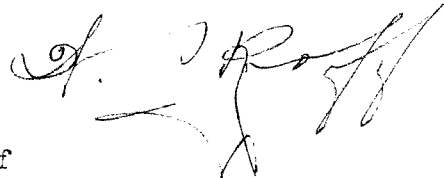
- : COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DEP. MGR.-CORP. LAB. REL.
- DIR. PARKS, REC. & CULT. SERV.

This week was a good example of the treatment equestrians get. A downnd tree came down across the trail going to Burnaby's 2 rings and the trails; it hung up on Burnaby's power line going to the first ring, and the ditch, and the road that goes to the lower road leading into the Public Parking lot. One of the men asked GVRD to have it removed; they told him that was Burnaby's responsibility. So, he phoned Burnaby Parks and was told they had no money and the Equestrian Centre would have to hire a tree Company to do the job; so, worrying about the safety of all people, Brother's Tree Service was hired to do the job, and the equestrians pay the bill. Wow, isn't that wonderful; and Burnaby has more Ice than any City in Canada and it is looked after by CUPE, and has \$17 million for more playing fields which will be looked after by CUPE; and believe me the users aren't, and won't be doing the cleaning and toilets after the Public, nor the supervision and repairs. like our Parks and Councilors think it is just great for the women and girls of the Equestrian Centre to do. How shameful!

There is another clump of trees down, blocking Burnaby's trail that runs alongside of the Freeway fence -- would you like the women to clear that up too, as the Equestrian Centre hasn't the money to pay, either.

I am sorry to have to write this letter to a City I was proud of for so many years, but I'm really disgusted.

Yours sincerely,



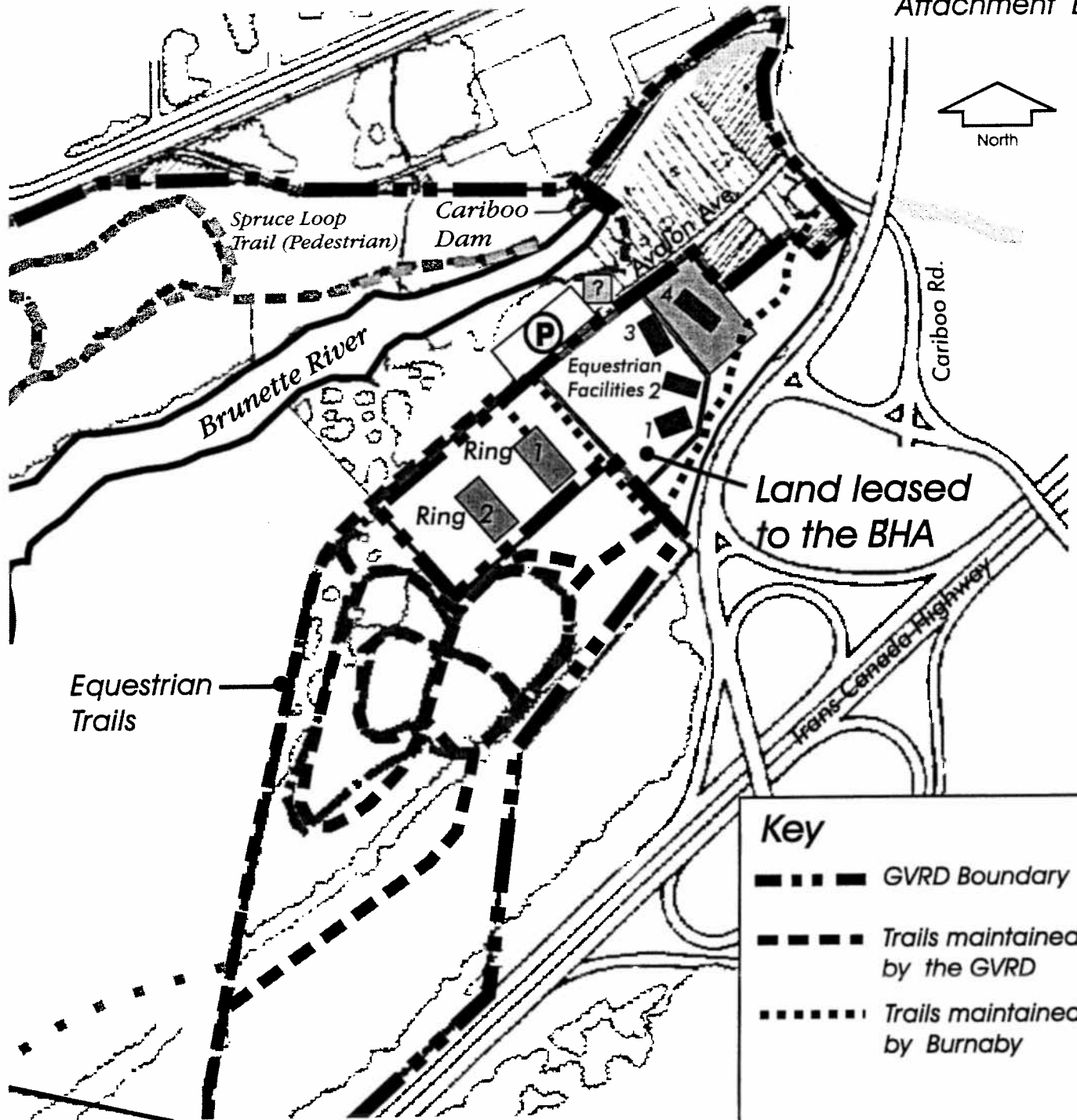
Mrs. W. Roff

Enc. 1

\* Pictures of beginner equestrians being  
taught by Burnaby's Lesson Program  
at the Avalon Equestrian Centre.

It is only the Instructors and their helpers  
who are paid for all the program, not the  
members of the organization.

\* Available in City Clerk's  
Office



**Key**

- GVRD Boundary
- Trails maintained by the GVRD
- Trails maintained by Burnaby