

CITY OF BURNABY

ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: CITY OF BURNABY ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. *THAT* the 1998 Environment Award in Communications be presented to Dean Lamont and the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society for their communication works associated with the preservation of Burnaby Mountain.
2. *THAT* the 1998 Environment Award in Planning and Development be presented to the 8 Rinks Sports Facility, the Canadian Auto Workers Union and their community partners for successfully introducing a beverage container recycling program in the facility.
3. *THAT* two awards be presented for the 1998 Environment Award in Community Stewardship to the following organizations: the Vancouver Angling and Game Association for their long term stewardship of Byrne Creek, and the Burnaby Lake Advisory Association for their long term work at Burnaby Lake Regional Nature Park.
4. *THAT* the 1998 Environment Award in Youth be presented to Mia Amir for her outstanding leadership for youth and the environment.
5. *THAT* the 1998 Environment Awards be announced on 1999 May 31 at the regular meeting of Council during Environment Week, and be presented at a special evening reception at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, hosted by Council, on 1999 June 02.

REPORT

The Environment and Waste Management Committee, at its meeting held on 1999 May 11, received the *attached* report providing nominations for the 1998 Environment Award Program.

The Committee approved the abovenoted recommendations and submits this report to Council for endorsement.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston  
Chair

Councillor C. Redman  
Member

Councillor D. Lawson  
Member

: COPY - CITY MANAGER  
- DIRECTOR PLNG. & BLDG.  
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

1999 MAY 18

**FROM:** ENVIRONMENT & WASTE  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

OUR FILE: 11.800

**SUBJECT: CITY OF BURNABY ENVIRONMENT AWARDS**

**PURPOSE:** To recommend award recipients to Council for the 1998 City of Burnaby Environment Awards Program.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** the Environment and Waste Management Committee recommend to Council:
  - a) The 1998 Environment Award in Communications be presented to Dean Lamont and the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society for their communication works associated with the preservation of Burnaby Mountain.
  - b) The 1998 Environment Award in Planning and Development be presented to the 8 Rinks Sports Facility, the Canadian Auto Workers Union and their community partners for successfully introducing a beverage container recycling program in the facility.
  - c) That two awards be presented for the 1998 Environment Award in Community Stewardship: to the Burnaby Lake Advisory Association for their long term work at Burnaby Lake Regional Nature Park, and to the Vancouver Angling and Game Association for their long term stewardship of Byrne Creek.
  - d) The 1998 Environment Award in Youth be presented to Mia Amir for her outstanding leadership for youth and the environment.
  - e) The 1998 Environment Awards be announced on 1999 May 31 at the regular meeting of Council during Environment Week, and be presented at a special evening reception at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, hosted by Council, on 1999 June 02.

## R E P O R T

### 1.0 BACKGROUND

Within the State of the Environment Report (SOER), adopted in 1993, there is a provision for Shared Stewardship, an idea that seeks opportunities for community stewardship, environmental awareness and public information. One of the specific ideas discussed in the report is the need “to establish an environmental awards program to recognize environmental achievements.”

At its meeting of 1996 May 14, the Environment and Waste Management Committee adopted terms of reference for an environmental awards program to recognize important environmental achievements in a variety of areas. The first City Environment Awards were presented during Environment Week 1996, and have occurred annually during Environment Week since that date.

In addition to the terms of reference for the City of Burnaby Environment Award Program, the recommendations for the 1998 Environment Awards are outlined in this report, as advanced by the Environment and Waste Management Committee for the consideration of Council.

### 2.0 AWARD CATEGORIES

The City of Burnaby Environment Awards recognize outstanding contributions made by individuals, organizations or companies to improve Burnaby’s environment and our understanding of it. The program increases awareness of opportunities available to the public and the City to become more environmentally responsible. While the specific categories of awards are described below, the Committee does reserve the right to recommend awards to candidates that do not fall into any of the categories as outlined.

#### *Communication*

This category includes newspaper articles, publications, video, audio, multi-media or visual/graphic presentations that help to increase the awareness and understanding of environmental issues in Burnaby. The nominated work should demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of an environmental issue and its relationship to the citizens of Burnaby. Newspaper articles may be in the form of regular constructive reporting on environmental issues or may be serial in format, thoroughly researched and referenced, and prominently featured within the newspaper. Other publications such as magazine articles or books should offer in depth profiles or insight into specific environmental characteristics and issues found in Burnaby and be readily available in Burnaby bookstores. Awards in the video, audio and multimedia category should be granted to those works that exploit their media format to provide

insightful, and possible interactive, educational opportunities that may be useful within Burnaby schools and libraries to increase awareness of environmental issues in the City.

***Planning and Development***

This category highlights exemplary developments that demonstrate innovative environmental features that may include environmentally sensitive site planning, solar energy, water conservation, storm water or wastewater management, conservation of resources through the reuse of materials, the protection and enhancement of urban streams or the enhancement of wildlife habitat in the City. Developments may range in scale from large commercial, industrial, institutional or residential projects to individual new or renovated buildings or sites.

***Community Stewardship***

This category identifies citizens or groups in Burnaby who have been actively involved in promoting environmental stewardship for several years and who, through their efforts, have increased public awareness of an environmental issue or notably enhanced or rehabilitated the City's environment.

***Youth***

This category recognizes the contributions that children or teenagers have made, either through their own initiatives or through school or other programs that have resulted in enhanced public awareness of environmental issues or notably enhanced or rehabilitated the City's environment.

**3.0 AWARD PROCESS**

The awards are given annually as candidates are identified and determined to be worthy of such recognition by Council, through recommendations of the Environment and Waste Management Committee. The Committee is not compelled to recommend award winners to Council in any or all categories if they feel there are no appropriate candidates in a given year.

The list of recommended award winners is forwarded by the Environment and Waste Management Committee to Council for review and approval. The awards are then presented during Environment Week accompanied by a press release to publicize the awards. It is suggested that the awards be announced at the regular Council meeting of 1999 May 31, and presented at a special Environment Week evening reception at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, hosted by Council, on 1999 June 02.

#### **4.0 1998 AWARDS**

##### **4.1 Communications Award**

The recommended recipient of the City of Burnaby 1998 Environment Award in Communications is:

*Dean Lamont and the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society for their communication works associated with the preservation of Burnaby Mountain.*

The Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society has an established history of environmental works on Burnaby Mountain. For many years, under the direction of President Dean Lamont and Vice President Merrill Gordon, the Society worked towards the preservation of part of the Simon Fraser University lands on Burnaby Mountain as a conservation area. The group helped to raise community awareness of the importance of protecting one of the City's most significant ecological reserves through interpretive walks, publications, public meetings, and communications with Simon Fraser University, City Council and the Province. A successful agreement was eventually reached between Simon Fraser University, the Province and the City for the preservation of 773 acres to be included in the Burnaby Mountain Conservation area.

The Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society has also built a number of trails on Burnaby Mountain, including those in Naheeno Park which provide nature appreciation and recreational opportunities, with the support of the provincial Environmental Youth Corp and local businesses. The Society has also developed other communications on Burnaby Mountain including a map of Burnaby Mountain trails produced in partnership with TransMountain Pipelines and used extensively by trail users. The Society regularly sponsors plantings with students, and has worked with the Douglas College Green Links Program to salvage plant material from development sites.

For these efforts, Mr. Lamont was named the 1995 *Burnaby News* Humanitarian of the Year, in conjunction with SFU President John Stubbs and City of Burnaby Councillor Lee Rankin. In addition to his work with the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society, Mr. Lamont has regularly contributed environmental and naturalist articles in the local papers including the *Burnaby/ New Westminster News Leader*, where he has had a regular column since 1995, the *Green Scene*. Mr. Lamont has also worked with the Food For All Foundation which has endeavoured to introduce worm composting into homes and businesses in Burnaby, including Simon Fraser University in 1995.

In summary, the Committee feels the variety of publications, public meetings, events

and communications with Simon Fraser University, City Council and the Province by Dean Lamont and the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society directly contributed to the preservation and dedication of the Burnaby Mountain Conservation lands. In addition, Dean Lamont's articles in local newspapers have furthered discussion and environmental action on Burnaby Mountain.

#### **4.2 Planning and Development Award**

The recommended recipient of the City of Burnaby 1998 Environment Award in Planning and Development is:

*The 8 Rinks Sports Facility, the Canadian Auto Workers Union and their community partners for successfully introducing a beverage container recycling program in the facility*

The 8 Rinks sports facility is Burnaby's largest sports complex, with 8,000 people using it on a weekly basis. The recycling program for bottles, cans and plastic beverage containers at the 8 Rinks sports facility was initiated by the CAW Local 3000 membership, and supported by the facility's management, the Burnaby Firefighters' Charitable Association (who contributed \$3,000 to purchase more than 40 recyclable collection bins and identifying labels located throughout the facility), and the T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation. The bins are managed by the Eco-Rangers, a community group representing adults with disabilities, who use the revenue from the recyclables to help finance their own programs. Prior to the recycling program, more than 250,000 bottles, cans and plastic containers were sent to landfill sites.

In summary, the Committee feels that the beverage container recycling program at the 8 Rinks Sports Facility has successfully involved a number of community partners in the development and operation of the program. This voluntary recycling program may provide similar facilities with a model by which to institute recycling on-site. The 8 Rinks program has demonstrated that a sports facility recycling program can be a "win-win" situation for all involved.

#### **4.3 Community Stewardship Award**

The Committee recommends that two groups be awarded the Community Stewardship Award, given both groups' remarkable histories and tireless efforts working in Burnaby's waterways. The recommended recipients of the City of Burnaby 1998 Environment Award in Community Stewardship are:

*The Burnaby Lake Advisory Association for their long term work at Burnaby Lake*

*Regional Nature Park, and the Vancouver Angling and Game Association for their long term stewardship of Byrne Creek.*

**4.3.1 Burnaby Lake Advisory Association**

Beginning as the Burnaby Outdoor Education Association in 1971, the name was changed to the Burnaby Lake Advisory Association (BLAA) when the GVRD took over operations of the park in 1979. Between 1972 and 1979, the group received six consecutive federal LIP grants, and constructed the west trail from Piper Avenue to Still Creek, renovated and developed the Nature House (1974) and constructed the observation tower with Burnaby Central High School (1975). The BLAA received the first grants to operate programs at the Nature House, and since the GVRD assumed park operations and management, an extensive public education/outreach program has been developed, including static and live displays, guided nature walks, children's programs and canoeing programs.

Since 1979, with the help of job creation grants, the group finished the trails over the Cariboo Dam and on the south side of the Lake. In all, the group completed 11 km of trail (which is three feet deep and 8 feet wide) over 22 years. The BLAA has also been active in the stewardship of Burnaby Lake Regional Nature Park through their involvement in clean-ups and other enhancement works, the installation and maintenance of nest boxes, and their significant participation in park planning processes, including the GVRD Burnaby Lake Park Association. Of the original ten group members, five are still active, including Bob Gardner, Bill Cumming, Tony Fabian, John Thomson, and Joe Sadowski. Most recently, the BLAA partnered with Wildlife Rescue and the GVRD, and with a grant from BC 21, provided the sewer line for the Wildlife Rescue building and a bridge across Deer Creek. In total, the group has received 27 grants totally over \$1,000,000 for works in Burnaby Lake Regional Nature Park.

**4.3.2 Vancouver Angling and Game Association**

The Vancouver Angling and Game Club was established in 1917 with a principal mandate of protecting and enhancing local fisheries opportunities and facilitating sportfishing related activities. In 1985, through the vision and impetus of Association member Ken Glover, the group began enhancement initiatives on Byrne Creek. Working with DFO to assess whether the creek could support salmon as it once had, the Association first released coho smolts into the creek in 1989. The Association, in cooperation with DFO,

monitors salmon returns, regularly reporting some coho returns annually.

Since their involvement, a number of enhancements have occurred on the creek. The group has cleaned up the creek and ravine substantially, initially involving the removal of large debris including old car bodies and large household appliances which had been dumped. Clean-ups still occur annually for BC Rivers Day. The Association has also been active in habitat enhancement through the installation of nest boxes in Fraser Foreshore Park, Burnaby Lake and other locations, and has also constructed trails with the Provincial E-Team program. Members of the group have also been very active in raising the City's and community's awareness of environmental conditions in the creek by hosting events and through regular communication with the City. Regular storm drain marking has also helped to raise awareness in the area.

This raising of awareness and enhancement work has, in part, led to the City's development of an integrated stormwater management plan for the creek which addresses stormwater management as well as environmental protection and enhancement in the creek's watershed. The establishment and monitoring of sediment control systems in the vicinity of Byrne Creek has also been enhanced through communication with and monitoring by the Association. Members such as Bob Fuller and Bert Richardson have keenly monitored the creek on an almost daily basis. This was demonstrated in a dramatic way last year when a spill in the creek resulted in the deaths of significant numbers of fish, and Association members spotted and reported it immediately.

Members of the Association are currently working with and training a new group of Byrne Creek Streamkeepers. This mentoring process will impart decades worth of combined experience and knowledge to the Byrne Creek Streamkeepers of tomorrow.

In summary, the Committee is of the opinion that both the Vancouver Angling and Game Association and the Burnaby Lake Advisory Association have distinguished themselves by their tenacity and the quality of their years' worth of dedication and service to Burnaby's waterways. The individuals in these groups have not only dedicated thousands of hours of their time to bettering our environment, but have undertaken the task of passing along their knowledge and the benefits of their experience to new stewards and streamkeepers.



#### **4.4 Youth Award**

The recommended recipient of the City of Burnaby 1998 Environment Award in Youth is:

*Mia Amir for her outstanding leadership for youth and the environment.*

A grade 11 student at Moscrop Secondary School, Mia Amir has been involved in a number of environment and youth activities. She is an organizer, a leader, and frequently makes presentations and conducts workshops regarding youth action in environmental issues. The following is just a sample of the work that she is involved in:

- Youth Mentor for Leadership Initiative for Earth, which involves presenting workshops on sustainability, globalization and consumer power, as well as a presentation at the Vancouver Public Library's 1999 Earth Day celebrations on Leadership Initiatives for Earth;
- panellist on youth activism at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Environmental Network in April 1999;
- organizer of the Check Your Head group, which focuses on creating a resource centre for youth on globalization and its impact on the world. Working with the Council of Canadian and the Sierra Youth Coalition, Check Your Head sponsored a weekend conference on globalization at UBC in December 1998;
- organizing member of the Students Across Vancouver Environmental Network (SAVE). SAVE organized a conference in March 1998 to bring youth and 30 environmental and social change organizations together to create awareness and action among youth in Greater Vancouver. SAVE's action plan for 1999 includes the development of workshops for elementary schools and high schools, and a trip to El Salvador this summer to work at an orphanage;
- organizer of the Global Awareness and Action Group at Moscrop Secondary, which brings in speakers and is working to start a composting and more effective recycling program at Moscrop; and
- presented a workshop on globalization and the environment at the Youth Driven Youth Action Conference hosted by the Langara Students Union in February 1999.

In summary, the Committee is of the opinion that Mia's contributions to youth and environmental activism are remarkable, and that leadership of this calibre should be recognized through the award process. In addition, it is hoped that this recognition will further reinforce her environmental leadership when she returns to Moscrop Secondary School in the fall to complete her high school education.

**5.0 CONCLUSION**

The Environment and Waste Management Committee recommends that the recipients identified in this report receive the 1998 City Environment Awards as outlined. The Committee believes these individuals and groups have demonstrated exemplary works which enhance the City's natural environment while encouraging stewardship. As recommended in the City's State of the Environment Report (SOER), the City's Environment Awards are seen as a means of recognizing significant environmental achievements, while encouraging stewardship. This will be the fourth year for the City Environment Awards program.

As part of their review process this year, citizen representatives identified the need to increase awareness of the City's Environment Awards in the community to identify future award nominees and track projects or initiatives in-process. To this end, an advertisement was submitted to the local papers this year. However, in subsequent years, it is suggested that an article in Information Burnaby and other means, such as a mailing to stewardship groups regarding the awards program and press releases to the local papers, also be used to improve awareness of the awards for subsequent years. Staff will follow-up on this request.

It is recommended that the 1998 City Environment Awards be announced during Environment Week on 1999 May 31 at the regular meeting of Council. It is also proposed that the awards be presented at a special evening reception at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, hosted by Council, on 1999 June 02.

Respectfully submitted,

Citizen Members  
Mr. R. Anderson  
Mr. A. Grass  
Mr. R. Gunn  
Mr. C. Lipp

Councillor D. Johnston  
Chair

Councillor C. Redman  
Member

Councillor D. Lawson  
Member

KSF