

TO: CITY MANAGER 2000 AUGUST 08

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING OUR FILE: 11.801

SUBJECT: **BC RIVERS DAY 2000**

PURPOSE: To request Council support for BC Rivers Day in Burnaby and provide a schedule of events.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council proclaim Sunday, September 24, 2000 BC Rivers Day in Burnaby.
2. **THAT** Council approve the proposed BC Rivers Day community events outlined in this report.
3. **THAT** Council approve funding of \$2,400 for advertising, promotions and implementing the proposed BC 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 Nina Barton, Rivers Day Coordinator, Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia, 334-1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9.

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

BC Rivers Day is an annual event sponsored by the Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia 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. Subsequently, approximately 75 municipalities have proclaimed BC Rivers Day in their communities with more than 30,000 people participating in various events annually. During the past six 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 BC Rivers Day. These efforts have been extremely successful and well received.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of BC Rivers Day. The proposed events reflect partnerships with community groups and environmental stewards, including the BCIT - Burnaby Lake Systems Project, Scouts Canada, Rivershed Society of BC, Burnaby streamkeeper groups, the Edmonds Town Centre Community and Business Association and others. Staff have been working with the citizen representatives of the Environment and Waste Management Committee to develop the proposed schedule of events. The program has been reviewed by members of the Committee.

2.0 OUTLINE OF ACTIVITIES FOR BC RIVERS DAY 2000

2.1 Proclamation

It is recommended that the Mayor proclaim Sunday, September 24, 2000 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 Burnaby's local environmental partners. Minor changes are anticipated as these events are finalized by the various groups.

BC Rivers Day Kick Off at BCIT Monday, September 18 (Time TBA)

Mark Angelo, program head for the BCIT Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Department, and originator of BC Rivers Day, will be kicking off BC Rivers Day 2000 on the BCIT campus. BCIT will be profiling the Watershed Pledge Program and highlighting the issues facing urban streams. To support these endeavours, it is proposed that the City install signage for Guichon Creek identifying it as fish habitat and recognizing BCIT as the active streamkeepers group, under the Waterways Signage Program adopted by Council 1999 October 18.

Spirit of the Salmon Swim at Fraser Foreshore Park Friday, September 22 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Fin Donnelly will be swimming the entire 1360 km of the Fraser River, from its headwaters in Mount Robson Provincial Park to False Creek. Fin and his flotilla will be stopping in Burnaby at the Fraser Foreshore Park on Friday, September 22. 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 would participate in the event by coordinating the event site, arranging for overnight camping and coordinating a barbeque for the paddlers. Many of the paddlers will be students from Coquitlam, New Westminster and Burnaby, and it is envisioned that this event will provide them the opportunity to discuss their experiences and meet other teens active in environmental issues.

Stream of Dreams

Saturday, September 23 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Byrne Creek Streamkeepers have undertaken a project called the Stream of Dreams in order to both commemorate the death of 5,000 fish two years ago in Byrne Creek and to highlight the connection between every household and the creek via the storm sewer system. The Stream of Dreams is the production of 5,000 wooden painted fish by the community, to be placed on the fence of the vacant, City-owned property at Kingsway and Edmonds Street. The Byrne Creek Streamkeepers propose numerous workshops to paint the fish, each of which would include an interpretive walk of the creek as well as hands-on painting activity. The workshops would be held so as to include as many people as possible in the process, including elementary and secondary students, seniors, local businesses, etc.

The subject site is designated as part of the Town Centre Core in the Edmonds Town Centre Plan, adopted by Council 1994 September 26. It has been identified for mixed use development, although development is not expected on the site in the near future. The site is currently being regraded and the chain link fence relocated to accommodate anticipated road improvements. Given this, it is proposed that the Byrne Creek Streamkeepers, in conjunction with the community, be permitted to erect the Stream of Dreams on the fence, with the understanding that it will be relocated prior to site redevelopment.

It is proposed that the Stream of Dreams be unveiled Saturday, September 23 in an event co-sponsored by the Edmonds Town Centre Community and Business Association. The Association is sponsoring a neighbourhood cleanup that morning which is scheduled to end on Kingsway at Walker Avenue, immediately adjacent to the Stream of Dreams event site. It is proposed that the two events overlap in such a way as to facilitate community involvement in both the cleanup and the unveiling. To this end, Walker Avenue would be closed at Kingsway for the duration of the event, and displays by local environmental groups and the local merchants be featured there.

Beecher Park Celebration

Sunday, September 24 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Last year the BCIT - Burnaby Lake System Project, the 8th Northview Scouts and the City of Burnaby held a celebration in Beecher Park to highlight the Watershed Pledge Program and the ongoing work on the creek corridor by the Scouts. 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. The 8th Northview Scouts have been very active on Beecher Creek and were recognized for their work through the City of Burnaby Environment Award for Youth for 1997.

This year the BCIT - Burnaby Lake System Project and the 8th Northview Scouts would again like to partner with the City for a second Beecher Park Celebration. Scouts Canada has also indicated a willingness to get involved through displays and hands-on demonstrations. Displays of the various Watershed Pledge components would highlight the actions that residents can take to reduce negative impacts on waterways in the Central Valley watershed, such as gardening with native plants and safe bicycling demonstrations. In addition, a pancake breakfast, numerous activities for children, and displays by businesses that have "taken the Pledge" and local environmental groups would be featured. A number of hands-on activities for Beecher Creek are also proposed, including a fish release of cutthroat trout, riparian plantings and a plant identification station.

Stoney Creek Environment Committee Planting Event (TBC)

Sunday, September 24

The Stoney Creek Environment Committee (SCEC) is proposing a planting of the GVRD Brunette-Fraser River Greenway from the foot of Eastlake to the Lougheed Highway in conjunction with students from Burnaby Mountain Secondary School. Construction of this portion of the Greenway is scheduled to begin within the next month. Its completion is necessary for the planting event to proceed (i.e. confirmation of the planting program will be dependent upon the completion of the Greenway). The SCEC is hoping to facilitate student stewardship of Stoney Creek and its environs through the involvement of students in such events.

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 24, 2000 be proclaimed BC Rivers Day in Burnaby; that Council approve the 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.


for D.G. Stenson, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

 KSF

- cc. Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
- Director Engineering
- Director Finance
- Deputy City Manager, Corporate Labour Relations
- President, CUPE Local 23

