

TO: CITY MANAGER 2001 SEPTEMBER 05
FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING OUR FILE: 11.801
SUBJECT: BC RIVERS DAY 2001
PURPOSE: To request Council support for BC Rivers Day in Burnaby and provide a schedule of events.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council proclaim Sunday, September 30, 2001 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 \$2,600 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 Alex Brumec, Projects Coordinator, Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia, 334-1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9.

REPORT

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. Since that time, 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 21st anniversary of BC Rivers Day. The proposed events reflect partnerships with community groups, local businesses, and environmental stewards, including the BCIT - Burnaby Lake Systems Project, Burnaby streamkeeper groups and local schools. 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 the Chair of the Committee who has agreed to forward this report directly to Council given the meeting dates of the Committee and Council, and the need to advertise the event program in advance of BC Rivers Day.

2.0 OUTLINE OF ACTIVITIES FOR BC RIVERS DAY 2001

2.1 Proclamation

It is recommended that the Mayor proclaim Sunday, September 30, 2001 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.

River Art Celebration at Metrotown

Monday, September 24 to Sunday, September 30

Working in conjunction with local artists and Metrotown Shopping Centre, a "River Art Celebration" is proposed for the week preceeding BC Rivers Day. A vacant storefront has been made available for the week to showcase the river-related art pieces of several local artists, including Fred Chapman, Doreen Lawson, Ken Shymka, M.A. Yewdale and others. The Byrne Creek Streamkeepers' Stream of Dreams' painted wooden fish will also be included in the showing. It is hoped that this collection will provide a means of making people aware of their environment through art.

Schools will be invited to tour the collection, and participate in a community weaving exercise led by textile artist Atefeh Sarrafi. Students will be encouraged to bring recycled weaving materials, such as fabric strips, videotape and pieces of rope, to be included in

the piece. A display highlighting the City's three watersheds will also encourage members of the public to locate their homes in relation to their watershed and closest stream. It is proposed that the costs associated with this event be offset by corporate sponsorship.

Opening of the Canada Lands Look Out at Fraser River Foreshore Park
Monday, September 24, Noon (time to be confirmed)

The new Look Out at Fraser River Foreshore Park is a joint initiative of the City of Burnaby and Canada Lands Company. It is proposed that BC Rivers Day be kicked off at a ceremony to open the new structure.

Beecher Creek Riparian Planting at the Kensington Pitch and Putt
Date to be confirmed

The Beecher Creek Streamkeepers, in conjunction with students of Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary School, planted a number of native plants along Beecher Creek at the Kensington Pitch and Putt for Environment Week 2000. It is proposed that the planting be revisited and augmented, again with participation of the Streamkeepers and elementary students. The riparian planting is intended to provide shade to this exposed portion of Beecher Creek, as well as provide leaf and nutrient drop and enhance bank stability in order to mitigate erosion. Parks staff would oversee the event and provide assistance to the elementary students.

Burnaby Mountain & Moscrop Secondary School Clean Ups
Friday, September 28

Two secondary schools have proposed cleanups for the Friday preceding BC Rivers Day. Two classes at Moscrop Secondary School would like to clean up that portion of Guichon Creek which flows south of Moscrop and west of Willingdon Avenue, as a means by which the students can demonstrate a commitment to care for their local environment.

The staff of Burnaby Mountain Secondary School are interested in establishing an annual cleanup of the school grounds and surrounding neighbourhood on the Friday before BC Rivers Day. The entire student body would participate, and focus on the school grounds and trails and paths which the students typically travel to school. As this school is located near a salmon-bearing stream and significant riparian area, it is particularly important that the students take responsibility for their local environment.

Brunette River Walk with Sapperton Fish and Game Club
Saturday, September 29, Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Members of Sapperton Fish and Game Club will lead an interpretive walk of the Brunette River from Hume Park to Stoney Creek. The walk will commence at noon at Hume Park and last approximately two hours. It is a relatively easy walk, ideal for families and suitable for strollers.

***Stoney Creek Environment Committee Off Channel Planting
Saturday, September 29***

The Stoney Creek Environment Committee (SCEC) is proposing additional planting of new off-channel habitat south of the Lougheed Highway and east of the GVRD Brunette-Fraser River Greenway. The off-channel habitat was constructed and planted last year by the GVRD and the SCEC. As some of the plant material did not survive, the SCEC would like to replenish the riparian area. Given the sensitive nature of this site, and the lack of public access to it, members of the public would not be included.

***Byrne Creek Interpretive Walk & Ken Glover Plaque Dedication
Sunday, September 30, 10:00 a.m. to Noon***

The Byrne Creek Streamkeepers will lead an interpretive walk of Byrne Creek which will terminate at Fraser Foreshore Park as the “*Explore the Foreshore*” event is commencing (see below). It is anticipated that the walk will commence at or near the location of the memorial plaque to be erected in the memory of Ken Glover. Mr. Glover was a member of the Vancouver Angling and Game Association that spearheaded much of the improvements and enhancements in the Byrne Creek watershed. Staff are working with the Salmon Enhancement and Habitat Advisory Board and the Byrne Creek Streamkeepers to identify an appropriate location and sentiment for the plaque.

***“Explore the Foreshore” at Fraser River Foreshore Park
Sunday, September 30, Noon to 5:00 p.m.***

The BCIT - Burnaby Lake System Project would like to partner with the City for a BC Rivers Day celebration at Fraser River Foreshore Park. A number of activities are planned for the day, including a fish painting workshop by the Byrne Creek Streamkeepers, games and crafts by the Vancouver Aquarium, displays by local environmental groups and agencies and interpretive walks. The Rivershed Society of BC will also be sponsoring a “Leadership Paddle” from Coquitlam to Burnaby. The intent of the day's activities is to encourage the public to “Explore the Foreshore” by walking from the Commonwealth Pier to the new Canada Lands Look Out. Canada Lands will be sponsoring a salmon barbeque for the event.

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 run in each community newspaper prior to Rivers Day. In addition, information about Rivers Day will be available on the City's web page and at the local libraries and recreation centres, through Shaw 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 \$2,600. In previous years, funds for advertising for BC Rivers Day have been drawn from the Council Committee budget. Should Council approve this recommendation, funds will be drawn from the same account.

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 30, 2001 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 \$2,600 for the advertising and promotion of community events be authorized.


for J.S. Belhouse, 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

