

**CITY OF BURNABY**  
**COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION**

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

SUBJECT: ROBERT BURNABY COMMEMORATIVE  
PUBLICATION

Recommendations:

1. THAT Council correspond with all Burnaby Members of the Legislative Assembly *and Burnaby Members of Parliament* to seek their assistance and support for any accessible Provincial/ *Federal* cost share funding to publish a limited press run of the book "The Life and Letters of Robert Burnaby".
2. THAT Council be requested to provide \$20,000 from 2001 Operating Contingency to publish a limited press run of the book "The Life and Letters of Robert Burnaby" as outlined in this report.

REPORT

The Community Heritage Commission, at its meeting held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2001 received the *attached* report providing a budget recommendation to publish "The Life and Letters of Robert Burnaby".

The Commission wish to advise Council that the book provides an excellent opportunity for the City of Burnaby to honour its namesake, Robert Burnaby and will offer students and members of the public an opportunity to learn about Robert Burnaby's contribution to the history of B.C. through his letters and biography.

Copy: City Manager Director Planning and Building Director Finance
--

In considering the recommendations, the Commission unanimously agreed that a slightly larger limited press run was desirable in order to reduce the unit printing cost and therefore amended the report to recommend a limited press run of 1,200 books at an approximate cost of \$20,000. The Commission also requested an amendment to recommendation No. 1 to request that Council also correspond with Burnaby Members of Parliament to seek their assistance and support for any accessible Federal cost share funding to publish a limited press run of the book.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Celest Redman  
CHAIR

Councillor Dan Johnston  
VICE CHAIR

TO: COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

2001 April 24

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

SUBJECT: **Robert Burnaby Commemorative Publication**

PURPOSE: To provide the Commission with a budget recommendation to publish  
*The Life and Letters of Robert Burnaby.*

---

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **That** Council be requested to correspond to all Burnaby Members of the Legislative Assembly to seek their assistance and support for any accessible Provincial cost share funding to publish a limited press run of the book "The Life and Letters of Robert Burnaby".
2. **That** Council be requested to provide \$16,000.00 from 2001 Operating Contingency to publish a limited press run of the book "The Life and Letters of Robert Burnaby" as outlined in this report.

### REPORT

#### 1.0 Background

At the 1999 September 09 meeting of the Community Heritage Commission a presentation was made by local historian and author Pixie McGeachie who outlined a proposal to publish the recently discovered letters of Robert Burnaby. The collection of letters are the property of Anne Burnaby McLeod (Robert Burnaby's Great Great Niece) who has requested Mrs. McGeachie's assistance. On 1999 November 22 Council approved a Commission recommendation to prepare a final manuscript and awarded \$2,500.00 towards this project. This manuscript has now been completed.

The Commission formed a working sub-committee that has completed a draft book manuscript tentatively titled "The Life and Letters of Robert Burnaby." This report outlines a proposal to publish a limited press run to ensure a suitable commemorative book of the City of Burnaby's namesake and to ensure public access to Robert Burnaby's biography and his historically valuable correspondence. Additionally, this proposal proposes the sale of published copies to defray the City's expenditure.

#### 2.0 Manuscript Overview: "The Life and Letters of Robert Burnaby"

##### 2.1 Biography

Local historian and author Pixie McGeachie has prepared a biography on the Life of Robert Burnaby which forms an integral part of the book manuscript. It provides context and introduction for the transcribed letters providing the reader with a more complete overview of Robert Burnaby's accomplishments.

Mrs. McGeachie has provided the City with permission to use her manuscript in return for retaining copyright to the monograph, in addition to receiving 12 copies of the printed books.

## 2.2 Robert Burnaby's Letters

The 46 collected letters in the possession of Anne B. McLeod were written by Robert Burnaby between 1858 and 1863 to various members of his family and the collection kept intact as a document of his adventures. It is important to note that the letters only span the part of Robert Burnaby's life between 1858 and 1863. However, these years are a critical time of Burnaby's most historically important activities in B.C. and record life in the colony during its formative years.

From the manuscript compiled from these letters it is apparent that they form a substantial primary historical resource. Not only do they provide a portrait of Robert Burnaby suitable to telling the biography of the City of Burnaby's namesake, but also they are first and foremost an important historical record that would be of interest to British Columbians in general.

Mrs. A.B. McLeod has provided conditional agreement to reproduction of a limited press run in return for retaining the copyright, reviewing the final manuscript and receiving a number of the published books.

## 3.0 **Limited Press Run Proposal**

Through Council approval the Community Heritage Commission has completed the first phase of book production by completing a computer based manuscript suitable for publication. The next phase in the book's production is funding the book's graphic layout and printing. The book will be approximately 200 pages and include photographs and maps chosen by the Commission's sub-committee.

In order to see this important civic heritage project through to completion, it is recommended that Council authorize City staff to complete the final phases of book production, marketing and sales with a limited press run of 1,000 books produced by the City print shop. The City of Burnaby is a registered publisher and has its own ISBN code for issuing its own publications. Legal agreements respecting copyright and financial compensation for both the author and owners of the letters would be reviewed by the City Solicitor.

## 4.0 **Project Funding**

20

Staff have pursued a range of alternative funding options, including Heritage Trust funds for a book production grant. Unfortunately the Robert Burnaby Book project does not easily fit in to existing manuscript preparation grant criteria since much of the manuscript already exists. Printing grants are rare for history books of this kind and staff have not located any grant sources to date. Given the

importance of the discovery of the Robert Burnaby letters to the historiography of the Province, there may yet be funding available from Provincial sources for which this project could be eligible. Through Burnaby Members of the Legislative Assembly there may yet be support to assist with cost sharing the project.

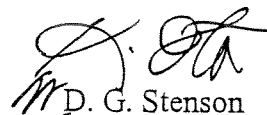
In order that the project proceeds in a timely manner it is proposed that the Commission request from Council expenditure of \$16,000.00 from operating contingency funds to complete the Robert Burnaby Book project through a limited press run of 1,000 books. Provincial grants may be found to repay part of this expenditure.

The project will be managed by Planning staff in consultation with the Commission's sub-committee. This publication will be marketed by the City through its various retail outlets, the City's web page and across Canada through its listing on the Cataloguing in Publication (CIP) record and widely used publication "Forthcoming Books" used by libraries and booksellers nationally.

As the intent of the book project is to commemorate and celebrate the legacy and biography of the City's namesake, Robert Burnaby, the intent of marketing the publication will be to disseminate the information to as many public collection and citizens as possible. Sales revenue from the limited press run will not return all of the City's financial investment in the project. However, with time, sales revenue will recoup a large portion of the printing costs.

## **5.0 Summary**

The book project, as initiated by local author and historian Pixie McGeachie and pursued by the Community Heritage Commission, is an excellent opportunity for the City of Burnaby to honour its namesake, Robert Burnaby. It will, for the first time, offer students and members of the public with an opportunity to learn about Robert Burnaby's contribution to the history of British Columbia through his letters and biography. This book which vividly describes the adventures of Robert Burnaby and life in the first five years of the Colony of B.C. will be an important contribution to the Province's history and will enhance Burnaby's civic pride of its namesake.



M.D. G. Stenson  
Director Planning and Building

JW:hr

cc: Director Finance  
City Solicitor  
City Clerk

P:\Heritage\RobertBurnabyBook

