

CITY OF BURNABY

ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: RIVERS DAY 2002

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council proclaim Sunday, September 29, 2002 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 to a maximum of \$6,000 for advertising, promotions and implementing the proposed BC Rivers Day community events as identified in this report.
4. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission and to Jennifer Grenz, Projects Coordinator, Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia, 334-1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9.

REPORT

The Environment and Waste Management Committee, at its Open meeting held on 2002 September 10, received and adopted the *attached* report requesting approval of the proposed BC Rivers Day Program. The Committee advised that the City is co-ordinating several events with local environmental partners to raise awareness of and protect and enhance waterways. Scheduled events include Environmental Career Options Education Workshop, Burnaby Mountain Secondary School Clean Up, SFU Storm Drain Marking, Plant A Tree at Burnaby Lake, Beecher Creek Riparian Planting and Explore The Foreshore 2002 at Fraser Foreshore Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor C. Redman
Vice Chair

Councillor B. Der
Member

City Manager
Dir.Rec. & Cult. Svcs.
Director Engineering
Director Finance
CUPE Local 23

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
ENVIRONMENT & WASTE MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

2002 SEPTEMBER 06

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

OUR FILE: 11.801

SUBJECT: BC RIVERS DAY 2002

PURPOSE: To request Council support for the proposed BC Rivers Day event program in Burnaby.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council proclaim Sunday, September 29, 2002 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 to a maximum of \$6,000 for advertising, promotions and implementing the proposed BC Rivers Day community events as identified in this report.
4. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission and to Jennifer Grenz, Projects Coordinator, Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia, 334-1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

Sunday, September 29 marks the 22nd anniversary of BC Rivers Day. Last year a number of events were held in Burnaby, including creek cleanups, interpretive walks, a river-inspired art display, and the *Explore the Foreshore* event at Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park. The *Explore the Foreshore* event was very successful, with more than 1,000 people touring the numerous displays and participating in the activities. The City has been apprised that a national announcement relating to waterways will be made in Burnaby on BC Rivers Day. At its meeting of 2002 July 22, Council authorized staff to work in conjunction with community groups, CUPE Local 23, local businesses and agencies to prepare an event program. This report outlines the program of events that has been proposed.

2.0 OUTLINE OF ACTIVITIES FOR BC RIVERS DAY 2002

2.1 Proclamation

It is recommended that the Mayor proclaim Sunday, September 29, 2002 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.

Eco Education Workshop

Tuesday, September 24, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Rivershed Society of BC (RSBC) coordinates a program called Environmental Career Options, which works with youth to identify and pursue careers related to ecology and the environment. An evening workshop is proposed for youth, as well as those adults looking to make a career change or update their skills. It is proposed that the City sponsor this workshop in conjunction with RSBC. Specific advertising will be pursued through secondary schools, SFU, BCIT and the Open Learning Agency.

Burnaby Mountain Secondary School Clean Up

Friday, September 27

Last year, Burnaby Mountain Secondary School established an annual cleanup of the school grounds and surrounding neighbourhood, to occur on the Friday before BC Rivers Day. The entire student body participates, and focuses 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 be sensitive to and take responsibility for their local environment.

SFU Storm Drain Marking

Saturday, September 28 (TBC)

The Stoney Creek Environment Committee (SCEC) has proposed a storm drain marking event at SFU which will focus on the student parking areas, as well as the campus residences. Working with volunteers from SFU, the SCEC will mark the storm drains and provide information about Stoney Creek, which is potentially impacted by run-off from the campus.

Plant a Tree at Burnaby Lake

Saturday, September 28, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Burnaby Lake Park Association and the GVRD are sponsoring a significant tree planting event at Burnaby Lake, with the support of EcoAction, a funding program administered by Environment Canada. The planting is intended to increase the diversity of forested areas within Burnaby Lake Regional Nature Park.

“Explore the Foreshore 2002” at Fraser River Foreshore Park

Sunday, September 29, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The success of last year’s event and the anticipation of the national announcement pertaining to waterways has generated a significant interest in the *Explore the Foreshore 2002* event. As was the case last year, the City, in conjunction with BCIT - Burnaby Lake System Project, would host this event. A number of activities are planned for the day, including:

- displays by local environmental groups and agencies;
- games, arts and crafts by the City’s Parks and Recreation Department, the Vancouver Aquarium, SFU, Burnaby Mountain Secondary School and BCIT;
- interpretive walks in Mandarin as well as English;
- entertainment;
- the REMAX hot air balloon, which will offer rides to the public;
- interpretive boat tours of the Fraser River;
- hands-on exploration of watersheds and fish;
- a watershed “passport”, coordinated by students from Burnaby Mountain Secondary School; and
- a salmon barbeque.

In addition, the Byrne Creek Streamkeepers have been working with staff of the City, BCIT and Heritage Rivers Canada to create a national Stream of Dreams mural in Ottawa, similar to the mural of 3,000 fish at the corner of Kingsway and Edmonds. The first phase of the project includes an artistic rendering of the Stream of Dreams which will include small fish painted by Burnaby’s streamkeepers, schools and elected officials. It is anticipated that this artistic rendering will be presented to the representative of the federal government at the event, as a gift from the City and stewards which first proclaimed and participated in BC Rivers Day.

Beecher Park Riparian Planting

Saturday, October 5 (TBC)

The Beecher Creek Streamkeepers, in conjunction with community volunteers and the Evergreen Foundation, have proposed a riparian planting along Beecher Creek within Beecher Park. 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. In August, CUPE Local 23, staff and members of the

Burnaby Winter Club Bantam Bruins participated in the removal of “policeman’s helmet” - a particularly invasive and noxious species of impatiens - in preparation for the planting. The Evergreen Foundation is preparing an appropriate planting plan in conjunction with Parks staff.

2.3 Publicity

Significantly more publicity and advertising are being pursued than in previous years, given the scope of the event program. Advertisements will be placed in the local newspapers, including a detailed schedule of events and an invitation to the community to participate. Given the scale of the events, it is proposed that two advertisements run in each community newspaper prior to Rivers Day, as well as a single ad in the *Georgia Straight*. In addition, information about Rivers Day will be available on the City’s web page, at local libraries and recreation centres, and through public service announcements.

As in previous years, a request for funding for advertising and appropriate promotional materials is being made for the 2002 event program, to a maximum of \$6,000. While the actual cost for advertising is estimated at over \$8,000, some media sponsorship has been received to offset the costs, and it is anticipated that more is forthcoming. In previous years, funds for advertising for BC Rivers Day have been drawn from the Council Committee budget. Should the Committee and Council approve this year’s request, funds will be drawn from the same account.

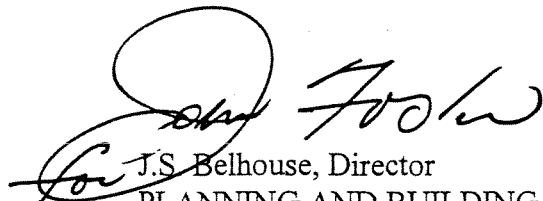
3.0 GREAT CANADIAN SHORELINE CLEANUP

The Vancouver Aquarium is sponsoring the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, part of an international, coordinated cleanup which includes undertaking an inventory of the collected garbage in order to better understand and prevent water-bound waste. Waterway cleanups are planned throughout September, and permission has been requested for two groups to participate in the event in Burnaby. Twenty members of the Islamic Information Centre have proposed a cleanup of Byrne Creek near the Edmonds SkyTrain Station, and the staff of Environment Canada have requested permission to cleanup the Guichon Creek ravine near the corner of Willingdon and Moscrop. Each of these events would require the provision of a dumpster.

4.0 CONCLUSION

As an environmental leader, the City of Burnaby was the first municipality in the province to proclaim BC Rivers Day in 1993. Since that 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 29, 2002 be proclaimed BC Rivers Day in Burnaby; that the Committee recommend that Council approve the list of events planned for Rivers Day; and that funding to a maximum of \$6,000 for the advertising and promotion of community events be authorized, as outlined in this report.


J.S. Belhouse, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

KSF

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