

TO: CITY MANAGER 2002 JULY 17

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING OUR FILE: 11.801

SUBJECT: BC RIVERS DAY 2002

PURPOSE: To request Council authorization to initiate planning for BC Rivers Day events in Burnaby.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council authorize staff to initiate planning with local community groups and agencies for BC Rivers Day events.
2. **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.

R E P O R T

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 for BC Rivers Day. These efforts have been extremely successful and well received.

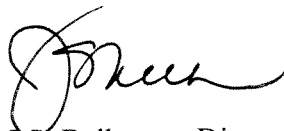
Sunday, September 29, marks the 22nd anniversary of BC Rivers Day. Last year a number of events were held in Burnaby, including creek cleanups, interpretive walks, a river-inspired art display, and the *Explore the Foreshore* event at Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park. This event was very successful, with more than 1,000 people touring the numerous displays and participating in the activities.

Given the success of the *Explore the Foreshore* event, there is a desire to sponsor a similar event at that location. The City has been apprised that a national announcement relating to waterways will

be made in Burnaby on BC Rivers Day by the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Sheila Copps. It is proposed that this announcement be made at the *Explore the Foreshore* event. Given the number of agencies and groups involved with this event, there is a desire to commence preparations at this time, as well as to pursue corporate sponsorship.

As in the past, it is anticipated that groups such as the Streamkeepers will also sponsor clean ups and interpretive walks. As such, it is desirable to commence event planning with these various community stewards in order to coordinate advertising, supplies and approvals.

This approach to BC Rivers Day planning has been reviewed by the Chair of the Environment and Waste Management Committee, who has agreed to forward this report directly to Council given the summer meeting dates of the Committee.



J.S. Belhouse, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

BUS/
KSF

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