

COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: EAGLES ESTATE HERITAGE GARDEN
2006 - 2007 ANNUAL LEASE REPORT**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council authorize staff to negotiate with TLC to establish terms for a lease renewal for the Eagles Estate, 5655 Sperling Avenue, as outlined in this report.
2. THAT Council forward this report to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for information.

REPORT

The Community Heritage Commission, at its meeting held on 2007 November 20, received and adopted the *attached* report presenting the 2006 – 2007 Annual Lease Report for the operation of the Eagle Estate Heritage Garden in Deer Lake Park by the Land Conservancy (TLC) of British Columbia.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor C. Jordan
Chair

Councillor G. Begin
Vice Chair

Copied to:	City Manager Director Planning & Building Director Engineering City Solicitor Chief Licence Inspector Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

DATE: 2007 November 06

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING

FILE: 77000 20
Reference: Eagle Estates

**SUBJECT: EAGLES ESTATE HERITAGE GARDEN, 5655 SPERLING AVENUE
2006 - 2007 ANNUAL LEASE REPORT**

PURPOSE: To present the 2006 - 2007 Annual Lease Report for the operation of the Eagle Estate Heritage Garden in Deer Lake Park by the Land Conservancy (TLC) of British Columbia.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council be requested to authorize staff to negotiate with TLC to establish terms for a lease renewal for the Eagles Estate, 5655 Sperling Avenue, as outlined in this report.
2. **THAT** Council be requested to forward this report to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for information.

REPORT**1.0 BACKGROUND**

In 2003, Council approved a new public use for the Eagles Estate at 5655 Sperling Avenue in Deer Lake Park and authorized the lease the property to the Land Conservancy of B.C. (TLC). This lease provided the opportunity for TLC to locate their Lower Mainland office to Burnaby, and enabled the City to achieve objectives for conserving and providing public access to the Eagles Estate as part of the development of Deer Lake Park. The lease agreement also specified that reports on the operation of the lease were to be submitted for the information of the Community Heritage Commission. This report provides an overview of the management of the Eagles Estate by the TLC for 2006 and 2007, and seeks Council authorization to establish the terms for a lease renewal for the Eagles Estate with TLC.

2.0 LEASE OPERATION

The City's lease with TLC established the Eagles residence as the office for TLC's B.C. mainland headquarters in exchange for their undertaking to fund-raise, conserve, interpret and program the "Eagles Estate Heritage Garden" on behalf of the City of Burnaby.

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The lease arrangement requires that the TLC contribute an equivalent value of service to the City of Burnaby in exchange for the established lease rate of the house as an office. TLC have provided 1,166 hours of both administration and operations staff time in 2006 and 1,421 hours of staff time in 2007 for the interpretation and conservation of the heritage garden. These hours include the employment of a part-time gardener year round to supervise the site's restoration and maintenance. From a review of the TLC operation, a substantial "in kind" return of value to the City of Burnaby for this lease was accomplished during this year of operation. The specific accomplishments of the various programs and projects are outlined in detail below.

2.1 Garden Restoration

As per the approved lease agreement, TLC was obligated to apply for a non-local government application to the Canada/B.C. Infrastructure Program to complete the reconstruction of the staircase and retaining walls adjacent to the house. The grant application was completed and submitted to the BC Ministry of Small Business of Economic Development. The federal/provincial contribution of \$171,430.00 was approved in 2004. The construction of the project funded by the grant was completed in 2007. A ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration for the garden staircase was held on 2007 June 24 which drew over 300 visitors and guests.

TLC also provided an additional funding commitment to the Eagles Estate through fundraising and sourcing donated materials from community groups and businesses. The Burnaby Rhododendron and Gardens Society and Burnaby Rotary partnered with TLC to reconstruct all of the decorative fencing and gates that border the south and east portions of the garden. This project was part of the Infrastructure Program Grant and was also completed in 2007.

Significant site improvements to the garden and pathways were also undertaken by the TLC during 2006-2007. As a result, the overall condition of the garden has significantly advanced in terms of its restoration and appearance.

2.2 Operating Schedule

The TLC operated the garden program, which includes both interpretive programs and volunteer opportunities on a seasonal basis in 2006-2007 from Easter (April) through Thanksgiving (October). The Interpretive Centre is open to the public on the formal basis of Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, with some limited hours on Saturdays. The interpretive centre logged 250 visitors in 2006 and 603 in 2007. These visitor numbers were limited in part because of the restricted access to the site during the reconstruction of the garden staircase during this period.

2.3 Volunteer Program

TLC is mandated through the lease to operate a Volunteer Program for the site's operation for the benefit of the conservation of the Eagles Estate and the citizens of Burnaby. The public's participation in all areas of the garden's restoration is encouraged and include volunteer

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opportunities for fund-raising, gardening, interpretation and programming. This provides a unique experience in Burnaby and the region for volunteers to participate in heritage garden conservation.

TLC has continued its garden volunteer program and made substantial progress in restoring the garden and its substantial rockeries. Over 10 dedicated core volunteers and another 40 volunteers have participated in the garden volunteer program. In 2006, they logged 456 hours valued at \$6,840. In 2007 they logged 610 hours valued at \$9,150. The commitment from volunteers has been outstanding and has made a substantial contribution to the success of the garden restoration project.

2.4 Interpretation & Programming

The historic garage, attached to the Eagles House, was restored and opened to the public in 2004 as an interpretive centre to present the history of the house and garden, and to promote TLC projects work throughout the Province. This interpretive centre was upgraded with new history panels and displays in 2007.

TLC staff and volunteers provide interpretation and guided tours of the estate for both groups and the general public. The garden served as the location for a number of civic events and tours that were hosted by TLC. The TLC has initiated a number of gardening workshops and events that have been well attended and have added substantially to the public interest and use of the site.

2.5 Fund-raising

The garden remains open to the public without charge. To support this use, TLC has been active in soliciting public and corporate donations to the project. In 2006, a modest \$40.00 in cash contributions and \$35.00 worth of in-kind materials was raised. However, the completion of the fence project and onsite improvements boosted fundraising efforts in 2007 with \$2,770 in cash and over \$3,280 in materials and plants donated to the site.

3.0 LEASE RENEWAL

The term of the original lease with the TLC will expire on May 30, 2008. It is recommended that the Community Heritage Commission request Council authorization for staff to undertake negotiations with the TLC to establish terms for a new lease of the property. The lease renewal offers the opportunity to ensure that the needs of both partners are met and that new goals are established to ensure the continued success and restoration of the heritage garden. General terms of the new lease are expected to include a schedule for additional restoration works for the garden, an agreement respecting the expenditure of fundraising for approved restoration projects, and a list of programming events and commitments to be undertaken by TLC.

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4.0 CONCLUSION

The City of Burnaby's partnership with the Land Conservancy of British Columbia in the Eagles Estate Heritage Garden project has provided a substantial benefit for Burnaby. Conservation of Eagles Estate has long been a goal of the City's heritage program and Deer Lake Park Plan. This partnership has expanded volunteer opportunities for those interested in both heritage and horticulture and provides another attraction for tourists as well as an amenity for residents.

With Council authorization, staff will pursue discussions with the TLC to establish terms for a new lease renewal to ensure that the City-TLC partnership remains strong and that this landmark heritage property is conserved as part of the Deer Lake Park heritage precinct. A further report will be submitted on the results of these lease discussions with the TLC. Overall, the garden restoration project has achieved substantial progress during its first five years of operation. The success of the project is largely due to the considerable management efforts of the TLC Lower Mainland Region staff, the ongoing partnership with the City and the outstanding personal contributions of the TLC volunteers and citizens of Burnaby.



B. Luksun
DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING

JW:tn

cc: City Manager
Director Engineering
City Solicitor
Chief Licence Inspector
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services