

FINANCE AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: PIXIE MCGEACHIE READING ROOM

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

Burnaby City Council, at its Closed meeting held on 2011 March 07, received a report from the Finance and Civic Development Committee proposing the naming of the Archives reading room the “Pixie McGeachie Reading Room” in recognition of the contribution Pixie made to the community, especially in the preservation and promotion of its history and heritage.

Doreen Pixie McGeachie was born on 2 October 1921. Although not born in Burnaby, she spent over sixty years living in her adopted hometown and became a leading force in the protection and preservation of its history. A writer by profession, she served as the editor for the Burnaby Examiner newspaper and wrote a column entitled “Burnaby History”. In 1974 she authored her first book titled Bygones of Burnaby, which was one of the first to develop anecdotal stories about pioneer life in Burnaby. She also published Burnaby – A Proud Century (1992); Land of Promise: Robert Burnaby’s Letters from Colonial B.C. (2002); Tram Memories: In Celebration of the Restoration of Interurban 1223 (2007); and Burnaby Scrapbook: An Anecdotal History (2009).

Pixie also contributed many hours of volunteering; helping to establish the Heritage Village Museum in 1971, and serving as President of the Burnaby Historical Society from 1991 – 1993. She served a six year term on Burnaby’s Heritage Commission leading the charge to preserve many historic sites throughout the City. During her twenty years as the Community Archives volunteer archivist for the Historical Society, she succeeded in gathering thousands of rare and valuable historic photographs and documents which now form the core of the photograph collection on our award-winning Heritage Burnaby website. Pixie was directly responsible for identifying, collecting, arranging, organizing and making available these unique and invaluable community records and this lasting legacy will benefit all current and future generations of Burnaby residents.

Copy: City Manager City Archivist

To: His Worship, the Mayor and Councillors
From: Finance and Civic Development Committee
Re: Pixie McGeachie Reading Room
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The City of Burnaby awarded Pixie McGeachie the Kushiro Cup, as Citizen of the Year in 2002, and in 2006 she received a Heritage BC project award for leading the Friends of Interurban 1223 project. In 2008 Heritage BC recognized her again by presenting her with the Ruby Nobbs Award.

The residents of Burnaby suffered a great loss when Pixie McGeachie passed away in August 2010.

At the Finance and Civic Development Committee meeting held on 2011 February 24, the Committee recommended the name “Pixie McGeachie Reading Room”. At the Closed Council meeting held on 2011 March 07, Council approved the name “Pixie McGeachie Reading Room” for the Archives reading room in recognition of Pixie’s long lasting legacy.

This report is provided for public information.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor N. Volkow
Vice Chair

Councillor C. Jordan
Member