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10 » 2009

Annual event gets go-ahead from city council Mayor encourages visits to museum to support group

Burnaby Now

Saturday, October 31, 2009

A popular holiday event - and a highlight of the annual Burnaby Christmas Bureau's campaign - has been given the go-ahead by Burnaby city council.

Council voted in favour of the annual request to allow half-price admission rates - to be given as donations to the bureau - at the Burnaby Village Museum for one evening in December.

The museum will be decked out for Heritage Christmas, and there will be coin boxes and toy drop boxes available on site.

On Dec. 10, from 4 to 8 p.m., rates will be half price and will be donated to the bureau. Children five and under will be free, and entry includes carousel rides.

Mayor Derek Corrigan particularly encouraged those who haven't been to the museum during Christmas to attend the event.

"If they haven't seen Burnaby Village Museum at Christmas, they really should," he said.

FEES ON THE RISE FOR PLANNING

Building and planning fees will see a hike this year.

Staff proposed a 1.5 per cent increase for permit and special services fees, based on the projected 2010 general rate of inflation.

Councillors at the meeting asked staff to confirm if the fees would also be subject to the incoming HST.

Coun. Sav Dhaliwal said if the HST was going to be applied, it would cause a significant increase to the cost.

"It will look like the city is doing it, but it's the province," he said of the costlier fees.

He added that the 1.5 per cent increase being implemented by the city is lower than the anticipated rate of inflation.

Coun. Dan Johnstone said he was concerned about individual home owners getting an extra hit in fees, as many businesses or developers would have the ability to access rebates.

MASTER PLAN AT THE LAKE

Work is continuing on the Deer Lake master plan, with \$131,250 from capital

reserves OK'd to cover the costs.

The funds will go towards new pathway construction, native planting and connecting walkways on the north side of the lake.

GROUPS WILL GET GRANTS

The Wildlife Rescue Association of B.C. has been granted \$5,500 from the city to assist in promoting the welfare of wild animals in the urban environment. The grant was one of three approved at a recent council meeting.

Another \$24,790 will be given to the Burnaby Community Connections Recreation Credit Program, to assist in the cost of administering the program.

Finally, a grant of \$6 per person has been given to assist in the cost of providing a Christmas lunch for 150 local seniors involved in the Gadabout Bus Outings program of Burnaby Volunteers Citizen Support Services.

The dinner will be held at the Burnaby Firefighters Club on Dec. 2. Last year, the request was granted for \$5.50 per person.

CONSIDERING THE CREEKS

The City of Burnaby is teaming up with the University of B.C. to work on a study to improve the Beecher Creek watershed.

Beecher Creek is part of the larger Still Creek system, east of Brentwood Town Centre, and is home to a small population of cutthroat trout, and some re-introduced Coho salmon.

UBC and the city will be working on a joint project to retrofit up to 100 single family homes in the area with two rainwater barrels each, capable of storing up to 340 litres of water per barrel. These can then be released after collection to flow back into the storm sewer system, which helps to reduce the peak flow of runoff entering the drainage system which, in turn, reduces negative impacts such as erosion, on the creek.

The city's share of the cost of the project is \$25,000, which includes the purchase of 200 rain barrels.

The study will provide valuable information on the effectiveness of rain barrels on flow reduction and water quality improvement.

The money will come from the city's gaming fund.

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