



October 27, 2004

**TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation**  
**FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: Cumming Family Donation**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

*That this report be received for information.*

## **BACKGROUND**

In late autumn of 2003, staff were approached by the Cumming family of Wyoming who were interested in donating a bench at English Bay in memory of their parents. As no new bench locations were available at that time, staff worked with the family to create a special amenity for Stanley Park, using their donation of \$25,000.

## **DISCUSSION**

Earlier this spring, a landscape plan was developed that accommodated the donation in a natural recess between the Stanley Park Pitch & Putt Golf Course and the Ted and Mary Greig Rhododendron Garden. Staff maintained a constant consultative process with the Cumming family via e-mail throughout the design phase. Recently completed, the donation is comprised of three elegant steel benches, a low steel and concrete table placed on a blue stone patio and walkway approach. One of the benches has one arm removed to invite closer contact for individuals in wheelchairs. Woolly thyme has been planted between the stone pavers and the site receives both morning and late afternoon sun. This inviting amenity has been enthusiastically received by the public as a place for rest, quiet contemplation and al fresco dining.

On October 26, Park Board staff toured the donation site with the visiting Cumming family. The family was most appreciative of staff's care and attention to the project - so pleased, that they decided to donate another \$25,000 to be utilized near the site for the addition of a sympathetically designed refuse container and to ensure the maintenance of the trio of benches. They also pledged an additional \$25,000 for another worthwhile project at the suggestion of the Stanley District Director. Their gift to the Vancouver Park Board demonstrates the keen interest of donors to give to Vancouver parks while at the same time demonstrating the benefits of encouraging creativity and flexibility in matching meaningful projects to donors.

## **SUMMARY**

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank the Cumming family for their generous contribution to provide a park amenity, funds to maintain it and additional funds for a further special project.

The Park Board is grateful for all donations and strives to be flexible by creating new giving opportunities with potential donors.

Prepared by:  
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