

DATE: June 8, 1995

SUBJECT: IN-LINE SKATING ON THE STANLEY PARK SEAWALL

#### RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Stanley Park Seawall Bike Patrol be increased as follows:

- add extra patroller Saturday, Sunday and holidays from noon to 6:00 p.m., and,
- add extra patroller weekdays from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

#### BACKGROUND

At a regular meeting of the Board held on May 15, the Chair requested the Recreation Services Committee to prepare recommendations for the Board that would solve the problems created by in-line skaters on the Stanley Park Seawall. The Chair also asked the Committee to draft a by-law banning in-line skating from the seawall.

A meeting of the Recreation Services Committee was held on Monday May 29. A copy of a staff report on the discussions that took place is attached to this report.

#### DISCUSSION

If the Board wishes to ban in-line skaters from the seawall, it would not be necessary to pass a new by-law to do this. The Park By-law currently gives the Board the power to impose such a ban. All that would be required is a motion of the Board to ban in-line skaters from the seawall.

This report is recommending, as an interim measure, that the staffing level of the Stanley Park Bike Patrol be increased. The cost of this will be about \$6,800. If the Board approves this recommendation the funds will be found in the Recreation Division operating budget. Along with this increased staffing, a number of other initiatives will be attempted or put in place:

##### 1. Establishment of a Volunteer Skate Patrol:

A local in-line skating advocate has offered to spearhead the establishment of a volunteer Skate Patrol to augment the service of our Bike Patrollers. This Volunteer Patrol would be certified by a nationally recognized body, the International In-line Skating Association, and as such would be carefully screened and would be required to perform both written and practical tests to ensure patroller competency .

These volunteers would be responsible for the distribution of in-line skate safety and education information, make skaters aware of park etiquette and by-laws and provide basic instruction to skaters

where feasible.

Volunteer Skate Patrols have been found useful in cities in New York, Florida and California.

This group would be trained and supervised by the head bicycle patroller and would be evaluated regularly to ensure effective service.

2. Increased Enforcement:

The Stanley Park Mounted Squad meets weekly with our Bicycle Patrol, and where scheduling and human resources permit, joint patrols will be arranged. These patrols will be designed to provide enforcement backup when seawall patrons are unwilling to comply with our staff requests to correct unsafe behaviours.

3. Improved Signage:

By the time that this report is received by the Board, a complete re-stencilling of the seawall will be complete. The yellow dividing line, skater, cyclist and pedestrian stencils, have been painted.

As indicated above, these actions are considered as interim. Other approaches were discussed at the Recreation Services Committee meeting that would separate "wheeled" users of the Seawall from pedestrians. These suggestions involved a total or partial ban of in-line skaters and cyclists from a portion of the seawall, as well as the provision of alternate routes in the park for these users. These suggestions are all capital intensive and beyond the means of the current Capital Plan. They are being examined in detail and will be discussed as part of the Stanley Park Transportation Study for possible inclusion in the next Capital Plan.

Prepared by:  
Recreation Division  
Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation

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