

## SUBJECT: SPECIAL EVENT - LATE REQUEST

### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board receive this report for information.

### BACKGROUND

At 4:30 p.m. on July 12, 1995 staff received an application to stage a concert on Saturday, September 9, 1995 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on New Brighton Park.

The organization making application is the "Randy Caine Defence Fund". The name of the event is "Field of Dreams". Their description of the event is "constitutional challenge on Narcotic Control" - 2 bands, 3 speakers, Hemp seed burgers, a tent and canopy and the showing of an American agricultural film. They anticipate an attendance of 1,000.

### DISCUSSION

Staff have had no opportunity for further consultation on this proposal. The deadline to submit reports for the last Park Board meeting before September 9 was July 13.

It has been the experience of staff that previous events organized around this theme are, in part at least, supporting illegal activity. The use of illegal substances, whether an organized part of the event or not, will undoubtedly be present. Even though there are many supporters for the variety of uses for hemp, a significant draw is still to those who support its use as a narcotic.

The organization has been told that staff cannot approve this event. This report has been prepared for the Board's information because the organizer of the event has requested to appear before the Board as a delegation. Given the short time frame and the likelihood that this event will involve the use of hemp as a narcotic, staff do not think that this event should be permitted.

In an effort to consult with the Hastings Community Centre on this proposed event the president of the Hastings Community Centre Association Board of Directors has conducted a telephone poll of the Hastings Board members. Their Board does not meet in July or August. It was possible to reach 9 of the 15 Board members. All nine persons contacted were opposed to the use of New Brighton Park for this proposed event.

### CONCLUSION

Support for this event will result in the promotion and use of illegal substances on a park.

Prepared by:  
Recreation Division  
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