

**Date: Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1999**

**SUBJECT: Arbor Month**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Board accept as information the following report on Arbor Month 99.**

## **BACKGROUND**

This annual initiative was developed as part of the Park Board's Street Tree Management Plan, adopted in 1990. From research carried out by ARCT, who were contracted to develop the plan, it had been shown that cities that had the most success in the implementation of a new Street Tree Management Plan were those whose plans included a strong public information component. For the last nine years the Park Board has initiated an annual fall celebration of the urban forest that is comprised of a number of initiatives that aim at raising public awareness of and stewardship for the urban forest.

## **DISCUSSION**

Up until this year, the Park Board has celebrated "Arbor Week", but it has become apparent that the program has grown beyond this time frame and the staff's capacity to carry out the wide range of initiatives that have been created. Therefore, this year's programs more realistically have been expanded to an Arbor Month celebration.

Arbor Month 1999 is about partnerships. A number of the events staff have developed involve various divisions and districts of the Park Board, City Council and City Planning and a variety of community organizations and corporate sponsors. Support for community centres, as well as schools and other organizations to organize their own events and promotions, also is being provided. The following is a brief synopsis of the month's highlights:

### **Scheduled, Public City-Wide Events**

#### **October 2, 1999 10 am - 4 pm.**

**TreeFair 99** --This is the kick-off celebration for the month organized by the Park Board in partnership with the City's Planning Department and features a repeat of the "Tree Voucher"

Program of 1996 wherein residents of Vancouver can purchase a tree at a subsidized price of \$15--corporate sponsors BC Hydro and Canada Trust have contributed \$20,000 to the City's Tree Trust program and these funds will be used to offset the costs of the trees. (See Appendix I). The event also will feature tree planting and pruning workshops, talks, kids' activities, food, entertainment and educational displays. David Tarrant is a featured guest speaker. Riley Park Community Centre is providing significant support for this event. About 100 volunteers will assist with the project. The Chair of the Park Board and the Mayor will officially "open" Arbor Month at this event.

### **Friday, October 29th**

**Cultural Harmony Grove Awards Ceremony and Tree Planting** --This annual event is organized in partnership with the City's Special Advisory Committee on Cultural Communities as a means of recognizing individual and groups who have made an outstanding contribution to promoting cultural harmony in our City. The event includes a plaque unveiling and tree planting for this year's winners.

### **Saturday and Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Forests ...In Vancouver**--A tree planting event and celebration in partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Vancouver and the Forest Alliance of BC will be held at Jericho Park. This is the second annual project in an ongoing partnership with the Kiwanis Club. Jericho Park is one of the five woodland areas that has been identified for the reintroduction of native trees. The Kiwanis Club "sells" trees to donors, which pays for the new trees and associated Park Board costs and the remainder of the funds are used by the Kiwanis Club for their charitable projects. Sponsors of the project include The Forest Alliance of BC, Canada Trust, *The West End Times*, *Vancouver Echo*, and *The Courier* newspapers. Last year the program provided more than \$40,000 in financial and in-kind sponsorship to help promote Arbor Week.

### **School Programs--Running All Month**

**"A Forest of Words"**--This innovative pilot project is based on one that was piloted last year for secondary schools. It involved a hands-on, half day workshop experience in Stanley Park that was developed and led by Park Board staff. Students learned about mapping and planting techniques, planted trees and shrubs, learned about wildlife habitats and installed bird boxes. This year a new component is being added. Drawing on the Park Board's Artist-in-Residence program, this year's project combines the "hands on" ecology component with art component in a way that encourages exploratory learning situations that combine art, nature and science. Two literary artists have been commissioned to work collaboratively with secondary school classes, Park Board staff and teachers. It is structured to include three to four creative writing classes in the classroom for each school group during the month of October. The half-day hands-on workshop will be developed by our staff and held at Queen Elizabeth Park as a pivotal component of this month-long cross-curricular learning experience.

### **Tree Plantings with Elementary Students—Running All Month**

Times for these events will be arranged with teachers. Arboriculture staff will visit the classroom prior to the planting to provide urban forest information and then students will participate in the planting projects.

#### **Vancouver East District**

Captain Cook School--Remnant Woodland planting at Captain Cook Park  
Hastings School--Street Tree Planting of the 2600 Block of Pandora Street

#### **Queen Elizabeth District**

Kerrisdale School--Street Tree Planting of the 3000 and 3100 blocks of West 39<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Stanley District  
Lord Robert Annex--Street Tree Planting of 1000 block of Bute Street

## **CONCLUSION**

Arbor Month provides a variety of opportunities for the Park Board to raise awareness of the work it is doing to protect, expand and maintain the thousands of trees under its stewardship that are found on Vancouver's streets and parks. It is also a time to develop important community partnerships that support these goals and to provide educational and hands-on urban forest experiences for residents of all ages.

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