

Date: November 28, 2007



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: 2008 Special Events

RECOMMENDATION

- A. *THAT the Board approve the following existing major event with significant changes for the first three years of their operation (see appendix A) Scotia Bank ½ Marathon June 22, 2008; Vancouver Pride Society August 3, 2008. All arrangements will be to the satisfaction of the General Manager***
- B. *THAT the Board receive the 2008 Calendar of Major Events as information (see Appendix B).***

POLICY

The Park Board reviews and approves new special events as well as existing major special events which request changes within the first three years to their operation. The Special Event Policy as outlined in Appendix A was approved by the Board in December, 2003.

BACKGROUND

Major special events are defined as events which significantly restrict the public's access to park space or significantly impact the surrounding neighbourhood. The Special Event Policy outlines the application process for event organizers and defines the process for evaluation criteria and allocation priorities such as, consultation requirements, fees and charges, and revenue generating activities (i.e. gated events, sponsorship, sale of goods and consumption of alcohol).

Board approval is required for major special events for the first three years of an event's operation. In addition, any significant changes or unresolved problems with existing events are also forwarded to the Board for consideration. Board approval is required for events over 1,000 people, events which significantly impact regular park users and neighbours, have extensive set-up and take down procedures or events which are in variance with one or more Park Board policies such as, charging of an admission fee, selling goods other than event related items, requesting a liquor license which does not meet the Board's Policies for Special Events, etc.

Large scale events which impact more than just parkland are also forwarded to the City’s FEST Committee for consideration. The FEST Committee consists of representatives from various civic departments including Engineering, Police, Fire, Health, Permits and Licenses, Transit and Parks. The FEST Committee also reports to City Council with an annual calendar of major events.

Applications for major events which do not meet the deadline for the Calendar of Special Events are forwarded to the Board for consideration as they are received. Applications for new major special events must be submitted in writing to the Board four to six months prior to the requested date. This ensures adequate time for community consultation as well as the overall consideration of the event request.

DISCUSSION

The 2008 Calendar of Special Events has been included for the Board’s information (see Appendix B). The Calendar is compiled based on the requests from event organizers received by staff at this time. Also included in the Calendar, is a listing of events which are approved by staff, to provide an overview of the nature and scope of the activities permitted on City parks. Staff are working with a number of organizations with new special event requests for 2008. Once applications have been received, staff will forward them individually to the Board for consideration.

The following request for change has the support of staff for inclusion in the 2008 Calendar of Special Events. If approved by the Board, the event is subject to further consultation and arrangements agreeable to the General Manager.

Request	Park	Dates	Sponsor and Description of the Event
Location change and partial road closure	Stanley Park – Fish House meadow	June 21 Set-up: June 22	<p><u>Scotia Bank ½ Marathon</u> - Runner’s Choice Attendance: 4,500</p> <p>This is the 2nd year organizers are requesting the use of the Fish House meadow area and the closure of Park Drive from 2nd Beach Pool to the Beach Avenue entrance from 6am-12pm. The relocation from Ceperley Field to the meadow area adjacent to the Fish House Restaurant was necessitated due to the construction of the Air India memorial. Due to the increased number of participants, organizers would like to continue to use the relocated event site.</p> <p>Traffic would be diverted at the Beach Avenue entrance during the event. The remainder of the Park would still allow traffic to continue and exit along North Lagoon Drive to Georgia Street. The Nelson Street entrance and Ryan road will remain open for public to access the Pitch’n Putt facility, the tennis court parking lots and the Fish House parking lot. During this year’s event, staff</p>

			<p>assessed that the event did have an impact on parking and traffic in the surrounding neighbourhood. Staff will continue to work closely with organizers to minimize traffic issues within the Park and in the neighbourhood during the event. Organizers will also continue working directly with the Fish House Restaurant to lessen any impacts as a result of the event.</p> <p>The Scotia Bank ½ Marathon will be celebrating its 10th year and has developed into one of Vancouver’s most popular races. The event is an extremely well-organized and well-conducted event.</p>
Special Occasion License	Sunset Beach	August 3	<p><u>Vancouver Pride Festival</u> - Vancouver Pride Society Attendance: 10,000+</p> <p>This is the 2nd year that organizers are requesting permission to have a beer garden in the sport court area of Sunset Beach parking lot. The enclosed area will have a capacity of 200 and will operate from 1 pm – 5:30pm. Staff assessed that security needed to be more visible during event and site capacity numbers should be adhered to at all times. Staff will continue to work closely with organizers and monitor issues during event.</p> <p>The Pride Festival and Parade has grown into an internationally recognized event, attracting thousands of people each year.</p>

2008 CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS

Appendix B provides a list of the anticipated events for next year. However, the following future events are included for the Board’s information.

ITU 2008 TRIATHLON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Presently, the Fest Committee is discussing plans for the International Triathlon Union 2008 World Championships on June 6, 7 & 8. The 2008 event anticipates 4,000-7,000 athletes. Organizers are requesting the use of English Bay and Stanley Park as well as the closure of various downtown streets for this international event. As further details are confirmed, staff will forward them to the Board for consideration.

2008 WALK FOR RECONCILIATION

The Fest Committee is currently working with organizers for the 2008 Walk for Reconciliation. This is a community event planned for September 2008 to commemorate British Columbia’s 150th anniversary. The event focuses on bringing together Aboriginal people and participants from many other cultures in an atmosphere of welcome, recognition and respect. Organizers are requesting the use of English Bay and various downtown streets. The anticipated attendance for this event is 50,000. As further details are confirmed, staff will forward them to the Board for consideration.

2008 WEEKEND TO END BREAST CANCER

The Weekend to End Breast Cancer will be requesting a new venue due to a change in their event date. The event had been at Killarney Park for the past 4 years during the middle of August. The event has approximately 2,000-2,500 participants. The 2008 event will be held on September 6 & 7. Currently, the Fest Committee is discussing plans for the event route and various options for the overnight location. Staff will forward details to the Board for consideration once the site has been confirmed.

STANLEY PARK ROAD CLOSURES

The following existing annual events result each year in a morning road closure for Stanley Park. Generally, Stanley Park has been closed to vehicle traffic once a month between 6am - 10am during the months of April, May, June and September. Vehicle restrictions have a significant impact on various Park Stakeholder operations i.e. Vancouver Aquarium, AAA Carriage, restaurants, club and sporting associations and tour buses. A majority of stakeholder patrons depend on vehicle access to arrive at facilities and services within the Park. Thus, there are potential revenue losses for both the Park Board and stakeholder operations. Early morning road closures prior to 10 am tend to have minimal impact upon various operations in the Park. However, public use and access does increase significantly by mid-morning. Organizers are expected to ensure that their events have concluded by 10 am. Staff will work closely with event organizers to inform all Park stakeholders in advance of these dates.

Date	Event	Sponsor and Description of road closure
April 20 , 2008 6:30 am – 10 am	Sun Run Attendance - 40,000	Vancouver Sun & Landmark Sports Group City street road closures will delay access to Stanley Park. Race route starts on Georgia St. turns left onto Denman, right onto Lagoon Drive and into Stanley Park along the road beside the Park Administration Building and exits via the English Bay entrance.
May 4 2008 6:30 am – 10 am	International Marathon Attendance - 12,000	Vancouver International Marathon Society Full road closure.
June 22, 2008 6:00 am – 12 pm	Scotia Bank ½ Marathon Attendance – 4,500	Runner’s Choice Event organizers require a road closure on the western side of Stanley Park between 6:30 am -12 pm. Park Drive from Second Beach crosswalk to the Beach Avenue entrance will be closed to vehicle traffic during the event.
September 1, 2008 6:00 am -10 am	Triathlon Attendance – 500	Multisports Canada Full road closure.

SUMMARY

Special events reflect the cultural diversity within the City of Vancouver. They are a vibrant part of the activities offered throughout the year in our parks and beaches. In addition to the cultural and recreational benefits, such events also serve as major fundraisers for numerous non-profit organizations. Each year, these events are well attended by residents and visitors of Vancouver.

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