

Date: November 13, 2008



**TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board**  
**FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: 2009 Special Events**

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## RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board approve the following changes to existing major events with Scotia Bank 1/2 Marathon June 28, 2009; Vancouver Pride Society August 2, 2009, as outlined in the report. All arrangements will be to the satisfaction of the General Manager*
- B. THAT the Board receive the 2009 Calendar of Major Events as information.*

## 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 2009 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 2009. Once applications have been received, staff will forward them individually to the Board for consideration.

The following changes to event requests have the support of staff for inclusion in the 2009 Calendar of Special Events. If approved by the Board, the events are subject to further consultation and arrangements approved by the General Manager.

Request	Park	Dates	Sponsor and Description of the Event
Location change and partial road closure	Stanley Park – meadow area in front of Fish House	June 27 Set-up: June 28	<p><u>Scotia Bank ½ Marathon</u> - Runner's Choice Attendance: 4,500</p> <p>This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year organizers are requesting the use of the meadow area adjacent to the Fish House and the closure of Park Drive from 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 will remain open for public to access the Pitch'n Putt facility, the tennis court and restaurant parking lots. During this year's event, staff worked closely with</p>

			<p>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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 2	<p><u>Vancouver Pride Festival</u> - Vancouver Pride Society Attendance: 10,000+</p> <p>This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that organizers are requesting permission to have a beer garden in the sport court area of Sunset Beach parking lot. This past year organizers were approved to have an enclosed area with a capacity of 750 and operated from 1 pm -7 pm. The overall event was well-attended and extremely successful. Staff will continue to monitor capacity levels and access to the area.</p> <p>The Pride Festival and Parade has grown into an internationally recognized event, attracting thousands of people each year.</p>

**2009 CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS**

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

**2009 WORLD POLICE AND FIRE GAMES**

Presently, the Fest Committee is discussing plans for the World Police and Fire Games scheduled for July 31-August 9, 2009. The 2009 event anticipates 12,000-14,000 athletes participating from over 70 countries. The games will consist of 10 days of athletic competition in 67 sporting events. Organizers are requesting various locations including Stanley Park, Spanish Banks and Jericho Park. As further details are confirmed, staff will forward them to the Board for consideration.

**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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Sponsor and Description of road closure</b>
April 19, 2009 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 3, 2009 6:30 am – 10 am	International Marathon Attendance - 12,000	Vancouver International Marathon Society  Full road closure.
June 28, 2009 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 7, 2009 6:00 am -10 am	Triathlon Attendance – 500	Multisports Canada  Full road closure.

**SUMMARY**

Special events enhance and enrich the cultural diversity within the City of Vancouver. The numerous festivals and celebrations held each year attract thousands of residents and visitors to our local parks and beaches. Many of these events also have a significant economic benefit through increased tourism and serve as a major fundraiser for various non-profit organizations.

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