



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services *to Parks, Rec & Culture - Aug. 31, 2004.*
 Committee **Date:** August 12, 2004

From: Kate Sparrow **File:** 11-7400-01.
 Director, Recreation & Cultural Services

Re: Canadian Wheelchair Curling Championships

Staff Recommendation

That the City co-sponsor with Tourism Richmond, the welcoming luncheon of the Canadian Wheelchair Championships 2004 to a maximum of \$650.

K Sparrow

Kate Sparrow
 Director, Recreation & Cultural Services
 (4129)

Att. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
<i>K Sparrow</i>		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

In June 2004, the Richmond planning committee for the Canadian Wheelchair Curling Championships 2004 approached the City requesting assistance with hosting this event in November 2004. The assistance requested is with transportation of athletes, coaches and officials between venues, the sponsoring of a welcoming luncheon and help with media relations as well as 125 anniversary commemorative pins for participants. A letter requesting assistance is attached. (Attachment 1)

Analysis

Wheelchair Curling

Wheelchair curling will become an official sport of the Paralympics starting in the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy. In 2010, the Olympic Wheelchair Curling competition is scheduled to take place at Meadow Park Sports Centre in Whistler.

The 2nd annual Canadian Wheelchair Curling Championships were awarded to Richmond due to the success of Wheels On Ice held in April 2004 as well as the ability of the City to accommodate a number of disabled athletes in local hotels.

Wheels On Ice was an integrated curling event with both disabled and able bodied curlers participating in a fund raiser for the Rick Hansen Wheels In Motion campaign. This successful event had close to 130 participants.

2004 Canadian Wheelchair Curling Championships

The 2004 Championships will take place at the Richmond Curling Club from November 23rd to November 27th, 2004. Athletes from this championship will be selected to represent Canada at the World Wheelchair Curling Championship in Scotland in early 2005.

It is anticipated that there will be six teams representing four different provinces competing in Richmond - two teams from BC, two from Ontario, and one each from Alberta and Manitoba.

The committee is looking for sponsorship from various sources for the lunch each day as well as the wrap-up banquet.

Request for Assistance from the City

The organizing committee has requested assistance from the City in several different areas – help with transportation of athletes, coaches and officials between venues; sponsorship of the welcoming luncheon; help with media relations and 125 anniversary pins.

Staff have been working with the committee and the transportation sub-committee with arranging transportation requirements for the athletes. Use of the City's bus with the automated lift has been secured for this event and they are currently looking for volunteer drivers.

The welcoming luncheon would be for athletes, coaches, attendants, planning committee, volunteers, media, dignitaries and invited guests. It is anticipated approximately 80 people would be in attendance. The cost has been quoted at \$1275. It is recommended that this luncheon be co-sponsored with Tourism Richmond.

The Disability Resource Centre, as part of their performance expectations of the City operating grant, is conducting an accessibility study in co-operation with Tourism Richmond. This partnership benefits the City by highlighting businesses that are accessible for tourists and by helping businesses, tourist sites, hotels and restaurants understand changes they can make to increase their accessibility for people with disabilities. The results will be published on the DRC website this fall with a link to Tourism Richmond's web site. The findings will be highlighted at the luncheon. It has been recommended to the event planning committee to invite Kevin Brooks (project consultant) to speak at the welcoming luncheon.

Staff have also provided some assistance in the area of promotion and will continue to do so. The event was listed in the Recreation & Cultural Guide for the Fall/Winter 2004 and future plans would include posting information on our website, through the city noticeboard and in our community facilities.

This event will then be recognized as a 125 Anniversary event by promoting it on the 125 website and providing 125 commemorative pins to athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers.

As a sponsor of the event, the City of Richmond would be recognized as a Sponsor.

Financial Impact

As a co-sponsor of the welcoming luncheon with Tourism Richmond, the cost would not exceed \$650 and funds could be allocated from the 125 Anniversary Account.

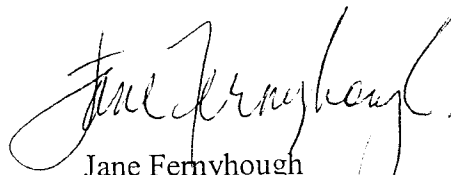
Conclusion

This is an opportunity for Richmond to host a national event in what is a new Paralympic sport. With this sport's inclusion in the 2010 Winter Olympics, this would be a way to increase local awareness of the activity and potentially encourage participants who may compete in future games.

As Richmond becomes an Olympic city, the ability to showcase Richmond to other parts of the Canadian sporting community will build further recognition of Richmond as an accessible community.



Sean Davies
Diversity Services Coordinator
(4390)



Jane Fernyhough
Manager, Cultural Services
(4288)

Attachment 1

Tuesday, August 17, 2004

Sean Davies
Coordinator, Diversity Services
City of Richmond

Dear Sean,

After meeting with Mayor Brodie on June 23rd of this year, he indicated that City of Richmond would be pleased to participate in the Canadian Wheelchair Curling Championships (CWCC) being held at the Richmond Curling Club this coming November.

The areas discussed in this meeting were:

- The possibility of the sponsorship of the opening luncheon discussed was estimated to be approximately \$1,275;
- Assistance with transportation requirements;
- 125 City of Richmond commemoratives "Pins".

Additional assistance, not discussed with the Mayor, but has been subsequently recognized are:

- Media relations assistance;
- "Welcoming Letter" from the Mayor for the event's programme.

During the meeting the Mayor did agree he would be available as a dignitary at the Opening Ceremony as well as the main banquet to be held on November 25th (both have been confirmed by phone since this meeting). A discussion was also held to his possible attendance to Opening for the "Wheels On Ice Event", which is being held as a separate event from the CWCC being held on November 27th.

We truly to appreciate any and all assistance the City of Richmond is providing to assist this truly Canadian event and how the City of Richmond is endeavouring to make "accessibility" happen in their community. If you should have any questions what-so-ever please do not hesitate to give me a call at 604 306-5555.

Kindest regards,

Glen Braathen
Co-Chair, Canadian Wheelchair Curling Championships 2004

CC: Lynn Jambor,
Ron Bordeleau.