



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee **Date:** October 2, 2006
From: Kate Sparrow **File:**
 Director, Recreation & Cultural Services
Re: **British Columbia Museums Association Conference 2007**

Staff Recommendation

That the City of Richmond, in partnership with the Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society and Tourism Richmond, host the British Columbia Museums Association's annual conference in October 2007.

Kate Sparrow
Director, Recreation & Cultural Services

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ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
Economic Development	<i>[Signature]</i>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>[Signature]</i>		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES	NO	REVIEWED BY CAO	YES	NO
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<i>[Signature]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

The BC Museums Association (BCMA) approached City staff to inquire if Richmond would be interested in hosting the annual conference in 2007.

Analysis

The British Columbia Museums Association provides a unified voice for the institutions, trustees, professional staff and volunteers of the BC museum and art gallery community. Founded in 1957 and incorporated in 1966, the BCMA delivers a number of programs to the benefit of its members and the cultural community, including granting programs, youth work assistance and technology support. The Association is the cultural information hub for British Columbia. Richmond has not hosted this professional conference for over 20 years.

Hosting the conference provides many benefits to a community such as Richmond. It provides an opportunity for this city to “show off” the museum and heritage plans, projects and current operations that have been receiving much attention lately. It provides an opportunity to draw attention to culture and heritage in the City as we approach 2010.

Terra Nova, an area so historically intact that it has received provincial attention and financial support, Britannia Heritage Shipyard, and the interest in developing a new community Museum are but a few of the interesting stories of preservation and presentation that the City of Richmond can share with colleagues across the province. Planning studies currently underway: the Museum & Heritage Strategy and the Steveston Conservation Program, will be complete and have generated much interest in the heritage community.

The conference also provides an opportunity for staff development. Typically one or two members of City staff have the opportunity to attend this conference. In hosting, museum and heritage staff at all levels will get the opportunity to attend and undertake planning and delivery of a provincial professional conference .

Both the Richmond Museum Society and the Heritage Commission have passed motions officially supporting hosting this conference. The Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society is aware of the benefits of hosting a conference as they hosted a national Canadian Parks Partnership Conference in 2002. They also have endorsed the proposal to host the conference. Tourism Richmond is interested in co-sponsoring this event due to the impact it will have for tourism. The average annual BCMA conference hosts approximately 120 – 150 delegates. Due to the favourable location, estimations for 2007 could be as high as 250.

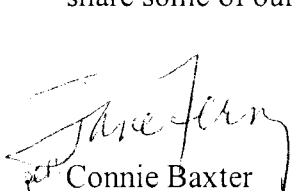
The BCMA secretariat will be responsible for the registration and the program of the conference. A Richmond staff member will be on the program committee. The City of Richmond, with our partners, will be responsible for local arrangements, including the venue, evening activities and field trips/tours. Host communities have often applied for an HRDC grant to help offset staff time.

Financial Impact

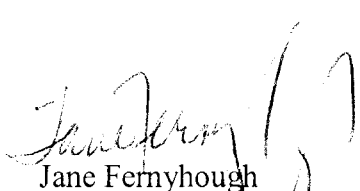
Staff time and participation in efforts to secure sponsorship for the conference.

Conclusion

Hosting a conference of this size and scale would be a large investment of staff time but the benefits to the community and to the staff involved provide much greater returns on this investment. Richmond has a number of heritage resources and is on the cutting edge of preservation and presentation of the City's past and this forum would provide a opportunity to share some of our successes and challenges.



Connie Baxter
Supervisor, Richmond Museum &
Heritage Services
(6475)



Jane Fernyhough
Manager of Heritage & Cultural Services
(4288)

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