



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

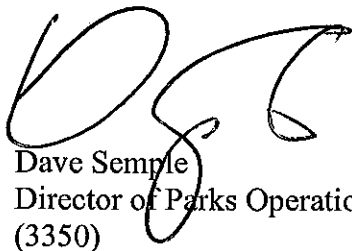
To: *To Parks, Rec & Culture - Jan 25, 2006* *To Council - Feb 13, 2006*
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services **Date:** January 5, 2006
Committee

From: Dave Semple **File:** *06-2270-01*
Director of Parks Operations

Re: **Suian Maru Centennial Committee Request for the renaming of Don and Lion Islands**

Staff Recommendation

1. That the City of Richmond prepare an official letter to the Suian Maru Centennial Committee in support of their efforts to initiate a re-naming/dedication of Don and Lion Islands to Oikawa and Sato Islands.
2. That staff be directed to work with the Suian Maru Centennial Committee to develop a commemorative/interpretive sign/plaque to be installed in a mutually agreed upon location prior to the Suian Maru Centennial celebrations planned for the fall of 2006.



Dave Semple
Director of Parks Operations
(3350)

Att. 1

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

Staff Report

Origin

At the September 27, 2005 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee meeting, a proposal was received from the Suian Maru Centennial Committee to rename Don and Lion Islands after a group of settlers that arrived in 1906 (see attachment #1). Staff were directed by Council to investigate the following recommendation;

"That the City of Richmond take appropriate steps and work with the GVRD to re-name Don and Lion Islands to their local historical names, Oikawa and Sato Islands."

The purpose of this report is in response to the above referral and to recommend potential next steps.

Analysis

Enquiries to the GVRD and the Province have yielded the following information:

Enabling Legislation

1. Geographical place names are the responsibility of the Province.

Responsibility for the naming of geographical places is under the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. Under British Columbia's Geographical Naming Principles, proposals for changes to existing names must demonstrate that;

- the proposed name is acceptable to the public,
- a commemorative name has significance that is recognized by the general public,
- the First Nation, in whose territory the place falls, has been consulted, and
- the history and heritage of the place has been researched in order to demonstrate that the proposal is acceptable beyond a single or special interest group.

The Province has indicated that well established names are not usually changed unless there is a compelling reason to do so (i.e. the existing name is derogatory or no longer suitable).

2. The GVRD is responsible for the management of the islands as part of the Fraser River Islands Regional Park.

Don and Lion Islands, along with Douglas Island which is located up river near Surrey Bend, are currently managed by the GVRD for their ecological value. The islands offer only limited access and are not generally open to the public. The GVRD is currently undertaking habitat compensation work on the foreshore of the islands.

The Suian Maru Centennial Committee is planning for the centennial celebration of the voyage of the Suian Maru in October of 2006. The committee would like to have some form of commemoration in place in time for their celebration. There are several options that could be explored to address the request from the Suian Maru Centennial Committee.

Options for Consideration:

In response to the request to the City by the Suian Maru Centennial Committee, four options are presented for consideration. At this time, options 1 and 2 are recommended by staff as a potential approach in support of the community committee's request:

Option 1 - Council supports the Suian Maru Centennial Committee's renaming proposal. - Recommended

Council could provide formal endorsement, in the form of a letter, for the renaming of Don and Lion Islands thereby satisfying one of the conditions stipulated under the naming principles. The City could further assist the committee with their proposal by providing any required documentation such as maps and continued support in their application.

Option 2 - Placement of a commemorative plaque on City property in the vicinity of the islands. - Recommended

A commemorative plaque could be placed in a location that is publicly accessible and has direct views to Don and Lion Islands. This would allow the Suian Maru Centennial Committee to participate in a dedication ceremony in conjunction with the planned celebrations. One potential location is where No. 9 Road meets the waterfront directly across from Lion Island. The other potential location is at a nearby marina and in cooperation with the marina owner.

Option 3 - Council direction to staff to submit the renaming proposal to the Province on behalf of the Suian Maru Centennial Committee.

The committee has documented the history of the settlement on the islands. The City could further assist by researching the history of the current names and formally approaching the Musqueam First Nation. The Richmond Archives does not have any information about the current names or the traditional names so further research of outside sources such as UBC Special Collections would have to be commissioned by the City. This option would involve the dedication of staff time to the proposal development and consultation with the Suian Maru Centennial Committee.

Option 4 - Proposal to the GVRD to change the park name for the islands.

The Suian Maru Centennial Committee has suggested that a simpler way to have a commemorative name for the islands would be to ask the GVRD to use either Oikawa or Sato as a park name. A proposal to the GVRD could be made through the GVRD Director of Parks or through Council resolution to the GVRD Board of Directors. The Suian Maru Centennial Committee could also

consider making a proposal to the GVRD with a letter of endorsement from Council as recommended in Option 1.

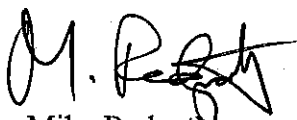
Financial Impact

There are no financial implications associated with the recommended Option 1 as detailed in this report. Option 2- the creation of and installation of an interpretive/commemorative sign/plaque on the foreshore adjacent to Don and Lion Islands would involve a capital commitment of approximately \$500.00 to \$1000.00 for manufacturing, staff time in design and consultation and installation of the plaque on site. If approved, this funding could be directed from Parks General Development capital fund in 2006.

Conclusion

The process for changing a geographic place name involves significant research and consultation. In view of the financial impact and potential demands on staff time, Option 1 is the preferred option. In consideration of the planned Suian Maru Centennial celebration next fall, Council might wish to consider implementation of Option 2, the placement of a commemorative interpretive sign/plaque, independent of any action on the other options. The placement of a plaque commemorating the Suian Maru Centennial celebration in the fall of 2006 could include a ceremony at the site to unveil the interpretive signage and or plaque.

The Suian Maru Centennial Committee could then proceed with research and consultation knowing that there will be a form of commemoration ready for the planned centennial celebrations next October.

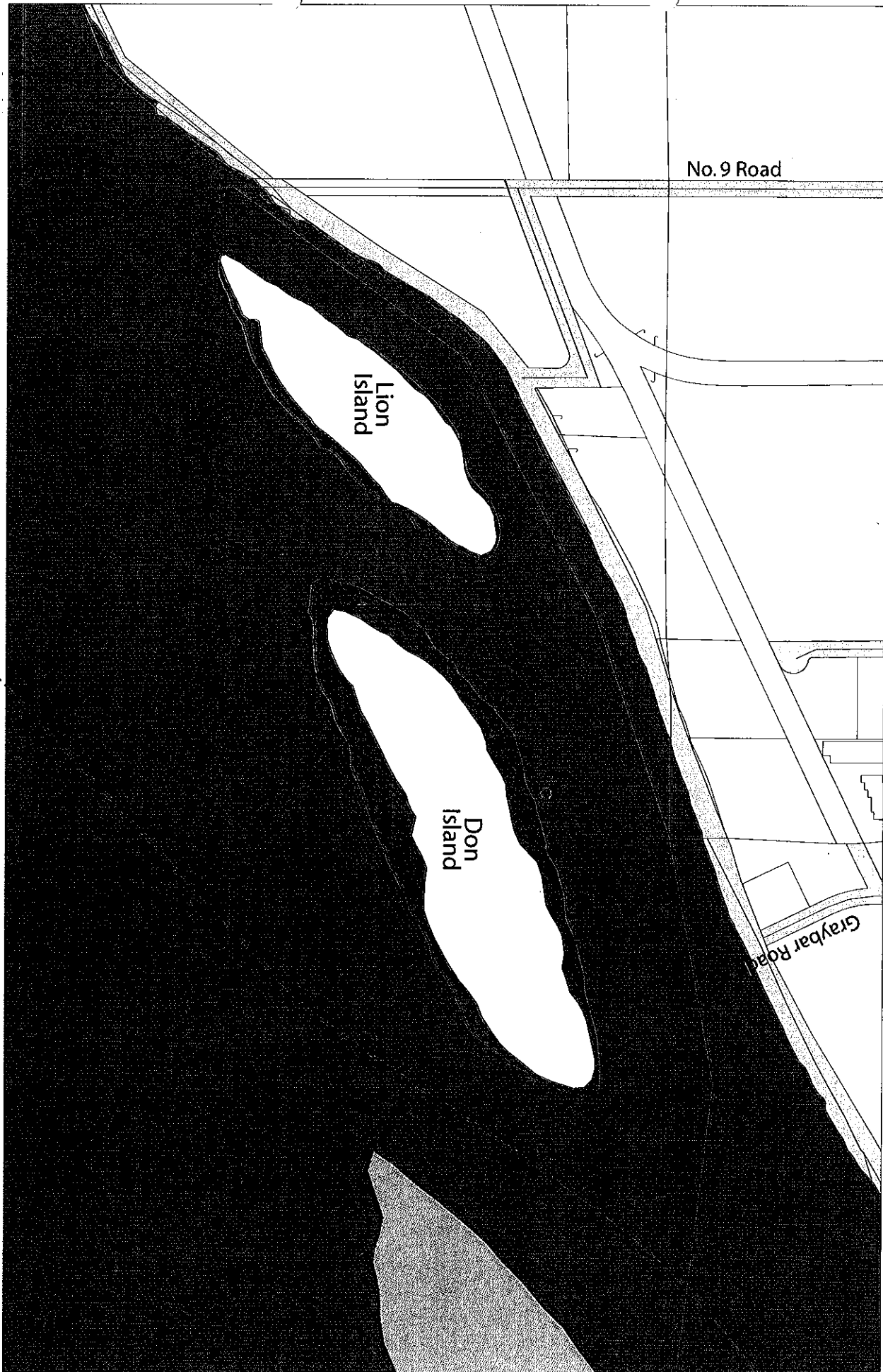


Mike Redpath
Manager, Parks - Programs, Planning & Design
(1275)



Jamie Esko
Park Planner

MER:mer



Lion
Island

Don
Island

No. 9 Road

Graybar Road

The Story of the Suian Maru

In 1906, the three-masted Suian Maru deposited 83 "Boat People" at Beacher Bay near Victoria. They were recruited by Jinzaburo Oikawa who had dreams of creating a colony on two islands in the Fraser. Most were from his native Miyagi but some were also from Iwate and Kanagawa. Unable to obtain passports, they left Japan illegally and tried to smuggle themselves into Canada. They were apprehended within a few days but there was a labour shortage in Canada and a Vancouver Japanese consulate staffer negotiated entry visas for them in exchange for promises to work on the railroad and other jobs in need of workers.

These pioneers became residents of Don and Lion Islands in the Fraser River just downstream from Annacis Island. The islands were called Oikawa Jima and Sato Jima by local Nikkei in honour of their leaders. Oikawa's *was* processed salt chum salmon and salt salmon roe, mainly for export to Japan. They milled rice for the local market and brewed sake for a time until quashed by authorities. His dreams unfulfilled, Jinzaburo returned to Japan in 1917 but his legacy lives on in the many descendants of the Suian Maru who remained in North America.

The most famous descendant of the Suian Maru People was Buck Suzuki, born on Don Island and a WWII veteran of the Canadian Forces, who spearheaded the drive to bring Nikkei fishermen into the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union. His environmentalist concerns resulted in the creation by the UFAWU of the T. Buck Suzuki Foundation.



水安丸物語

1906年オーストンの船水安丸が、日本から密航者をピクトリア近くのビーチサーベイに上陸させた。及川三郎はフレージャー川の2つの島に植民地を作るよう勧誘を持っていった。三郎は定数として少数は船手と神楽川から参加者を募ったが日本のパスポートを入手出来なかった。それで、彼らを密入国させる方法を取った。バンクーバー領事館の職員が入国ビザを無視し労働力を必要とする場所へ行くことを条件に入手してくれた。

先駆者はフレージャー川のアナシス島のすぐ下流にあるドン島とライオン島の住民となった。これらの島は土地の日系から彼らの指導者を助える船手や加工してオイカワ島およびピクトリア島と呼ばれていた。及川の工場は塩漬けサケと鮭や茄子を加工して日本へ輸出していた。移民も地元の需要を賄うために開始された。船手も始めたが船長当座により滞された。1917年に三郎は日本へ帰国した。

水安丸の最も有名な子孫は、ドン島生まれのカナダ軍隊の第二次世界大戦の退役軍人、日系漁者の漁業労働者組合 (UFAWU) へ参加できるように先陣を切った、バット鈴木と見えよう。環境保護に熱心が高かったこの労働委員長を称えて、UFAWUはT. Buck Suzuki Foundation (基金) を創設した。

Suian Maru Centennial Celebration : Oct. 2006 水安丸航海100周年祭 : 2006年10月開催

Heritage Events

Nikkei Week 2006 will celebrate the contributions of Japanese Canadians to Canadian history and culture, focusing on the centennial of the voyage of the Suian Maru and subsequent settlement of its passengers on the Fraser River.

2006年の日系カナダの行事は、カナダの歴史と文化に対する日系人の貢献を祝い、密航船水安丸事件の百周年に当たりますので、その航海と密航者のフレージャー川の開拓事業を中心におこないます。

A Miyagi Fraser River Reunion

Miyagi people and their friends from across North America and Japan will gather here in October 2006 to celebrate the centennial. 北米に住む密航者の子孫と関係者及び及川三郎出身地の茨城県の子孫関係者一同に百周年記念を祝うために集まって頂けるよう呼びかけます。

Exhibition

at the Japanese Canadian National Museum, photos, documents and artefacts on Jinzaburo Oikawa and the Miyagi pioneers on Don and Lion Islands. 及川三郎と密航者の先駆者特にドン島とライオン島に住み着いた方々に関する写真、資料や物品を展示します。

Don and Lion Islands Ceremony and River Tours

Oct. 13, 2006
10月13日には、ドン島とライオン島を背景にして記念式典とフレージャー川ツアーも行います。

Celebration Dinner

Oct. 14, 2006 to pay tribute to Jinzaburo Oikawa and pioneers on the Fraser - at the National Nikkei Museum and Heritage Centre.
2006年10月14日には、及川三郎とフレージャー川の先駆者を記念に、日系ヘリテージセンターにて祝賀晩餐会を行います。

Contact Persons: 連絡係:

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Kiyoo Goto Suian Maru descendant
水安丸乗組員の子孫 604-528-9717
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100 Anniversary Celebration

水安丸航海100周年祭
2006年10月開催
October 2006

of the
Suian Maru Voyage

