



# Corporate Report

NO: R091

COUNCIL DATE: May 26, 2008

---

## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **May 23, 2008**  
FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture; Deputy City Clerk** FILE: **0360 - 20/BGRC**  
SUBJECT: **Public Special Occasion License Day Request – Darts Hill Gardens**

---

## RECOMMENDATION

Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Approve a Public Special Occasion License Day for June 24 2008 at Darts Hill Garden Park.

## BACKGROUND

Under Provincial Regulations for Special Occasion Licenses for Public Functions, City Council is authorized to grant Public Special Occasion License Day for community or public celebrations.

The Darts Hill Conservancy Trust Society (the Society) is a partner with the City in the operation of Darts Hill Gardens. The Society manages all tours of the garden, operates the garden on public open days, and raises funds for special garden projects such as plant labelling and plant propagation.

The Society has conceived a program called “An Evening of the Arts at Darts”, which is intended to showcase the garden and raise awareness amongst residents who might not otherwise have attended before. It is intended that there be musicians in the garden, along with painters, sculptors, etc. The Gardens will be open to the public for the evening without admission fees, and guides will be present to carry out tours.

In order to partially offset the cost of the entertainment, the Society proposes to allow patrons of legal drinking age to purchase wine, where it will be enjoyed al fresco in a secure area near the musical entertainment. (See Letter to Council, Appendix 1.)

## **DISCUSSION**

The Society is working closely with the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department in the planning of the event, which staff feel will provide a very enjoyable evening for those who attend. Staff will support the event by ensuring that the washrooms are available, that tents are set up for the artists and musicians, assisting with parking control, and assisting with set-up and demobilization.

Regarding the proposed sale of wine, the Society is aware that they will need to meet all the requirements and stipulations of the RCMP, the provincial liquor licensing authority, and the City. City staff will also be on hand during the evening to ensure that the event is carried out in accordance with conditions set out by the City's FEST Committee.

It is anticipated that between 100 and 250 people will attend the event, which will be advertised in the local papers.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Darts Hill Conservancy Trust Society is sponsoring a free evening event in Darts Hill Garden, intended to raise awareness of the gardens amongst Surrey residents. The Society proposes to sell wine at the event, in order to improve the ambience of the evening, and to recoup some of the costs associated with hosting the event.

Staff recommend that Council grant a Public Special Occasion License Day for the evening event. Staff will continue to work closely with the Society to ensure a safe and enjoyable event for the community.

Jane Sowik  
Deputy City Clerk

Laurie Cavan  
General Manager,  
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Cc -RCMP

## Appendix 1. Letter of Request



*Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society*

May 20, 2008

Dear Mayor and Council:

As a brief introduction to this request, I would like to say that The Darts Hill Conservancy Trust Society has enjoyed being a partner with the City for approximately ten years now. The purpose of our Society is to raise funds for the operation of Darts Hill Gardens and to assist the City in operating the Gardens. We have a solid group of volunteers who provide tours during Open Days, Member Days and by special requests (booked through the Parks, Recreation and Culture's Call Centre) and offer expert advice to the public through our Master Gardener program. We are now looking to further expand our membership and more actively recruit additional volunteers so that we may continue to broaden the programs that we offer to the public.

The Society raises funds through plants sales, memberships, and donations--obtained primarily through our seasonal Garden Open Days which attract thousands of visitors. The funds raised are used to carry out projects in the Garden, such as plant labeling, purchasing trees and shrubs for the gardens, enhancing accessibility with new pathways, and providing support to our propagation program to ensure the continuation of rare species found at the Garden.

To attract new visitors and increase exposure to the Garden, the Society is planning a very special event called *An Evening of the Arts at Darts*. We are planning to hold this cultural event on June 24, 2008, featuring nature-oriented performing and visual artists. It is anticipated that a small group of local painters, photographers and/or sculptors will be in the garden that evening working on their art and that one or two ensemble groups will provide music in the background. Additionally, the Society will provide garden tours during the evening, free to the public.

It is hoped that Council can provide permission for the Society to have a tent where garden patrons may purchase a glass of wine for enjoyment with the entertainment. We understand that the Beer Gardens have been issued for the season, but are hoping that Council can see this as a nice touch that will add to the ambiance of the evening. The Society is willing to work closely with Staff and the RCMP to ensure that special requirements are met. Of course, all net revenues from the sales of wine would be put back into programs in the Garden.

We hope that you can grant our request. Should our event receive approval, we would like to invite you to join us that evening, but of course look forward to seeing you in the Gardens at any time.

Sincerely,

*Linda Stanley Wilson*

Linda Stanley Wilson, Ph.D.

Chair, Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society

