

NO: R148

COUNCIL DATE: July 25, 2011

---

## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **July 11, 2011**  
FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture** FILE: **8200-01**  
SUBJECT: **Historical Re-enactment Program for Cloverdale in 2012**

---

## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Approve a pilot Historical Re-enactment program for Cloverdale as generally described in this report for the spring and summer of 2012; and
2. Request that staff include in the 2012 Budget funding in support of the program.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to respond to the Council request for historical re-enactment programming in Cloverdale. Information will be provided on the plans and scope for a pilot season of programming to be launched for the opening of the Heritage Railway Car Barn in May 2012 and the summer tourist season in July and August 2012.

## BACKGROUND

In 2008 as part of the Cultural Capitals of Canada, a “*History Walks*” historical re-enactment program was developed and featured at the inaugural *Fusion Festival*. Developed with research and resources provided by Heritage Services, the program was co-ordinated by Donnelly and Associates, a special events consultant. The *History Walks* program was presented by amateur actors from the Gilbert and Sullivan Society and was a very popular feature of the Fusion Festival. Actors delivered first person re-enacted scripts of Mr. Tom Sullivan, Reeve of Surrey from 1910 – 1920; Mr. Eric Anderson, a pioneer in Surrey in the 1850’s; Mr. Albert Drinkwater, a pioneer settler and logger in Surrey in the 1880 – 1890’s; Ms. Mary Ann Bothwell, a Tynehead pioneer; Mr. Thomas Fleetwood, a WWI Veteran from Surrey; and Mr. Stan McKinnon, a young Surrey Leader employee from the early days of the Surrey Leader newspaper. The public response and appreciation for the *History Walks* re-enactments at Fusion Festival was overwhelmingly positive.

The success of the *History Walks* program and a desire to celebrate the historic character of Cloverdale and Surrey’s rich heritage provide the underpinnings for the development of a similar program for Cloverdale in 2012 to coincide with the opening of the Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society’s BC Electric Car Barn. Following initial discussions of the concept and potential for development and delivery, Heritage Services began researching successful first person re-enactment programs in the B.C. heritage field. Although many heritage sites provide guided,

costumed interpretation of heritage buildings, only two sites in the province offer dramatic first person re-enactments of actual historical characters, persons or events. The most notable is at *B.C.'s Gold Rush Town, Barkerville*, a provincial government heritage site operated by the Barkerville Heritage Trust. The second site is *Fort Steele*, another provincial heritage site.

## **DISCUSSION**

Although historic Cloverdale is not a designated heritage conservation area or site, there exist a small cluster of significant heritage buildings in Cloverdale that provide opportunities to support re-enactment programs. The location of the Surrey Museum with the Anderson Cabin and adjacent 1912 Municipal Hall is a potential site for re-enactment performances. The relocation of the BC Electric heritage rail cars to Cloverdale in the planned Car Barn on 176 Street south of Highway 10 provides another venue for re-enactment programming. Further re-enactment potential exists at the Cloverdale Fire Hall where the original La France fire truck is stored, as well as the original Bank of Montreal building and Clova Theatre on Main street in Cloverdale.

Research is currently underway for the development of re-enactment scripts for six historic characters to perform and recreate Reeve Tom Brown at the 1912 Municipal Hall; Eric Anderson homesteading at the Anderson Cabin; members of the Cloverdale Volunteer Fire Brigade at the Cloverdale Fire Hall or Museum firefighters display; Mary Jane Shannon first Cloverdale teacher shopping on Main Street; Dr Sinclair and (Victoria Order of Nurses) nurse Nina Rife canvassing support for a hospital in Surrey at the Bank of Montreal site or Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce office; and BC Electric operator Frank Horne servicing the rail car at the Heritage Railway Car Barn. The Surrey Archives oral history collection of early settlers and long-time resident memories and the historic photograph collection provide material to support the development of many more historical characters for Cloverdale re-enactments.

It is planned that pilot re-enactments will begin in May 2012 with the official opening of the Heritage Railway Car Barn on the Victoria Day weekend. Further performances will be presented each Saturday during the months of July and August, the peak of the tourist season. To support summer special events, performances will also be scheduled for Canada Day, Fusion Festival, the Cloverdale Blueberry Festival and the Stewart Farm Pioneer Fair.

At the end of the 2012 season, the program will be evaluated for audience participation, visitor feedback, community and business response, and overall civic benefits. If the program is considered successful and continues to be supported by the local business community and heritage partners it could be expanded in 2013 to include additional characters and a musical entertainment component.

### **Budget Implications:**

A budget has been prepared for the pilot Cloverdale Historical Re-enactment program in 2012. It has been estimated that the implementation of the program will require a budget commitment of \$70,000. This amount includes funding for:

- A part-time Program Co-ordinator;
- Fees for Amateur Actors;
- Costumes and Props;
- Backdrop/Set Graphics; and
- Marketing and Promotion.

## SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed program will assist in achieving the following goals of the City's Sustainability Charter:

- Socio-Cultural Goal #SC 7: Provide a range of accessible and affordable recreation, cultural and library services that respond to the needs and interests of the City's diverse population, including children, youth, seniors, multi-cultural group(s) families and those with special needs.
- Socio-Cultural Goal # SC 4: Promote and support cultural activities and events that will increase understanding, tolerance and respect for the City's diverse population and promote community pride and social connections; and
- Socio-Cultural Goal #C 10: Preserve built, natural and cultural heritage to foster community identity and civic pride.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council:

- Approve a pilot Historical Re-enactment program for Cloverdale as generally described in this report for the spring and summer of 2012; and
- Request that staff include in the 2012 Budget funding in support of the program.

Laurie Cavan  
General Manager,  
Parks, Recreation and Culture