

CATES HILL NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

13 July 2006

Ms. Collene Huskisson
Supervisor, Parks & Recreation Department
Bowen Island Municipality
981 Artisan Lane
Bowen Island, BC V0N 1G0

Dear Collene:

In view of what has transpired around the organization of the "Parks Day" event being held at the Cates Hill Neighbourhood Park on 15 July, it's an opportune time to make some observations and suggest a way of managing the Park, and events associated with it, in a more collaborative manner.

What appears to have occurred around "Parks Day" is that, apart from a very brief discussion at a February meeting between the Parks & Recreation Department and the Neighbourhood Association, there has been virtually no consultation or collaboration since. The Parks & Recreation Department is now in the position of managing and hosting the event in isolation from the Neighbourhood Association, and therefore the local residents. Parks & Recreation has chosen the date (although this coincides with a national initiative), picked events and activities, posted advertisements, and will run the event on its own. This is unfortunate, since the Neighbourhood Association wished to have the Mayor hold an official Park opening ceremony in conjunction with any BIPRC event, with press and local residents in attendance. I have already approached the Mayor about this based on the discussion at the February meeting, but since he is currently traveling and will not be on the Island on the 15th, it's not feasible.

In addition, during Neighbourhood Association meetings there has been discussion concerning the Park area that's currently unfinished. This discussion is ongoing and we expect to reach a conclusion by next spring. On Wednesday morning this week I learned that the Parks & Recreation Department plans to ask "Parks Day" attendees for additional input and ideas, but this is to be done with no consultation with the Neighbourhood Association, which is somewhat disconcerting.

To avoid any repetition of this kind of situation in the future, I suggest that the Parks & Recreation Department and the Cates Hill Neighbourhood Association should cooperate and communicate fully on activities that deal with the facility in general (for example, providing features such as benches, or maintenance of the grass surface). They also need to be jointly involved with events that are planned for the Park, and that are open to the general public (rather than a group of neighbourhood residents). Both parties should

collaborate on future plans for the Park, to ensure that local needs are addressed, as well as those of the Island population in general.

In the future, therefore, the Neighbourhood Association requests, and expects to receive, closer cooperation from the Parks & Recreation Department concerning the Park. Both parties have much to gain from more effective collaboration!

I look forward to working with you on future issues related to the Park.

With kind regards,

Cates Hill Neighbourhood Association

Owen Plowman
Secretary

Cc: Cates Hill Neighbourhood Association