

Subject: RE: Changes at Park and Tilford Gardens

Date: Fri, 13 Feb 2004 21:38:19 -0800

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: "Elizabeth James" <cagebc@yahoo.com>, "Mayor and Council" <council@cnv.org>, "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James_Ridge@dnv.org>

CC: <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Dear Ms James;

Park and Tilford Gardens as you have pointed out is in the City. I do not think that the City would appreciate if we were to give them any advice as to what to do with this valuable piece of land. The City of North Vancouver has a large Heritage Fund. The word "Heritage" means that it belongs to the people of the City. It is up to the people in the City to stand up and demand that this Oasis be preserved. However, you might wish to make that suggestion to them. I certainly agree that it should be preserved.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth James [<mailto:cagebc@yahoo.com>]

Sent: February 13, 2004 4:41 PM

To: Mayor and Council; Mayor and Council - DNV; James Ridge

Cc: fonvca@fonvca.org

Subject: Changes at Park and Tilford Gardens

13 Friday 2004

Dear Mayor and Council:

The article by Steve Whysall, A North Shore Sanctuary, which begins on Page B2 of today's Vancouver Sun, should give rise to a good deal of concern among the residents of North Vancouver City and District.

As Whysall describes, Park and Tilford Gardens has, since 1969, been an oasis of calm amid its commercial, industrial and busy transportation surroundings. It has also been a valuable example of sustainable horticulture for gardening enthusiasts and a teaching tool for young and old alike. I remember when it opened and hope it will continue to thrive long after I'm gone.

The continued existence of this valuable community garden has been due to the vision and efforts of many North Shore citizens - including former City Councillor Stella-Jo Dean - gardening clubs and several community-minded companies.

That long-time director, Todd Major, who has nurtured and encouraged the Gardens for all of us since 1989, was fired within three months of the property being sold last September, should send up a myriad of red flags to those of us interested in heritage gardening and sustainable horticulture.

We have been "assured" that it is the new owners' intention to "respect and honour every obligation" in regards to the garden, but British Columbians have learned to their cost not to place their trust in words.

And so it is that I am writing this letter to ask the members of both North Vancouver Councils to do whatever is within their power to protect Park and Tilford Gardens and to ensure its continued existence in the form we have come to know and enjoy.

It would be appreciated if you could ask your staffs to investigate and report back to you as to whether there is any possibility of an outright community purchase of that, relatively small, portion of the property. If a fund-raising project would help I, and

many others I'm sure, would be happy to initiate one. If that were to happen, I'm sure Todd Major would still be around to take the helm again...or to wield the hoe.

As a fall-back position, could staff also determine whether a 'spot-zoning' by-law would be legally possible. If so, perhaps you could require the continued existence of the Gardens beyond 2008, when the covenant is due to expire. Perhaps the combined weight of the business tenants - including the influence of Jimmy Pattison - could be brought to bear on the matter.

If all else fails, then the citizens will just have to decide what additional action they wish to take to ensure that Park and Tilford Gardens continues to exist and thrive.

Sincerely,

Liz James,
[604] 988-2066

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