



## CITY OF BURNABY

### **Mayor Derek Corrigan Inaugural Address December 3, 2012**

It's my pleasure tonight to deliver the 2012 inaugural address with a focus on the importance of community involvement in our City's success. Twenty-twelve has been a tremendous year for Burnaby, but without the enthusiastic involvement of our citizens, our achievements would not have been possible.

Because Council recognizes the importance of community consultation, involvement and support, developing and nurturing "An Involved Community" has long been one of our key strategic policies and has been adopted as an integral direction within our City's Official Community Plan.

In implementing this goal, we have ensured broad public participation through our City's committees, many of which include citizens, in addition to citizen-based local area advisory committees. These citizens know their neighbourhoods, which ensures they provide community-focused direction. Council members recognize that public consultation that is well-planned, with the opportunity for the full participation of residents, is vital not only to the achievement of our goals, but also to the creation of the best possible civic policies and projects.

Whenever Burnaby embarks on a new policy, strategy, or land use plan, to ensure the plan is citizen-driven, we incorporate consultation that will involve and engage everyone in our uniquely diverse community in a meaningful and effective process. This allows citizen views to contribute to outcomes and is fundamental to creating a sustainable community. It was key to our success in facilitating the recently completed, award-winning Social Sustainability Strategy, just as it will be central to the development of our Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

It's not the fastest way to get things done, but it's the best way -- and it serves our city and citizens well:

- We understand that everything we do is inter-connected -- and the importance of the considering the 'bigger picture'.
- We know that, although collective decision-making processes can often reach consensus, complete agreement isn't always the outcome.
- Finally, we ensure that the recommendations that emerge from a civic initiative are duly reviewed and considered. Maintaining citizens' faith in the City's consultation processes is critical.

Over many years, our consultation culture has achieved remarkable results. Our achievement in being cited as the 'Best-Run City in Canada' not only demonstrates our community's success, it also reflects our principled approach to citizen engagement and our attitude as a City -- which is always to be in touch with the community. It's not an initiative. It's how we do business.

In order for Burnaby to be a sustainable city, we must continue to evolve and engage in active re-thinking and re-engineering our role in key issues, such as environmental sustainability, transportation, social planning and urban development.

I am very proud that our city was awarded the 2012 Planning Excellence Award, presented by the Canadian Institute of Planners, for the Social Sustainability Strategy. The Strategy is a visionary plan that proposes 127 initiatives that are the result of a collaborative process that built on the energy, creativity and innovation of Burnaby citizens and businesses. It provides a model for future initiatives, including our Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

Burnaby is already recognized as an environmental leader. Our planning policies have created a sustainable urban structure that features livable and dense urban centres and preserves green space, providing a strong foundation for sustainable land use. The new Strategy will further sharpen and refine our environmental focus.

One outstanding example of the success that has come from citizen engagement is the protection and enhancement of Burnaby waterways. Years ago, when many cities were filling in ravines and piping creeks to make way for development, Burnaby took a different approach. Council put in place policies, regulations and programs to protect waterways in a way that still provides for growth and development. Today, citizens continue to advocate for and support efforts to protect waterways and foreshores. Through our innovative park and open space planning, we have created one of the country's most extensive and diverse urban conservation and park systems.

Citizens have led the way in advocating for additional and integrated environmental projects through our civic committees, schools, and community associations which have built on this legacy. In the last year, a number of new projects were approved to 'daylight' creeks that had been piped or culverted. The Environment Committee partnered with both BCIT and SFU to lead student ecosystem research projects. Our Heritage Commission worked to create the popular Waterways Map and to engage with the public to make sure that every creek in the city had a unique name to identify it. 'Streamkeeper' groups partnered with community schools to initiate a program of creek cleaning, restoration and restocking.

We have seen the success of our community's efforts. Chum salmon returned to the Fraser River and have made their way into Burnaby's waterways in record numbers. Still Creek and Buckingham Creek, which have not been home to salmon for over 40 years, have, in 2012, become new spawning areas for the species. This shows the power of our citizens' vision not only to protect our environment, but also to restore it to serve the larger ecosystems of the region and the world -- truly an accomplishment of which we can all be proud.

A renewed Transportation Plan is one of the key initiatives that will be an integral part of our sustainability strategy and updated Official Community Plan. Transportation planning and the impacts of regional transportation infrastructure in our centrally located city have always been a topic of great interest to all.

To achieve better integration of SkyTrain within the community, Council has aggressively advocated for enhancements to the areas through which the Evergreen Line will travel, and recently endorsed an agreement between the City and the Province. The agreement provides many benefits, including: better sidewalks, improved landscaping, enhanced storm water quality, and plaza enhancements at Lougheed Station.

In this coming year, we will continue to focus on the vision, goals, and policies needed to renew Burnaby's Transportation Plan. Public consultation will be key to achieving this, and Council is intent on ensuring that the City's plan and investments in the transportation network are leading-edge -- to better serve residents, their neighbourhoods and our sustainability goals.

Recently, citizens guided a transportation initiative now being implemented in the Burnaby Heights and Capitol Hill neighbourhoods. Following public presentations to the Transportation Committee and Council, a plan was approved to provide citizens the opportunity to engage in public forums and surveys focused on reducing both the quantity and impact of traffic on neighbourhood streets. Citizens shaped and advanced a number of innovative solutions, which were incorporated into a new strategy and capital improvement program.

These include several measures that are a first for our city. The speed limit has been reduced to 40 kilometres per hour on all Burnaby Heights and Capitol Hill neighbourhood roads and to 30 kilometers per hour on roads that are shared bicycle routes. These new speed zones will be enforced by Burnaby RCMP traffic safety officers. New sidewalks and curb ramps -- and reduced car capacity in key locations -- will enhance pedestrian safety.

The outcomes of this innovative initiative will be monitored by staff and citizens, and it may serve as a model for other neighbourhood traffic safety plans.

The success of our traffic plans is enhanced by enforcement of traffic laws. The Burnaby RCMP have committed to focus on five traffic priorities. Impaired driving, distracted driving, failure to wear seatbelts, intersection collisions and aggressive driving have contributed to countless injuries and fatalities in this province. The RCMP is helping us to reduce their incidence.

Also to enhance traffic safety, I'm proud to say that this year, City of Burnaby staff are sponsoring a night for Operation Red Nose, providing at least 15 volunteers -- including some

members of our senior management team here tonight ! -- to ensure safe rides home. I know that our community will provide many more. It's the first year for Operation Red Nose in our City. We're glad they're here and we know that the program will be a great success. Already, since it began in B.C. in 1996, Operation Red Nose has provided 57,504 safe rides home. What a great achievement! Burnaby looks forward to adding significantly to that total this year!

Just as we welcome opportunities to partner with community organizations to improve transportation and traffic safety, Burnaby also values its ongoing community consultation and collaboration on a wide-range of social planning issues. Council and staff participate in community-based initiatives through groups including: the Voices of Burnaby Seniors, the Burnaby Intercultural Planning Table, the Early Childhood Development Table, the Burnaby-New Westminster Task Force on Sexually Exploited and At-Risk Youth, the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee, the Burnaby Crime Prevention Society, the Burnaby Youth Hub Steering Committee, and the Metro Social Issues Subcommittee, helping to ensure the City can help pursue solutions to social issues at a local, regional, provincial or national level.

In the past year, Burnaby joined the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination, part of a larger international movement launched by UNESCO. The main objective of the Canadian Coalition is to broaden and strengthen protection and promotion of human rights through local government co-ordination. Burnaby, as one of the most multicultural cities in the country, will ensure that we take every opportunity to improve and protect the rights of all of our citizens.

Burnaby has also excelled in engaging with social services sectors that provide essential programs to citizens -- and this year was awarded the BC Child Care Award of Excellence in the Local Government category by the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development, recognizing Burnaby's outstanding commitment to and leadership in child care initiatives, ranging from its five City-owned child care centres and its ongoing implementation of its Child Care Policy to the work of the City's advisory body, the Child Care Resources Group.

In the past year, the City's Child Care Resources Group surveyed all licensed Burnaby child care providers regarding their child care programs, and how they have been impacted by the Provincial implementation of full school-day kindergarten. Forty-seven per cent of Burnaby child care providers responded to the online survey. Based on the valuable input received, the City and other community partners will continue to work together to promote access to quality child care programs to support working families and promote healthy child development.

As we all know, these days a valuable tool for communication and engagement is social media. Since the City launched its new website last year, engagement in the City's social media sites has grown exponentially. On average, we receive 120,000 site visits per month. Enabling access to online citizen services and eBusiness is a continuing priority.

An ever-increasing number of vendors are communicating electronically with the City. Nearly one third of our purchase orders are now electronically generated, making the process quicker and more efficient for all. We continue to create new online opportunities to transact business. As of this past Saturday, you can even go online for your dog licence renewal!

Burnaby's libraries are also making full use of technological opportunities: iPhone and Android mobile applications for the library's catalogue and website just became available. As a result, there are now over 700 mobile app sessions per week.

And we recently introduced technology in this room that enables public viewing of City Council meetings on compatible mobile devices, including Smartphone, tablet, blackberry, iOS, Android or Windows devices. We welcome all of our new online council meeting viewers!

For the Burnaby RCMP, too, communication is a priority. Focused on community-based policing, an approach to crime-prevention that has always been a cornerstone of Burnaby's success in deterring and preventing crime, the Burnaby RCMP has had a very successful year.

To date, residential and commercial break-and-enter crimes are down 7% from 2011; auto theft decreased by 16% (25% since 2010); and the incidence of all types of assaults has been trending downward since 2010, this year by an additional 7%. With significant help from citizens who report suspicious activities within their neighbourhoods, the Burnaby RCMP Drug section also continues to reduce the amount of illicit drugs in our community.

This year, the RCMP's successful Crime Reduction strategy, which focuses on prolific offenders, led to a significant increase in number of arrests and prosecutions. Working with citizens, social service agencies and the judiciary, the strategy identifies crime trends, localized crime areas and persons believed to be responsible for the majority of the crimes.

And policing was enhanced in a number of other ways this year:

- five forums facilitated open dialogue between Burnaby residents and the Burnaby RCMP's senior leadership
- members made a point of getting out of their vehicles to meet and talk with citizens and business operators
- Community Police Advisory committees continued to inform policing priorities
- the Burnaby RCMP's 700 citizen volunteers worked with Crime Prevention, Block Watch, Victim Services, Youth Services, Speed Watch, the Community Police Offices and in educational roles, contributing countless hours to the safety and security of this community.
- 66 sworn volunteer constables participated in general duty operations, traffic control, scene security, community canvasses, safety talks, security assessments, scene searches, and requirements for officer presence at community events. Their role is invaluable!
- And, with one of the largest School Liaison/Youth programs in the province, in addition to the Youth Services and Restorative Justice counselling programs, the Burnaby RCMP demonstrated its strong commitment to youth

Turning to Burnaby's Fire Department, they continue to provide top-level emergency and non-emergency response. Our firefighters are constantly improving and refining their technical skills -- and safety and prevention services -- to ensure the best possible service delivery, with the goal

of greatly enhancing outcomes related to life safety and property protection. On average, the Department responds to approximately 13,000 incidents annually.

In 2012, the Department fully implemented a software program called Imobile. This program delivers real-time information wirelessly from the department's dispatch centre to mobile data terminals located on fire vehicles, facilitating better decision-making processes at incident scenes.

Their exceptional community outreach continues: Burnaby Firefighters, through the Burnaby Firefighter's Charitable Society, continue to extend dedicated and committed volunteer support to over 40 different community charities, including civic events, delivery of CPR instructional programs, and the establishment of -- and ongoing financial and logistical support for -- their nutritional snack program. The program now serves twelve schools, one community centre, and many secondary school students.

Speaking of community outreach, Burnaby's libraries serve and welcome thousands of citizens every year, to read and borrow books and to countless events, such as:

- World Book Day
- The Urban Libraries Settlement Partnership, for which Burnaby joined with nine other public libraries to plan, develop and provide settlement and integration services to new immigrants.
- A Book Donation Ceremony at the Bob Prittie Metrotown Branch in recognition of the 1,000 Chinese books donated by Ms. LI Xia, the Deputy Minister of Culture Administration of the Henan Province of China, in appreciation for the 38,866 used English books collected, donated and delivered by the Cross-the-Taiwan-Straits Henan Association of Canada, and the Burnaby Edmonds Lions Club of Canada to the Henan Provincial Library of China.
- the 21st annual pancake breakfast and Summer Reading Club medal presentation ceremony, for which over 800 children proudly lined up to be presented with "Strange...But True!" medals for having completed at least 50 days of summer reading. Over 6,250 children registered for the Summer Reading Club.
- Proclamation by Council of October 2012 as "Canadian Library Month", in recognition of the immense contributions made by Burnaby's public, academic and school libraries to the culture, creativity and personal, professional and academic growth of Burnaby's citizens.
- The presentation to Burnaby Public Library of a 2012 Representative's Award of Excellence: Cultural Heritage and Diversity for the Library's Embracing Diversity Project, a web-based project that uses songs and rhymes in more than a dozen languages to encourage learning about cultural diversity and promote inclusiveness.

We are also protecting the heritage and history of Burnaby with the active participation of citizens. City Archives outreach initiatives this year included two sold-out “History in the Heights” presentations at McGill Library and the creation of a channel on the Google-affiliated social media site, Historypin. Thousands of people from around the world have logged on to see photos and tours of Burnaby, created using our archival records.

And the latest project completed at the City Archives – the Burnaby Oral History Digitization project – was the recipient of an Award of Honour from Heritage BC. Approximately 40 interviews of long-time Burnaby residents were digitized and can now be heard online.

Because of Burnaby’s diversified economic development, the city has seen sustained growth -- moving us toward our OCP’s vision of a strong, sustainable and prosperous community -- despite regional, provincial, federal and global economic challenges.

In 2012, Building Permit values remained high, up by 2.5% from 1,528 to 1,566, and we saw growth in multi-family developments and in our single-family neighbourhoods. Several major projects also advanced in the public, commercial, and industrial sectors. The total permit values to the end of October of this year are an impressive \$426 million, with an expectation that we will again achieve over \$600 million in Building Permit value by year end.

Burnaby’s vibrant town centres and urban villages continue to attract major investment. An important element of planning is the engagement of citizens in the shaping of development through public processes. Rezoning proposals are carefully reviewed in the context of our Community Plans, but new major developments often propose amendments for which the formal Public Hearing process has been the traditional venue for citizen input. To ensure consideration of all aspects of a development’s impact on a community, Council is broadening the scope of consultation.

In the past year, we supported Shape Properties’ advancement of a redevelopment proposal for the “Brentwood Mall” through a series of public Open Houses that provided citizens with the opportunity to view and discuss the development directly with the development company and its architects – enabling the applicant to respond directly to citizen insights and concerns, and providing residents an opportunity to learn more about the applicant’s unique and specific challenges. As a result, when the project advanced to Public Hearing, residents had a greater knowledge of the project which informed their presentations to Council. We look forward to continuing to work with residents and the applicant as we complete a shared vision for the future of Brentwood Town Centre.

Speaking of projects under way, one that will benefit all Burnaby citizens is the Edmonds Community Centre which, I’m excited to say, is nearing completion. As you drive along Edmonds Street, you’ll see the Centre taking shape on the outside – the walls are up, the roof is on and the majority of the windows are in place. What you can’t see is that on the inside, crews are busy tiling the swimming pool, installing the slides, and putting up drywall in the gym. The facility will feature a leisure pool, swim tank and fitness area as well as a dedicated youth lounge and seniors’ lounge, two gymnasiums, an indoor playground, and multi-purpose areas to provide services for all ages. Next to this new facility, Edmonds Park (formerly Richmond Park) is also

getting a facelift. Already, a new basketball court has been installed, and the central portion of the park has been prepared for walking circuits and a playground structure. The centre is expected to open in early 2013.

To keep up-to-date with progress and opening celebration plans -- and to take a sneak peek at our photo galleries -- go to: [www.burnaby.ca/edmonds](http://www.burnaby.ca/edmonds).

Also on the recreation front, partnership between Vancouver Canucks, Rona, and the City resulted in an \$80,000 refurbishment of Kensington Arena Lobby. The arenas have been busy with many tournaments this year, including April's Canadian National Ringette tournament.

And notably this year, Burnaby played host in August to the most successful BC Seniors Games ever, when almost 4,000 participants came to our City to compete in close to 30 events. Lasting legacies from the games include the bocce courts at Confederation Park, funded by G&F Financial Group. In addition, much of the sound and sports equipment that was purchased by the Games' organizing committee was donated to the Seniors' Societies in Burnaby.

The City supported the BC Seniors Games by providing free public Wi-Fi access at major sites, which continues to be available to rental groups and staff at facilities such as City Hall, Shadbolt, Bonsor, Burnaby Lake Sports Complex, Confederation Centre and the golf courses. In 2013, we plan to provide free public Wi-Fi access to all facility users at those locations.

But the most important legacy is the impact the games had on our city, as they were enjoyed first-hand by thousands of participants and spectators. Almost 2,000 Burnaby volunteers made the games happen. Without them, none of what we achieved would have been possible.

Other events we enjoyed this year included:

- Burnaby's 120<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations, which meant two weeks of free family activities, celebrating community, arts, culture and sport, supported by a \$75,000 grant from the provincial Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.
- The Bonsor Circus Program, for which we were presented with the BC Recreation and Parks Association Program Excellence Award that recognizes innovative programs that serve as models for other agencies.
- The Bonsor Multicultural Fair, where 2,500 guests celebrated our diverse community, supported by the Festivals Burnaby program.
- CG Brown pool's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party

Our well-used parks and recreation facilities also saw improvements this year:

- At Deer Lake, along the Northwest edge, the final 550 lineal feet of boardwalk was installed.

- At Cameron Park, a play structure, seating with accessible planters, site furniture and retaining walls were completed, all based on neighbourhood requests
- In beautiful Central Park, the trail of hope through the central forest was improved. Public consultation has revealed several ways to make sure our feature park remains a natural oasis in the City, including looking at developing the northeast sector of the park with more community amenities such as benches, flower beds, walkways and leisure play features. The concept plans for this area will be brought to Council very soon. Also, amid a tremendous amount of media interest that I'm sure you'll all recall, City staff worked with the Ministry of Environment to remove the invasive Snakehead fish from the lower pond before it became a menace.
- And now that the new Burnaby Central School is open, the City can go full speed ahead on the recreation amenities planned for the site, including an artificial turf soccer field and a rubberized eight lane track, which we expect to complete in the near future.
- And for the Christmas Season, Burnaby Village Museum will be extra bright this year. Over 24,000 lights complement the traditional sights, sounds and tastes of Christmases past at the village. Gate admission to the museum is free.

Improvements, of course, haven't been limited to our parks and heritage sights.

In less than half a century, the City has grown from a rural/suburban community to a major urban, commercial and business centre. Major investments were made in constructing infrastructure such as roads, waste collection, water and sewers. Today, the City has approximately:

- 750 km of roads;
- 730 km of watermains;
- 1,300 km of sanitary and storm sewers;
- 12,200 street lights;
- 240 traffic signals;

The estimated value of the engineering infrastructure assets is \$2.9 Billion. One of our key objectives is to protect the City's investment in that infrastructure. Our capital programs all have a large reinvestment component. In 2012, we: placed over 33,000 tonnes of asphalt to repave City roads; replaced or rehabilitated over 15 kilometres of water and sewer pipes; replaced major water and sewer pump stations; and improved roads, sidewalks and lighting.

New projects include our innovative Alternate Street Design demonstration project, located in the 4700 block of Watling Street -- one of a series of green engineering initiatives designed to improve the environment. Benefits of this project include both reduced quantity and improved quality of rainwater run-off and softer street edges.

Since 2004, the City has completed a number of energy retrofit projects. In 2012, we implemented the "enviroWORKS" Energy Conservation project, which included building-envelope and lighting improvements at recreation centres, pools, fire halls, and libraries at 18

City sites, and resulted in approximately 575,000 KWh of electrical savings and 41 tonnes of CO2 reduction annually.

In May, the Tommy Douglas Library achieved LEED Canada Gold certification from the Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC).

For 2013, we will continue to change lighting and boilers to improve energy efficiency, and will seek opportunities to obtain grant funding from both BC Hydro and FortisBC to reduce our costs.

In addition to previous awards from both the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia, and the Consulting Engineers of British Columbia, the Burnaby Lake Rejuvenation project received another award in October. The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies-Canada, presented an Award of Excellence to the project.

The newly rejuvenated lake continues to attract high-calibre athletes.

The Canadian Men's Rowing Teams, including the Men's Eight that captured a medal, trained there in July, in preparation for the 2012 Olympic Games in London, as did members of the gold-winning Women's Eight team.

For our Fraser River Dyke improvement program, the City received Building Canada Fund - Flood Protection Program grants, enabling an upgrade to flood protection infrastructure in the Big Bend floodplain area.

And while all of these improvements and City initiatives cost money, we focus on efficiency and partnerships and our fiscal position remains strong with our investment portfolio projected to return an annual yield of 5% and income of \$37.6 million by year end, December 31. Sound investment practices have provided the City with steady income over the last decade, ensuring liquidity when needed and growth to help offset increases in our operating budget and providing funding for capital projects. For 2013, the City is projecting a slightly lower annual return at 4.75%, as challenging global economic conditions and constraints have not yet abated.

As we reflect on the many achievements of 2012, it is clear that Burnaby has a great base on which to build our promising future. I want to congratulate all of our city staff across all of our diverse departments for their outstanding commitment to our city and our citizens. I am constantly amazed by the number of appreciative and congratulatory notes I receive where people take the time to describe their experience in dealing with the city. Of course, this could not occur without the leadership of our manager, deputy managers and senior staff. Not only do they do their job every day, but I also regularly see them at community events and fund raisers. Now, that is dedication.

Finally, a big thank you to the councillors. Though I get to tell you about our past year, they are the ones who worked so closely with our citizens in achieving these results. I look forward to next year and the new accomplishments that will keep Burnaby one of the world's best cities in which to live, work, learn, play and do business!