

Appendix A



Stanley Park

seawall

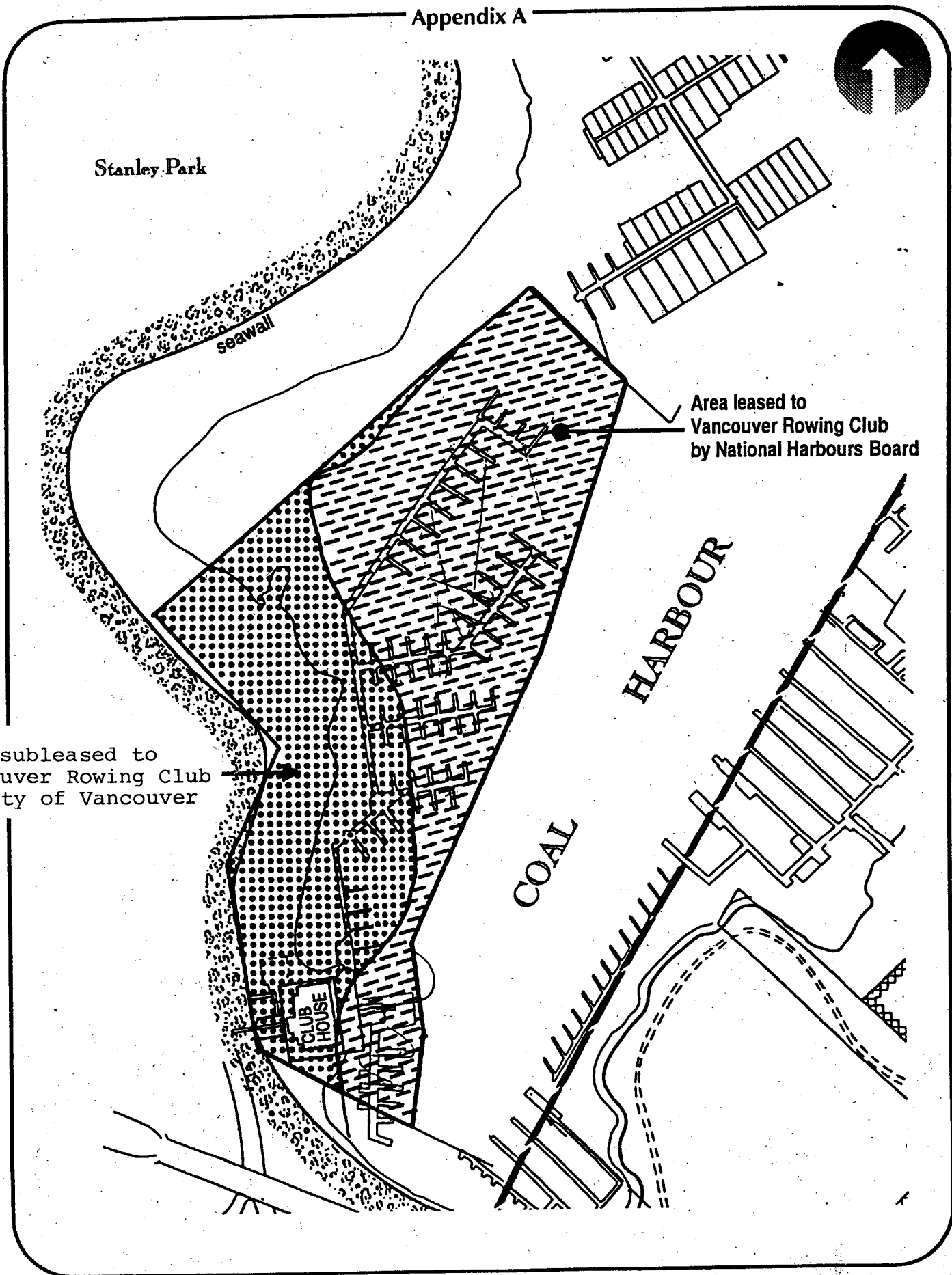
Area leased to
Vancouver Rowing Club
by National Harbours Board

Area subleased to
Vancouver Rowing Club
by City of Vancouver

CLUB
HOUSE

COAL

HARBOUR



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VANCOUVER ROWING CLUB

FOUNDED 1886 – INCORPORATED 1915

STANLEY PARK, P.O. BOX 5206
 VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA V6B 4B3
 TEL: (604) 687-3400 FAX: (604) 687-6812
www.vancouverrowingclub.ca

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October 15, 2004

Vancouver City Council
 City of Vancouver

Rent Review: Foreshore lots in Stanley Park Subleased to Vancouver Rowing Club

We request consideration by Council to continue the present rent of \$2.00 per annum for the period September 1, 2004 to August 30, 2007, the termination of our 99 year lease.

- The Vancouver Rowing Club is Vancouver's oldest athletic club, formed as the "Vancouver Boating Club" in 1886 – the same year the City of Vancouver was incorporated. We are British Columbia's second oldest Club. We have occupied our current site since 1905 and have traditionally paid nominal rent since that time.
- The current Clubhouse was originally constructed in 1911 and was designated a Heritage Building by the City of Vancouver in 1988. The cost to construct and maintain the clubhouse has been borne entirely by the members of the Vancouver Rowing Club. The annual costs to maintain and enhance this city landmark continue to rise each year. The clubhouse and all leasehold improvements made to it will eventually accrue to the City as lessor.
- Leasehold improvements since the last lease renewal in 1988 are now approaching \$2.2 million with \$115,000 added since our last rent review in 1999. This does not include the approximate \$200,000 in Capital improvements to our marina facilities. The current fiscal budget anticipates an additional \$110,000 in leasehold improvements.
- The Club is currently home to nearly 1,000 athletes, including 60 Junior (under 18) and 50 Collegiate members, participating in our four main sporting sections: Rowing, Rugby, Yachting, and Field Hockey. Membership and use of our facilities is open to all members of the local community through our Social (non-voting) memberships, which are available for \$200/annum. Full Active annual membership rates for sporting section members range from \$300 to \$500 dependent on the sport, with the major portion of the fees used to fund the building, its facilities, maintenance and administration. Our Rugby and Field Hockey members already consistently pay the

highest fees in the city relative to clubs with similar participation. Collegiate and Junior members receive substantial discounts on member fees.

- Provincial property re-evaluations in 2002 have raised the property taxes paid to the City to \$18,830 (\$11,162 annual increase since our last rent review in 1999). The Club also provides approximately \$8,500 annually to the City of Vancouver Parks Board through turf fees for Field Hockey and Rugby. Annual pay parking fees in Stanley Park make it very costly for members who train and play 3 to 5 times per week and continue to be detrimental in attracting young people for membership.
- The Club also provides a number of athletic programs available to the general public. Our "Learn to Row" programs introduce 300-400 people annually to the sport and health benefits of rowing. We also provide open Junior Learn to Row programs along with those we provide in conjunction with local high schools. This summer the Club also participated in the Dynamic Opportunities for Disadvantaged Youth rowing program. Our Mini Rugby and Junior Field Hockey programs are made available to children as young as 5. We also provide coaching, equipment and facility support to a number of local high school field hockey, rowing and rugby programs. Other community benefits include being the unofficial home to the Vancouver Women's Field Hockey Association and making our facilities available at nominal costs to a number of charitable and non-profit groups.

In summary, the Vancouver Rowing Club has played a major role in the athletic and cultural life of the City for over 118 years. It has been home to many Olympic athletes, as well as national and international athletes, over the years. It is an active hub for amateur sports in the core of the City and contributes to healthy lifestyles. Volunteer hours exceeding one thousand hours annually assist our athletes in striving for their potential. The clubhouse provides a home to these sports and activities without the City bearing any costs of a building or support staff as it would with a community centre. We urge Council to support our request to continue the current annual lease rate of \$2 to the end of the lease period.

Respectfully submitted,

Vancouver Rowing Club
Board of Directors