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The Creek

Serving False Creek, Fairview Slopes and Granville Island

Vol. 17, No.11

December, 1997

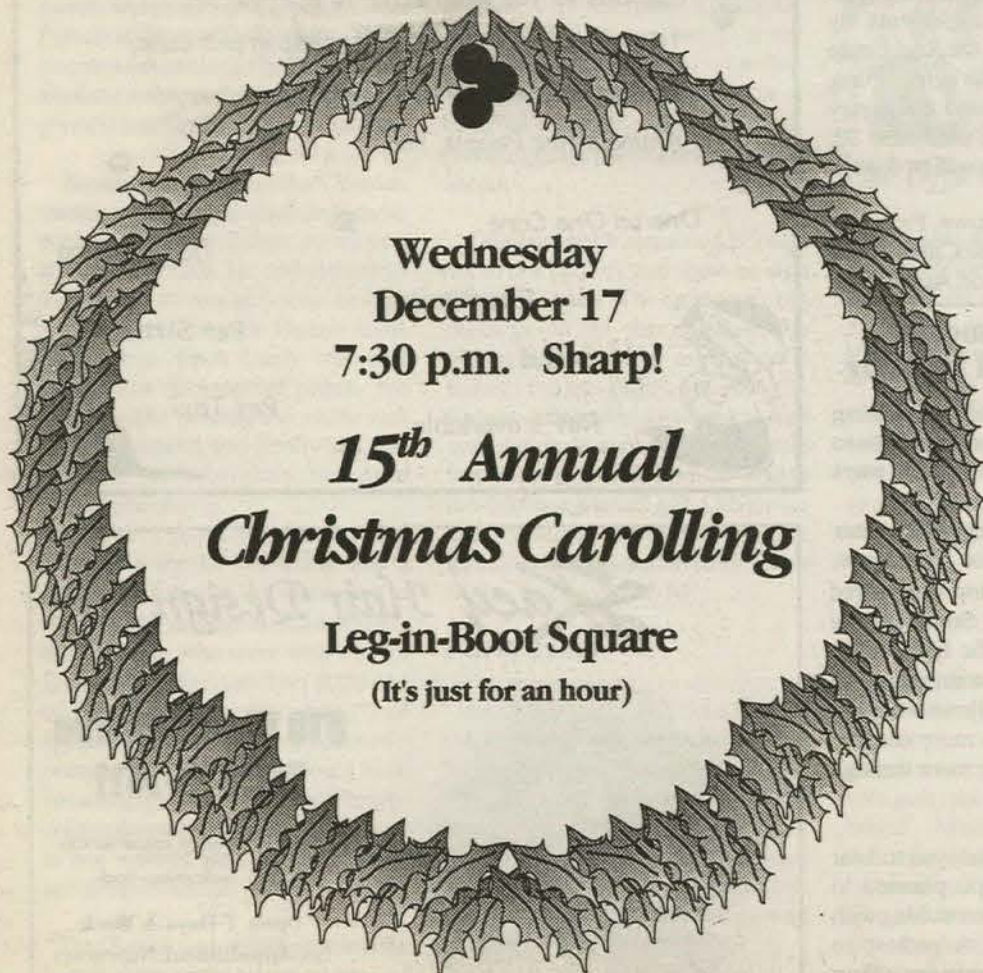


THE LITTLE
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RAIN OR SHINE
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To AQUATIC CENTRE
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TO MARITIME MUSEUM Every 15 Mins
WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS ONLY
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

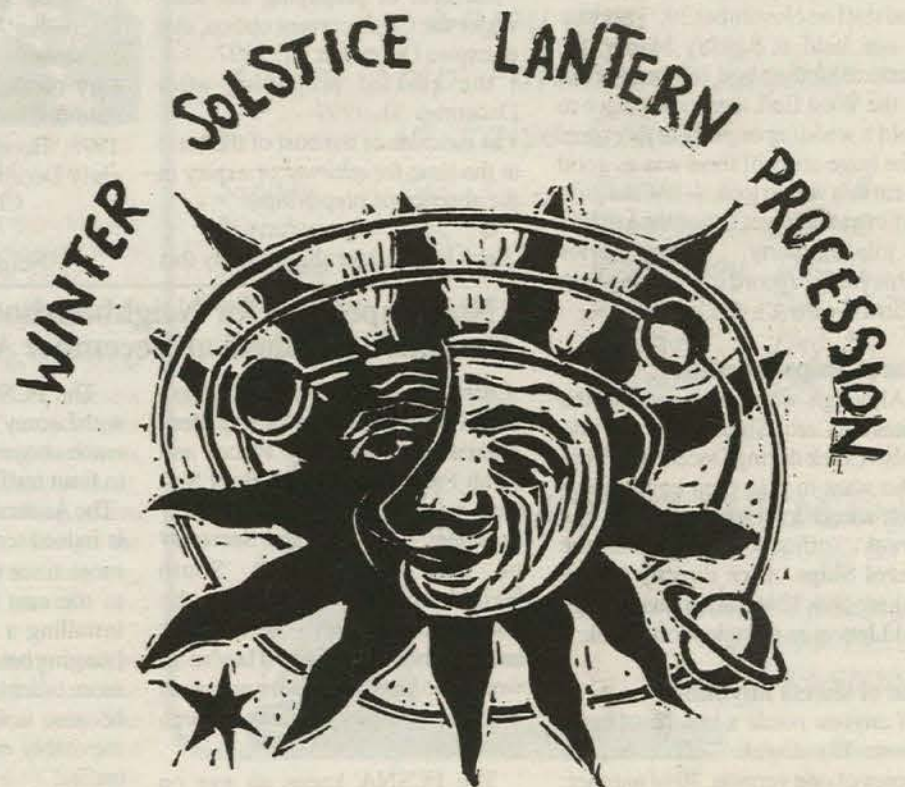
TO STAMPS LANDING &
SCIENCE WORLD
WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS ONLY
Once an Hour 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Wednesday
December 17
7:30 p.m. Sharp!

**15th Annual
Christmas Carolling**

Leg-in-Boot Square
(It's just for an hour)



Sunday December 21
6:00 - 10:00 p.m

Rain or Fine! Carol sheets provided

The Charles Dickens Singers will come to keep us in tune

Christmas carolling in Leg-in-Boot Square has become such a tradition for many False Creekers and Fairview Slopers that by the turn of the century we'll expect to see young parents bringing their little ones along for the annual songfest, just as their parents brought them as babes-in-arms and toddlers.

The group swells or contracts according to the weather, for not everyone relishes "singing in the rain". But the 'hard core' carollers come out year after year and are defiantly proud of their attendance record.

We've had gloriously clear starlit nights, enough rain to make cats and dogs stay home, fog thick enough you could hardly see across the square, and once we had snow so deep the young kids threw snowballs and made snowmen whilst their parents sang lustily.

Who remembers our first Christmas Carolling, on a freezing cold night in 1983, when a hundred folk gathered in Leg-in-Boot Sq. and walked along the seawall to the Granville Island Hotel whose staff warmed

us up with hot chocolate and cookies?

Kevin Shaughnessy, the genial and generous landlord at **Stamps Landing Pub** extends the customary Yuletide invitation for carollers to warm up and soothe vocal chords with a glass of gluwain at the pub afterwards.

The carolling event is, of course, free but we like to take several large boxes of food to the Food Bank the next day.

Do not forget to bring contributions for the



The CAROL SHIPS will cruise into False Creek about 8:30 p.m. on December 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23

If you live along the False Creek seawall you may have wondered exactly where all the drummers and crowds of smiling families are heading on December 21 every year. It is the Winter Solstice Lantern Procession and the 4th annual occasion of this community celebration is only weeks away. Make this the year you join in.

There are two main processions, both starting at 6:00 p.m. In the East at Leg-in-Boot Sq. and in the West at the Planetarium. Neighbours begin gathering at designated spots along the seawall (see map) carrying their lanterns and waiting for the drummers and larger processions to pick them up en route. (Route maps are also available at the False Creek Community Centre front desk).

The two groups merge in Sutcliffe Park behind the Community Centre and then travel together along Cartwright St. to the eastern tip of Granville Island for a spectacular fire performance on the hill. Returning along the boardwalk, the processions head to the Community Centre to warm up with free hot chocolate and share the home baked cookies they've brought (yes, this is a hint!) The Centre is filled with people and music. Loyal performers who will again enliven the evening are Rhythm Unity (the processional percussionists who lead everyone along the seawall), The Hot Club of Mars (jazz), Zeellia (Balkan Choir), the Pyrodesiac Torch Performers (fire) and Victor Smith (violin).

An exciting addition this year will be the Vancouver Morris Men who will perform their traditional soot-faced dances of the working man and enact a lively English Mummers play as well. The grand finale is the all-ages community dance, with live music and dance caller Maureen Collier to keep us all in step. Unbelievably, all this is accomplished by 9:30 p.m., so even the smallest child can be home in time for bed.

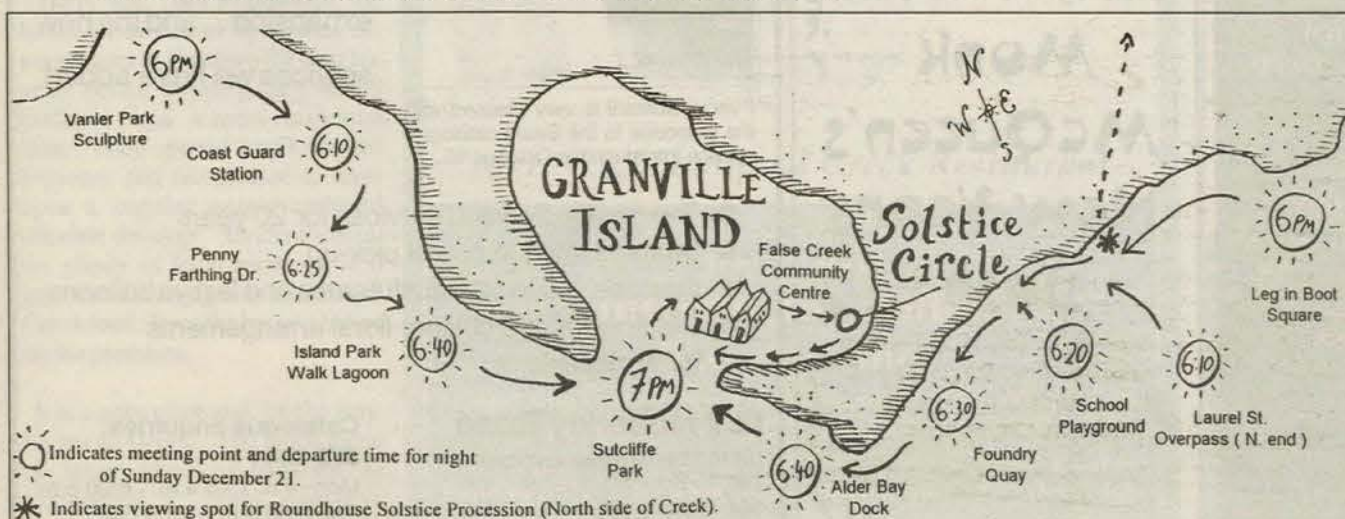
This event is a co-production of the False Creek Recreation Association and Naomi Singer, who has been Artistic Director of the project since it began in 1994. This year Naomi is also working with staff at the Roundhouse Community Centre on the north shore of False Creek to develop a Winter Solstice event which will provide that community with the same activities we enjoy on our side.

The remaining LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOPS are listed on p.6. If you want to hold your own lantern making party, copies of the instructions printed last month are available at the Community Centre. Or you can take the really easy way out and help support the event financially by buying a lantern at the centre (there are plenty on display already). Lynda Nakashima's Solstice Calendars and Solstice Cups by ceramicist Karen Opas are also for sale.

These sales are crucial as finances are always a struggle. Fundraising has been made even more difficult by the mail strike so you can find a donation jar at the front desk of the Community Centre (cheques happily accepted too). Luckily many original sponsors, the local businesses, False Creek Neighbourhood Association and CMHC Granville Island have remained loyal.

What happens if it rains? We've been blessed for three years - it hasn't. Last year, after weeks of torrential rain, there was a six-hour break in the clouds right when we needed clear skies for the procession. When the dance ended at 9:30 a blizzard began! But if it DOES rain, just come to the Centre at 7:30 p.m. (keeping your lantern dry) for all the live music, dancing, hot chocolate and general conviviality.

For any more information call the Community Centre at 257-8195.



In the event of heavy rain or snow, just come to the Centre at 7:30, keeping your lanterns dry.

The Editor



Beryl Wilson

Big Hurrahs to Pam Flatkeval and Shirleen Chandra, the two young, vivacious staff members who organised the Community Centre's Christmas party for Board, instructors and staff on November 29. This year it was held at Barclay Manor, the Parks Board owned heritage house in the West End, a gracious place to hold a wedding or party at any time. The huge array of food was as good to eat as it was to look it - and the girls did eventually get out of the kitchen to join the party. Doug Taylor achieved the record of being the only fellow wearing a tie!

Carol Ships schedule

Although we always publish the dates the Carol Ships will cruise into False Creek during December, those who want to plan their entertaining well ahead don't have to phone *The Creek* office - they can call the **Carol Ships** office directly (as we do) @ 688-7246. It's listed in huge bold letters in the telephone book.

Carol sheets anyone?

If anyone needs a bundle of carol sheets *The Creek* office has 80 copies of one version, 30 of another.

Vacation notice

The Editor doesn't mean to gloat (*much*) but she'll be off for five weeks in Mexico on January 9. The cats will have plenty of company; parents out to visit a Fairview Slopes reader will come to stay with them.

There will NOT be a February issue of *The Creek*.

If there's anything you want in the paper early in the New Year be sure to call well before New Year's Eve.

Merry Christmas

The Creek

Published about the 1st Wednesday of the month

Creek Office Tel. 734-3369

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The Creek acknowledges the generous support of the False Creek Neighbourhood Association

NOTICE

To all False Creek City leaseholders who have not prepaid their leases

After meeting with representatives of the False Creek South Neighbourhood Association on November 19, 1997, the City of Vancouver Real Estate Services Department has offered to send a letter to each of some 300 leaseholders of City land, in the False Creek area, who have not yet prepaid their leases. These letters are to show each individual lessee:

- the cost of prepaying the lease under the City's current option, due to expire December 31, 1997
- the cost of prepaying after December 31, 1997
- an estimate of the cost of the lease at the time for renewal or expiry in the absence of prepayment.

Each leaseholder should study this

No competition for Neighbourhood Association Executive positions at December Annual Meeting

Charlie Brown (Connaught Coop), Dave Osborne (Marine Mews), Merv Therriault (Alder Bay Place) and Keith Freer (666 Leg-in-Boot Sq.) were re-elected as President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary of the False Creek South Neighbourhood Association, by instant acclamation - before they had a chance to decline. They've all worked so hard this year it was agreed it would be a pity to break up such good team!

The FCSNA keeps an eye on activities which have potential impacts on the area, sometimes with effect, sometimes not.

The changes on Burrard St. to improve traffic flows have been debated long and hard. The FCSNA has protested any moves to increase southbound left-hand turns. Residents living east of Burrard might welcome an easier opportunity to get home three minutes quicker without realising how much through traffic will follow them - and irritate them.

City Council's approval (June 17, 1997)

"THAT the pedestrian signal at 1st Ave. & Burrard be upgraded to a full signal with a northbound turning arrow" was followed by the statement "That staff continue to consult with South False Creek residents living east of Anderson St. to ensure appropriate mitigation of any increasing traffic into that neighbourhood as a result of the upgrading of the signal."

A pious, futile sop to us - akin to shutting the barn door after the horse has bolted.

letter carefully and, depending on each lessee's circumstances, decide, either independently or jointly with others, whether or not to seek professional advice about what financial alternatives, for example mortgaging, may be available to aid them in choosing or rejecting the current option.

Because it will be difficult for people to make these arrangements by December 31, 1997, the Real Estate Services Dept. has also agreed to ask City Council to extend the expiry date one more time, until June 30, 1998. Hopefully this will be done in early December.

Charles Brown, President
False Creek South
Neighbourhood Association

The FCSNA continues working with Lamey's Mill Road residents to reach consensus on workable ways to limit traffic flows.

The Anderson/Lamey's Mill corner is indeed terrifying for pedestrians, more since the bus stop was moved to the east side. Some believe installing a full traffic light, while bringing better pedestrian safety and more orderly traffic flows will also, because it would be more orderly, inevitably encourage more through traffic.

The FCSNA was annoyed to hear the Engineering Dept. planned to install a light without consulting with the Association. A protest to Transportation Engineer Don Henderson brought his commitment for such discussion.

Of equal concern is the information that the Engineering Dept. has plans to widen the causeway onto Granville Island. Why it would be a good idea to feed cars even faster into the present bottleneck is a mystery.

Perhaps what's really needed is a major reduction in the department's budget.

The multiplex cinema proposal and related commercial development for Granville Island has received plenty of coverage in the 'major media.' The controversy has spawned a group with the bizarre name 'Save Granville Island Coalition' and the politicking is growing quite fierce - a skeptic might almost say nasty. It was encouraging to see a full house at the November 24 Public Meeting.

THE FALSE CREEK NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

meets on the first
Wednesday of the month
at 7:00 p.m.
in the
False Creek
Community Centre
Board Room

Next meeting:
January 7, 1998

Representatives of all
housing enclaves are
welcome to attend

Join us for the

Party of the Year
**Monk
McQueen's
New Years
Bash!**

Wunderbread & DJ Dorian
Valet Parking, Party Favours
Hors D'oeuvres
Midnight Champagne.....

\$45 per person, Limited Tickets

ANIMALS ARE TOO!
PET CARE



Whether you're away for the Christmas Holidays or just working long hours, we will give your pets the same love and care that you would! We will look after all those little details so you won't have to worry. So..... for something a little different in pet care, call us at 329-3117...and remember, **Animals Are People Too!**

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\$9.99

Colour	\$25.99	Reg. \$42.99
Perm	\$28.99	Reg. \$45.99
Streaks	\$29.99	Reg. \$45.99
Spiral Perm	\$39.99	Reg. \$65.99
Shampoo & Set	\$9.99	Reg. \$13.99

False Creek Dry Cleaners & Flowerstop



Pyarali Somani is very pleased with the response to the Sears catalogue service introduced in October '95.

If you haven't been into the store recently you'll be pleasantly surprised at the new look since our expansion... and the new services we have added.

- Top quality cleaning services for 20 years
- Sears catalogue parcel pick-up
- Great selection of beautiful cards and festive balloons
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657 Moberley Road
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Tel. 876-6066

Catalogue enquiries:

872-1341

Mon - Fri. 7:45 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Christmas Traditions



Christmas Crackers

The modern Christmas cracker, which began life in the early 1840s, was an English invention influenced by French packaging and a Chinese custom.

While on holiday in Paris, a London confectioner called Tom Smith was impressed by the wrapped bon-bons on sale there. In those days British sweets were sold unwrapped and the French style appealed to him. Their sweets were enclosed in a paper with a twist at either end. This would later give the cracker its distinctive shape.

Smith also knew of the Chinese tradition of putting mottoes in fortune cookies - simple sayings to tell you about your future. He added these to the French sweets and sold them in England, retaining the French name of bon-bon. Each candy was first wrapped in greaseproof paper, the slip of paper bearing the motto was curled around it, and finally this was covered with brightly coloured transparent paper.

The bon-bon was extremely successful but he wanted to add a little more fun to it. It is tempting to think that he was again influenced by the Chinese, who were well known for letting off fire-crackers at the end of the old year, to scare away evil spirits and improve the chances of a prosperous new year. It would have been a simple step to take the Chinese connection a little further, but history is not always that logical. Lucky accidents often intervene.

Tom Smith was sitting in front of a log fire one night when a piece of wood fell off and he had to push it back as quickly as possible. As he did so, the wood let off a loud crack. It startled him and he realised that, if he could add an element of shock to his bon-bon he would have the entertaining party confection that he wanted.

The first cracking bon-bons appeared in the 1870s but were not, at first, called crackers. Smith gave them another French name: *cosaques*. This was because the cracking sound

they made when pulled apart was reminiscent of the noise produced by performing Cossack horsemen as they cracked their whips. By the early 1880's the rather fancy name of *cosaque* had given way to the simpler one of cracker.

The sweets themselves were also being phased out. In their place came metal charms - some lucky, some unlucky. Like the mottoes, they told your fortune for the coming year. If you found a black cat in your cracker, you were in for some good luck, but if you discovered a spinster's thimble or a bachelor's button, you would not find a marriage partner in the months ahead.

Crackers have remained popular for over a century and show no sign of losing favour. They still retain the message on the slip of paper, the personal memento, and often a tightly folded paper hat, but the fortune-telling elements have almost completely disappeared. The motto has become a joke and the charm has become a small gift. Otherwise the frivolous Christmas cracker remains much as the inventor, Tom Smith, intended it to be.

Party Hats

It is traditional at a Christmas meal for people to don paper hats for a while as part of the festivities. Only the most pompous members of the family refuse to do this. For the rest it is a little harmless fun. It seems like a trivial act with little meaning, but in reality it has a strange and ancient origin.

It can be traced back to an element of the Roman Saturnalia when, as part of the celebrations which ran from the 17th to 23rd of December, masters and slaves briefly changed roles. This tradition was handed down and survived the centuries, ending up a part of the old Twelfth Night festivities. Then a man and a woman were chosen at random to play the role of king and queen and were given mock crowns to wear. They 'ruled' the celebrations and their orders had to be obeyed.

The design of modern paper hats echoes this early custom. They are still shaped like crowns, or sometimes bishop's mitres, and symbolically give their wearers high status, in a joking way. So the simple act of wearing a paper hat taken from a Christmas cracker is a momentary, light-hearted return to the rites of ancient Rome.



The Office Party

The annual office party, usually held just before an organization closes down for the Christmas vacation, is the modern descendant of the ancient Roman Saturnalia.

In ancient Rome, the rich made generous gifts to the poor, masters waited on their slaves, a mock ruler was chosen from among the slaves to give orders to everyone present, people exchanged clothing, there were wild processions through the streets and there was dancing, feasting, drinking and games.

Most of these early customs can be found lurking just beneath the surface of every modern office party. The gifts made by the rich to the poor now go by the name of the 'Christmas bonus'. Masters waiting on their slaves now takes the form of the boss handing out drinks to the office staff. The mock ruler from the slaves is now the dreaded 'life and soul of the party' who organizes and announces the entertainment. People exchanging clothing has become 'fancy dress', or simply funny hats from crackers. The wild processions have been reduced to a tipsy conga line that snakes its way around tables and corridors.

The details have changed, but the underlying pattern is the same. All through the year the status relations have remained fixed. Now, in one ritual event, they are relaxed and even abandoned.

Apollonia is not the old Estia renamed

Apparently some local residents have wondered whether Apollonia is just a revival of the old Estia Greek restaurant which used to be located on 2nd Avenue - if the Estia proprietors shut up the cavernous place round the corner and simply set up again on Fir St. with a new name.

Be assured they did not.

Harry and Thea Prinianakis, the hands-on owners of Apollonia, ran a restaurant in Gastown for over ten years before deciding they would prefer to be in a more residential area. They opened Apollonia last February and are pleased to have seen a regular neighbourhood clientele develop. Evidently there are plenty of local residents who appreciate really good, homemade Greek food. Even the bread is baked on the premises.

It is a cosy place and, by the way, it's not all Greek. The lunch menu is what Harry describes as 'continental.' They also have catering and take-out service.



Your Neighbourhood Greek Restaurant

1830 Fir St. (2nd & Fir)
Tel: 736-9559

Introductory Offer
Two for One

Enjoy one entree free when a second entree of equal or greater value is purchased with this ad.

After 5 pm
Dine in only


One coupon per table

Expires
Dec. 31/97

Seasons Greetings

Join us
£
Enjoy the
**Carol Ship Parade of Lights
in False Creek**

Sunday	Dec 7	Monday	Dec 15
Monday	Dec 8	Tuesday	Dec 16
Tuesday	Dec 9	Wednesday	Dec 17
Wednesday	Dec 10	Thursday	Dec 18
Thursday	Dec 11	Monday	Dec 22
Sunday	Dec 14	Tuesday	Dec 23



MONKMcQUEENS
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Next, an ultrasonic wash removes any dust, grime or nicotine stains to give it back a nice sheen.



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DROP OFF & SAVE 20% ON CLEANING

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THE VENETIAN BLIND SERVICE CENTRE

331 W. 7th Ave. 874-1121
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Musical treats for the young at heart

A Christmas Carol ★ the Musical

Carousel Theatre's favourite holiday treat is back at the Waterfront Theatre for the eighth time.

Mavor Moore wrote this melodious adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic Christmas tale especially for Carousel Theatre in 1988 and, by popular demand, they have presented it almost annually ever since. The two years that Carousel's Artistic Director Elizabeth Ball substituted another production for the holiday season she was swamped with complaints!

Bernard Cuffling reprises his role as Scrooge; Annabel Kershaw, another veteran of *A Christmas Carol*, returns to play Belle; Denis Simpson plays The Ghost of Christmas Present. Cheryl Mullen, who is also a three-time veteran, will

again play Mrs. Fezziwig. The cast also includes Jeremy Tow, Don Noble, Anita Wittenberg and David Hudgins.

Designer Douglas Welch has transformed the theatre into a picture-perfect Victorian Christmas card.

Public performances for the rest of the run:

Dec. 6	2:00 & 8:00 p.m.
Dec. 11/12	8:00p.m.
Dec. 13	2:00 & 8:00 p.m.
Dec. 18/19	8:00 p.m.
Dec. 20/22/23	2:00 & 8:00 p.m.
Dec. 24	4:00 p.m.

Tickets from **Waterfront Theatre** Box Office (685-6217) and Ticketmaster outlets (280-3311). Don't delay; this is a hugely popular family show which sells out quickly.

Opera for Kids

Vancouver East Cultural Centre's Kids' Series presents the Vancouver Opera Ensemble's version of *Hansel and Gretel*

A musical treat for Christmas, leading children through an enchanted forest into a wonderland of fairies, witches and gingerbread. The Grimm Brothers' dark tale is transformed into a magical journey of the imagination, teaching everyone something about the human spirit along the way.

Suitable for ages 5 and up. **December 15 - 20** at 7:00 p.m. plus 2:00 p.m. matinee on Dec. 20. Kids: \$7 Adults \$9 (groups of four \$27.50).

VANCOUVER EAST CULTURAL CENTRE 1895 Venables St. Tickets from Ticketmaster (280-3311).

Something New for New Year's

Breaking with tradition can sometimes be a welcome change, especially when it comes to starting a New Year. Julie Riding, Event Inventor for *New Year's Eve "Around the World"*, (see ad.) explains "I have attended some awful New Year's events --- I wanted to design one that I would love to attend."

New Year's "Around the World" will feature many unique elements from dancing to swing, jazz, rock, soul and world music. Guests will travel briefly to different regions of the world to sample the food, music, stories and dance of different cultures, while still keeping a few New Year's traditions.

Semi-professional dancers from the B.ritish Columbia Amateur Dancesport Association will perform in some hot Latin dances like the Samba and Cha-Cha and African Dancers and Drummers will enthrall the crowd. The evening will be a funky, but elegant affair with belly dancers and performers mingling with the guests.

"*Around the World*" is an alternative to house parties and smoke filled night club venues. (It will be a non-smking venue).

"I've learned so many interesting things while doing the research for this event!" said an excited Julie Riding. "I bet you didn't know that in Mexico on New Year's Eve they celebrate by eating twelve grapes, one to represent each month of the year."

The event is a fundraiser for the **Multiple Sclerosis Society**.

Holiday fare at the Arts Club

On the Mainstage

The Game of Love & Chance

'Tis soon the season for festive flirtation, small talk that sparkles and visual delights. What better time could there be to take a lesson in the art of captivating conversation and the rules of romance?

The mind-boggling art of amour is loaded with laughter and high style hi-jinks in Pierre Marivaux's *The Game of Love and Chance*.

Panache-meister Morris Panych directs a cast ready to flambé and flip every rule in the book for maximum comedic effect. Leslie Jones, Gary Jones, David Marr, John Parr, Nicole Robert and Andy Thompson turn their well-honed talents to the story

of two wily would-be lovers whose devilish plots turn four lives upside down.

Set in the fashionable 50's this hormone-addled tale features tantalizing text, a soupçon of improv (in classic commedie dell' theatresports style) and more twists than a French topiary maze.

ARTS CLUB MAINSTAGE until **January 10**. Mon. - Sat. at 8:00 p.m. Matinees: Thursdays at 1:00, Saturdays at 4:00.

No performances Dec. 24/25 & Jan. 1

Tickets from Arts Club Box Office (687-1644) and Ticketmaster outlets (280-3311).

PET PICTURES with SANTA!

Be part of this annual SPCA event. A fun time for you and your pet at Christmas. Great as stocking stuffers and Christmas cards, too!



11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on...

Sunday, Dec. 7
Saturday, Dec. 13

Cost

1 photo\$6.00
2 photos\$10.00
4 photos\$20.00

VANCOUVER SPCA SHELTER
1205 East 7th Avenue, Vancouver
(opposite King Edward campus)

Christmas Calenders & Cards

are also fundraisers for the S.P.C.A. They are available at any Bank of Nova Scotia, many pet stores and vet hospitals. Needless to say they are all appealing animal photographs.



PET

FOOD BANK BOXES

can also be found at some pet stores including our own local **FALSE CREEK PET SUPPLIES** at 1500 West 2nd Ave.

If only a quarter of the pet owners in our neighbourhood dropped into Christopher's store with cat or dog food donations he'd have a HUGE boxful to take to the S.P.C.A.

Please do it - generously

Time For The Holidays At Granville Island

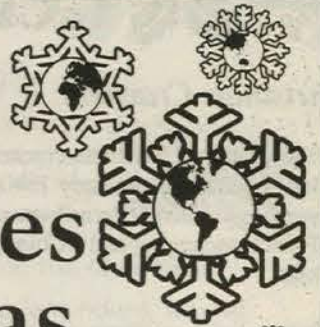
'Tis the season once again to enjoy a feast of holiday fare and festivities at Granville Island. Come take advantage of our special holiday hours to explore the Public Market for seasonal treats and treasures.

Public Market Christmas Hours

Dec. 22 (Monday)	Open 9-6	Dec. 27-30 (Sat. - Tues.)	Open 9-6
Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve)	Open 9-4	Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve)	Open 9-4
Dec. 25 (Christmas Day)	CLOSED	Jan. 1 (New Year's Day)	CLOSED
Dec. 26 (Boxing Day)	CLOSED	Jan. 2	Open 9-6

A WORLD TO DISCOVER UNDER THE BRIDGE **Granville Island**

The Chan Centre
for the Performing Arts



Celebrates Christmas

Saturday, December 20th, 8pm
Sunday, December 21st, 2pm

Traditional Christmas favorites
with a world-beat flavour

with **Vancouver Chamber Choir**
Ed Henderson & Friends

William B. Davis "of the X-Files"
reading 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

TicketMaster **280-3311**



The Chan Centre
for the performing arts

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

\$25 adults
\$15 students
& seniors
\$10 children
12 & under



The Chan Centre
for the performing arts

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Thursday
December 11th
8pm

Tafelmusik
Baroque Orchestra

Jeanne Lamon, Music Director

Handel • Bach • Vivaldi • Corelli • Marais

\$25-\$35

Saturday
December 13th
8pm

St. Lawrence
String Quartet

Haydn • Tchaikovsky • R. Murray Schafer

\$18-\$28

Double Play!

Hear both for only **\$46**
Call TicketMaster **280-3311**
or pick up your **Double Play** package
at the door December 11.

TicketMaster **280-3311**



charity ball
Around the world
New Year's Eve 97

A funky elegant evening of dancing with.....

surprise performances fabulous door prizes
live entertainment
world cuisine silent auction

Performance Works
1218 Cartwright St., Granville Island
8:00 p.m. - December 31, 1997
\$ 45.00



For Info & Tickets: 604-222-1547 Email: monkey@portal.ca

The Granville Island Rambler

by David McCann

Wherever they are Messrs. Ford, Chrysler, Buick and all the other old automotive giants must be chuckling about the mass acceptance of their products here in North America. Two of the three main points reiterated again and again during the public meeting (on November 24) about the proposed 'Under the Bridge' project on Granville Island centred on the impact of the car on the neighbourhood. During the discussion we heard about 'parking and traffic', 'traffic and parking' on and on.

The City's traffic department acknowledges there will be no real solutions to the traffic and parking problems experienced by residents and drivers alike within the GVRD without a real change in public attitudes. Unless people are prepared to accept severe restrictions on their ability to drive and park where they please, increased population densities will only exacerbate the situation. Perhaps increasing user fees (i.e. permits, licenses, gasoline taxes etc.) to reflect the actual cost of building and maintaining roads and parking would accomplish reductions. Currently all taxpayers subsidize highways and roads and few have any appreciation of the true cost of building and maintaining the network.

Neighbourhood parking problems could be slightly alleviated by a proposal to redevelop the old Estia restaurant site on 2nd Ave. just east of Fir St. The proposal to build 238 underground parking spaces includes 143 public pay-parking spaces.

All proposals for redeveloping occupied buildings or developing new uses for empty buildings on Granville Island are subject to City parking requirements. The Engineering Dept. has confirmed that the 'Under the Bridge' project meets the City's requirements within the existing parking allotments on Granville Island.

Opponents of the cinema project state that large corporations have no place on Granville Island. They ignore the fact that virtually every Island merchant sells some product or mix of products produced by major corporations.

In the Maritime Market there are Raytheon, Bausch & Lomb and others from the United States, Furuno and Sony from Japan, Dylex from Canada, etc. Most if not all of the multi-national food companies like United Brands sell their products through the Public Market. Granville Island Brewery is owned by a Swiss parent company that is traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange. The Keg is an international chain. John Keith-King (one of the main opponents of the new project) has tenants who represent huge international companies: a subsidiary of multi-billion dollar U.S. conglomerate Brunswick Corporation builds Bayliner yachts and sells its boats through a broker in the Maritime Market.

All of these products and tenants add to the Island's flavour. Our customers strongly indicate their acceptance of the mix of handcrafted arts objects and manufactured goods by buying them regularly.

The other prime issue that should be addressed, and which shouldn't be restricted to just the 'Under the Bridge' project, is the future development, direction and management of Granville Island. I will explore this issue in a future column. The debate about the 'Under the Bridge' project should focus on its appropriateness. Will it enhance or detract from Granville Island? Does it fit within the milieu of the Island?

As is to be expected, there has rarely been total agreement on anything that has happened on Granville Island. The retail merchants, artists, artisans, arts groups and other tenants here are not united, either in support or opposition, to this project. Some simply don't care and think the whole issue is a waste of time. Hopefully all will give some thought to the basis for their opinions before they adopt a final position one way or the other. Mr. Keith-King and a number of tenants are opposed. Arts Umbrella and several other tenants are in favour. They are all entitled to their opinion. CMHC, the Granville Island Trust, the City of Vancouver and others involved, have yet to make a final decision.

Rather than accept the opponents' or proponents' view of what Granville Island's official plan and its revisions are, read them. They are brief and easy reading and you'll be surprised by the vision of the authors. These documents deserve more public airing than they have received. I'll lend a copy to anyone. If you'd like to chew the fat give me a call at Creekhous Gallery - 681-5016.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

FROM VALERIE & DAVID
& THE STAFF
AT

CREEKHOUSE GALLERY

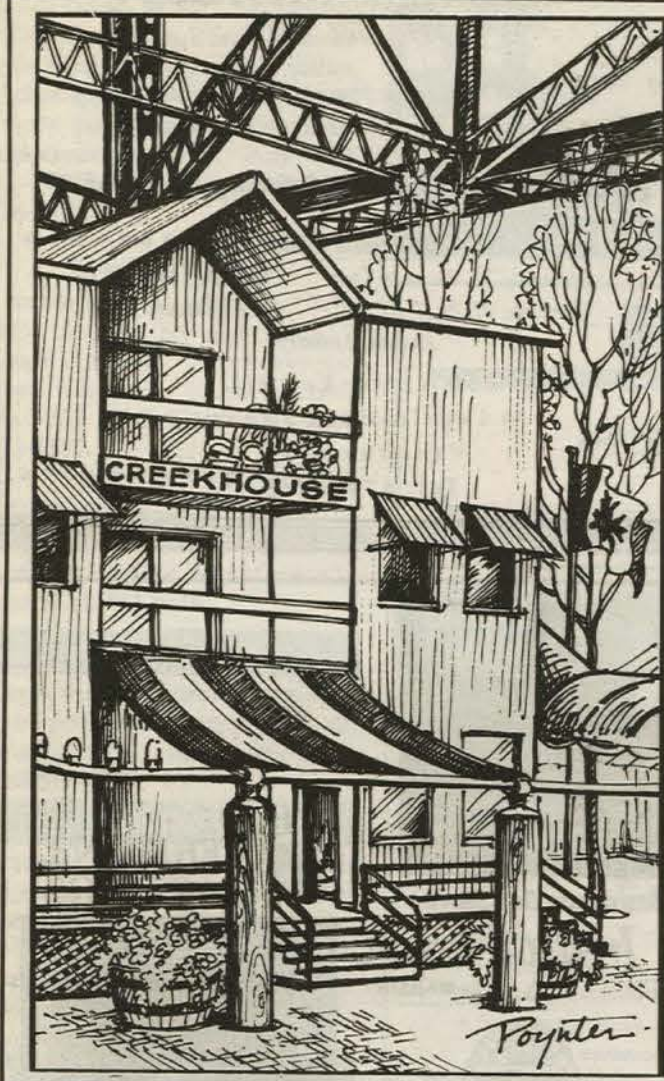
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Santa arrived in style this year - on the fireboat.

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But most importantly, Santa and his elves are presiding over the

Wishing Tree again. Last year the Wishing Tree provided a huge proportion of the gifts the Christmas Bureau were able to give to needy families at Christmas.

You choose a child's name from the tree and provide a gift specifically for that child which the elves wrap and send on to the Bureau.

For a donation to the Christmas Bureau the elves will also wrap your own gifts prettily.

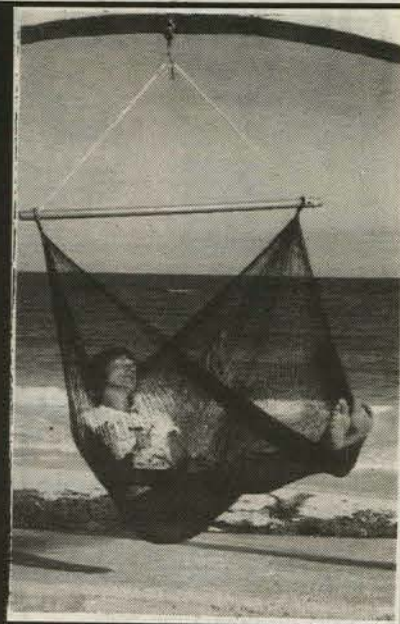
For more information call the Kids Market Santa Line at 689-0534.



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COME TO THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING

Join in on the program committee meeting on December 10th at 7:00 pm. Your ideas and input are needed!! Call Doug at 257-8195 if you plan to attend.

- Winter Program Approval
- Tennis Program rainouts - policies
- 1998 Program time lines
- Community Creek Waterways Cleanup

WATCH FOR THE NEW BROCHURE

The new Winter '97 Program Guide will be in the mail on *December 29th*. Registration for these programs will begin *January 2nd*. Register early to avoid disappointment with classes filling up or being cancelled due to lack of registration. Minimums are required to pay for instructor's wages and insure a quality program.

Community Creek Cleanup

On Sunday, September 28th, Fin Donnelly swam 30 KM from Richmond, around Point Grey and through False Creek to Science World. This swim was scheduled to raised awareness on our polluted waterways.

A member of our community has suggested that the False Creek Recreation Association sponsor an event to clean up the creek and raise awareness of this problem. The FCRA program committee will be brainstorming ideas for this event.

We need your help and input!! We are looking for an event that will attract as many people as possible to show the False Creek Community's concern. See the top left corner of Centre Point for time and date of Program Committee Meeting.

VISIT WITH SANTA

Come on down to the Centre for a light breakfast and entertainment with the man in red. Croissants, fruit and beverages will be included in this exciting event for all the young ones, Register early as this is very popular and will fill up quickly!!

\$4/person or
\$12/per family of 4 - additional family members will be \$4/each
Saturday, December 13th
10:00 am - 12 noon



Wishing you all a very safe and happy holiday season from the Board and Staff at the False Creek Community Centre.

Remaining Lantern Making Workshops

All workshops are held at the False Creek Community Centre.

- * Pre-registrations required call 257-8195.
- * Star, Moon, and Sun take 2 sessions to complete. Cost \$15.00
- * Globe lanterns take 2 sessions to complete. Cost \$10.00
- * Tin Can and Basic take 1 session to complete. Cost \$8.00
- * Bring a smock.
- * For the tin can workshop bring a hammer.
- * Children must have an adult helper.

Globe	Sundays	Dec. 7 & 14	10:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Star	Mondays	Dec. 8 & 15	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Moon	Wednesdays	Dec. 10 & 17	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Basic	Fri.	Dec. 12	4:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Globe	Saturdays	Dec. 13 & 20	12:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Tin Can	Wed.	Dec. 17	1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Basic	Thurs.	Dec. 18	1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Basic	Thurs.	Dec. 18	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Basic	Fri.	Dec. 19	12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Tin Can	Fri.	Dec. 19	5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

* * * * *

After the Garbage Strike

by Judy Chrastina

Picture this. In the early hours of the morning, every light in the house on, Bridie my 4 lb. Yorkshire Terrier and me - in nightgown, flashlight in hand - in hot pursuit of a 6" RAT. We had endured five sleepless nights as Hairy the Rat took over our home between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Upstairs, downstairs, behind armoires, along the baseboards, across couches and under them, my trusty dog and I pursued Hairy the Rat. It was quite a scene!

Bridie, by breed, is a ratter. Her acute hearing (you should see the size of her ears in relation to her body) and sense of smell are so strong that she sat in front of an armoire in the living room insisting

that the Rat was within my reach. I had checked the piece of furniture a dozen times and began to doubt her abilities but one last try led me to place a flashlight amidst the blooming Christmas cactus and lo and behold there appeared the Rat. The chase began anew - up and down three flights of stairs again and finally into our bedroom. Bridie's delight at finally spotting what she had been sniffing and hearing for five days was a sight to see!

Hairy the Rat was last seen as I chased him out from beneath the bedroom armoire. Whether he disappeared upstairs, downstairs or back into the hole beside the dishwasher from whence he came, I'll never really know. He was just too

fast for both of us. But I have finally been able to sleep right through the night.

The rat trap with peanut butter on it that the pest control people left is still under the dishwasher; the hole has been plugged. It seems that Bridie, the fearsome four-pounder, put "the fear of the dog" into Hairy the Rat.



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