



Carol Ship Cruises

Watch the decorated Carol Ships cruise up False Creek from the warmth of our ferries
Dec. 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 20, 21, 22
 8:00 p.m. \$10 per person
 Reservations Required.
 Family & Group Rates available
684-7781

The Creek

Serving False Creek, Fairview Slopes and Granville Island

Vol. 19, No. 10

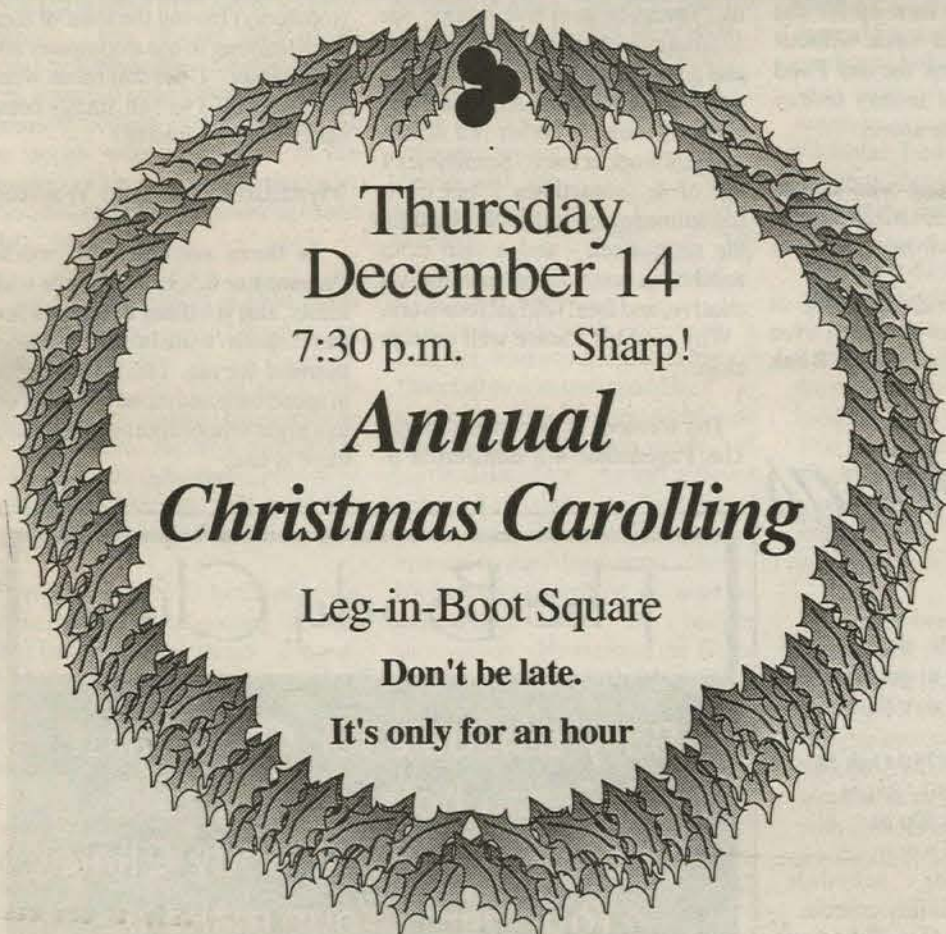
December, 2000

FALSE CREEK TRAVEL

BEST FARES
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 The South Pacific
 South America

Air Only or Packages
 660B Leg-in-Boot Square
879-8414 or 709-6267

www.myflightsavers.com



Thursday
 December 14
 7:30 p.m. Sharp!
Annual Christmas Carolling

Leg-in-Boot Square
 Don't be late.
 It's only for an hour



Thursday, December 21

6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Rain or Fine!

Carol Sheets provided

The Charles Dickens Singers will again come to keep us in tune

Wondering how long we've been holding this community carol sing each December? This is the 18th year. Why only an hour? Because those who arrive promptly have cold feet and dry vocal chords after an hour.

Another tradition is for the genial landlord of Stamps Pub to offer a warming glass of gluewein to carollers afterwards. Kevin Shaughnessy is happy to continue the tradition this year.

Carol Ships will tour False Creek on:
December 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23
 between approximately 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

DO NOT FORGET
 to bring contributions for the **FOOD BANK**
 (or money to buy items for the box from Budget Foods)

Good news, as promised last month. Despite the set-back of the civic strike the 7th Annual Winter Solstice Lantern Procession will proceed as per tradition.

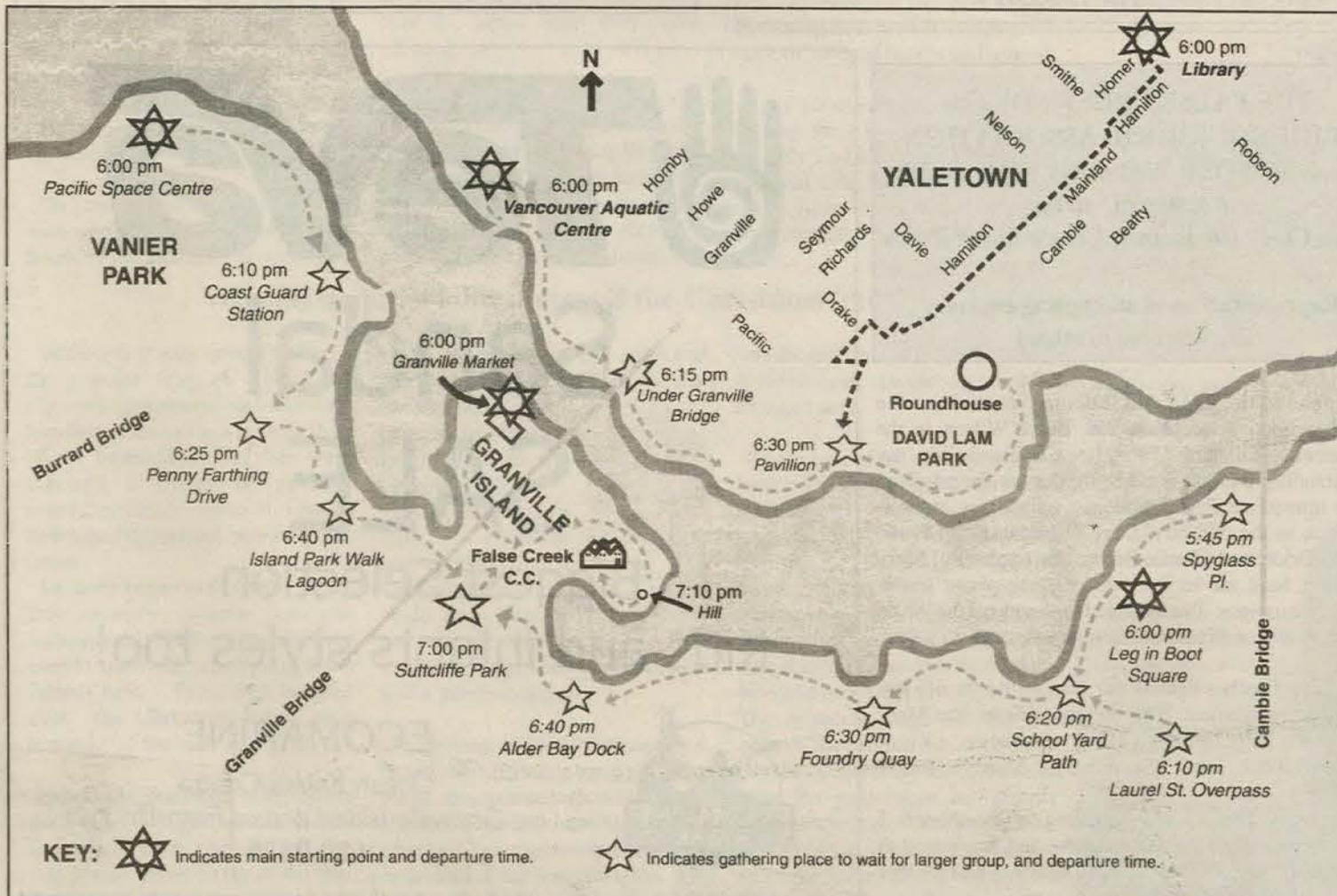
To help community members to truly participate in the evening there are Drumming, Singing and Lantern-making workshops during the month (see p.7 for details). Please sign up for the workshops immediately as space and time are limited.

Those wishing to participate even more by volunteering will be warmly welcomed. Please call the Community Centre at 257-8195.

On the night of the event there will be three main processional starting points:

1) Vanier Park; 2) Leg-in-Boot Square; 3) behind Granville Island Market. Smaller groups waiting along the seawall will join as the ever-growing processions arrive to collect them en route to Granville Island.

This year we will hand out free shakers so participants can help keep the processional rhythm along with our professional drum leaders. Hopefully we will once again be blessed with marvellous weather and will be able to see our fellow seawall celebrants over at the Roundhouse Community Centre.



As the processions merge in Sutcliffe Park they will be welcomed by the Vancouver Morris Men. Then it's over to the hill on the eastern tip of the island for the spectacular fire performance. Afterwards participants can choose between the Festival of Song (in Performance Works, entry by donation to the Food Bank) and activities in the False Creek Community Centre. These will include our traditional favourites: The Hot Club of Mars (jazz), Vancouver Morris Men, Zeellia (Ukrainian and Balkan vocal group), and the popular grand finale Community Dance, with live musicians and dance caller.

Solstice Calendars by artist Lynda Nakashima are on sale at the Community Centre (only \$7), proceeds from which help support this free neighbourhood event. Donations will gratefully be accepted throughout the night of the event and will help to offset the financial hardship incurred by the civic strike.

The event is produced by the Secret Lantern Society and Artistic Director Naomi Singer. Generous sponsors include CMHC Granville Island, the False Creek Community Association, the Granville Island Business and Community Association and the False Creek South Neighbourhood Association.

We look forward to seeing you all with your lanterns, families, friends and solstice spirit on December 21.

The Editor



Beryl Wilson



While compiling this issue I read the 50-word short stories (on a Christmas theme) that were published in last December's issue. They were such fun; I should have run another contest this year.

Why doesn't someone send a suggestion for a another theme to *The Creek*, and we'll have a mid-year contest. No prizes next time; it was too much of a nightmare rounding them up last year. Publication will be its own reward.

SAVE USED STAMPS TO SUPPORT THE SPCA

Please

- ✂ save envelopes with postage stamps
- ✂ bundle in plastic bag
- ✂ put through cat door of 1124 Ironwork Passage

Mrs. Allen, the 90+ year-old lady who trims and sorts these used stamps, says she sent \$100 to the S.P.C.A. this year. She is so impressed by the response of Creek readers and sends her thanks, especially to the folks at Swedish Press who deliver a shopping bag full of envelopes every couple of months.

The Creek

Published about the 1st
Wednesday of the month

Creek Office Tel.
734-3369

Fax. 734-3362

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Full page	10" x 15"	\$480.00

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Tel. 734-3369

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

Over 700,000 people depended on Food Banks last year

Not once, or once in a while - but regularly

In a country that the Prime Minister is foreverbleating is "the best country in the world to live in" The Vancouver Food Bank serves up to 9400 people per week, three weeks a month. 900 of them are children aged six or younger.

30% of the people going to Food Banks are described as the "working poor." They are not idle; they're not "living off the state". They have jobs, but jobs that don't pay enough to put a roof over their heads, clothes on their backs, and food in their stomachs.

More than 40% of the Food Bank's yearly donations are raised during December. Regular C.B.C. listeners will know that Friday, December 8th was the C.B.C.'s 14th day-long annual province-wide Food Bank Day. Fortunately the response

from people around the province is huge.

When I'm delivering the December issue of *The Creek* to buildings in the area I've been gratified to see many of them have Food Bank boxes in their foyers. I hope to see them again when tramping around with this issue.

AND, let no-one turn up for the Carol Singing next week without either several items for our Food Bank collection, or money to buy something from the store.

Be warned, anyone who comes empty-handed (and too many have in years past) will get a frosty reception.

At the Festival of Song at Performance Works you don't even get in without a Food Bank contribution.

Season's Greetings

BLOOD NEEDED

Blood supplies have been uncomfortably low in recent months. It's bad enough surgeries are delayed because lack of nursing staff, and money, keeps operating rooms closed. If they were ever delayed simply for lack of blood donors it would truly be a tragedy.

Many people are prohibited from donating blood for a variety of reasons, and from the pool who are eligible, a very small percentage do.

Those who CAN donate are encouraged to make a special effort to take an hour to "give the gift of life."

Vancouver Clinic 4750 Oak St.
Mon.Tue.Thurs. 11:30 - 8 p.m.
Wed., 11:30 a.m. - 6:30p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Call **879-6001** for schedule information and eligibility criteria.
NOTE: If you're over 65 and have not donated in the last two years they won't take you.

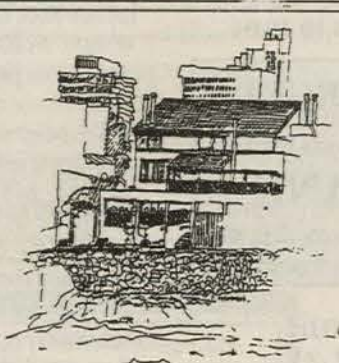
Miz B's B_{minus} B

If you cannot, or would rather not, have friends or relatives at your house, Miz B. occasionally has room for two people.

Queen size bed
Private bathroom

(Two cats also live here)

Tel. 734-3369



**THE FALSE CREEK SOUTH
NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION**
meets on the first Wednesday of the month
at 7:00 p.m. in the
False Creek Community Centre Board Room

**Representatives of all housing enclaves
are welcome to attend**

Somehow the idea has become rooted in the Neighbourhood Association that Beryl Wilson is the permanent Nominating Committee Chairman. It's my understanding this task is either the duty or the privilege of the immediate Past President. Since my term as President, in the mid-80's, Dave Osborne, Keith Freer, John McBride, and Charlie Brown and (currently) Merv Therriault have all served two or three year terms. Protests are useless; I've managed to slough off the job no more than two or three times in over a decade.

But I've finally figured out how to be let off this permanent assignment. The current officers are Merv Therriault (President), Dave Osborne (Vice-President), Keith Freer (Secretary), Marilyn Buttle (Treasurer).

At the Association's Annual Meeting on December 6, I simply renominated the same slate - and threatened to keep renominating them every year, until they nail another Nominations Chairman.

New computer torment

Is access to the Internet really so essential?

A Macintosh LC and Pagemaker 4.2 have served me well for nine years. I had an answering machine and a fax machine - the whole shebang hooked up to one telephone outlet in the kitchen. Everything worked. Why couldn't I leave well enough alone?

Six weeks ago I brought another computer (and free-standing modem) home and reconnected the spaghetti pile of wires. The fax promptly 'took ill.' Over the next five weeks, one \$75/hour technician, three friends and a fax repair man (\$110) spent a total of 10 hours re-arranging this mess of wires. Never did all the gadgets work at once. Sometimes 1 out of 4; sometimes 2 out of 4; sometimes even 3 out of 4. Not until the sixth week - and a visit from another techno-wizard (mercifully a relative, and free!) did all four work.

Why couldn't I leave well enough alone?

The torment is not over though. The Pagemaker 4.2 transferred to

the new computer's hard drive doesn't like its new home. For nine years it's performed nicely; now it quits and shuts down without the slightest provocation.

I've bought an upgrade, Pagemaker 6.5, thinking if I knew 4.2 it shouldn't be too difficult to move on. **WRONG.** I haven't a clue; can't follow the (probably excellent) instruction book; even figure out how to give instructions to the printer.

How come over-80-year-olds are (reputedly) having the time of their lives learning to use a computer and the Internet. Does that mean when I *am* over 80 it will all finally come easily - and be fun?!?!?

Meantime Help Wanted

Is there anyone who works Pagemaker 6.5, has patience with idiots, and is willing to spend a few short spells 'translating' the g----- manual for me. I really don't want to spend time and money fagging off to a night school course (presuming there is one)

The Body Clinic

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Christmas Lore

Why do children hang up their stockings on Christmas Eve?

Because St. Nicholas saved three beautiful sisters from a life of prostitution. Although this may sound unlikely, for once an old legend appears to be based on an historical incident.

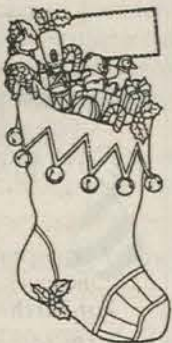
Nicholas came from a very wealthy family. His parents died in an epidemic when he was a young man. He inherited everything and finding himself suddenly extremely rich, had to decide what to do with all his money. Being a good Christian, he decided to give it all away to those who were in need.

But he realised that as soon as his generosity was widely known, he would be pestered by every sponger and parasite who could track him down. So he planned his charitable acts with care. He often travelled in disguise and made sure his gifts were always given secretly, so that nobody knew the identity of the gift-giver.

On one occasion he heard of a man who had lost all his money through bad business investments. He was the father of three beautiful, unmarried daughters but as he could not afford to provide them with marriage settlements they had no hope of finding husbands. He could not afford to keep his daughters at his home and was left with only one agonising option - to sell them into

prostitution.

When Nicholas heard of this he waited until dark and then rode to the man's house. As he passed by the open window of one of the girls, he threw in a bag of gold. She had no idea where the gift had come from, but it was sufficient for her dowry and she was soon happily married.



Nicholas then repeated this with the second daughter, who was also able to marry. Their father was so puzzled by these miraculous gifts he spent the next night hiding by the open window of his third daughter. At last, a figure appeared and threw in a third bag of gold. The father leapt forward and insisted on thanking him personally. Nicholas was horrified, because his generosity was no longer anonymous. He insisted the father should never reveal his identity.

The man was so overwhelmed by these three acts of selfless charity that he could not hold his tongue and Nicholas soon became famous for what he had done. As a result he was later to become the patron saint of

unmarried girls. Amusingly, because he gave money to people, he also became the patron saint of pawnbrokers, who adopted his 'three bags of gold' as their trademark.

When this story was told in more detail it emerged that one of the girls had discovered her bag of gold in her stocking. It was apparently the custom for young girls to wash their stockings before going to bed and hang them up to dry near an open window. On the night in question, Nicholas had seen the stocking hanging there and had playfully popped the bag of gold into it.

This part of the story became more and more fanciful as the years passed. Nicholas was said to have thrown the three bags of gold straight through the window and into three stockings hanging up to dry by the fireplace. This feat was so remarkable that the whole story was taken to be a romantic fable, but Nicholas did exist and the more sober version of the tale is probably true.

Later, when he became closely associated with the Christmas festival and the bringing of Christmas gifts, children were told that if they hung up their stockings on Christmas Eve, St. Nicholas would pay them a secret visit in the night and fill them with gifts, as he had done years ago, for the three young sisters.

and the tree spirits released.

As time passed, in order to get the peasants back to work earlier, the Christmas period was shortened by a whole month, leaving only the 'Twelve Days' of Christmas. To bring an end to the holiday atmosphere, the custom of removing the greenery was also brought forward a month. This meant the tree spirits were given only a brief respite from the rigours of the winter, but already the original reason for decorating the house with green branches was being forgotten. Another ritual of pagan nature-worship was in the process of becoming little more than a 'popular custom', obeyed but not understood.

Today people still feel uneasy about leaving the Christmas decorations up after Twelfth Night, despite the fact that their main display is now often little more than rows of commercially produced Christmas cards.

Why is it bad luck to leave the Christmas decorations up after Twelfth Night?

In earlier times it was firmly believed that leaving Christmas decorations displayed inside the house after Twelfth Night would cause disaster. There were two reasons for this.

In olden days all the decorations were natural greenery of some kind. They were placed in the house to provide a safe haven for the tree spirits during the harsh days of midwinter. Once this period was over, at the end of the Christmas festivities, it was necessary to take all the greenery back outside to release the spirits into the countryside again. Failure to do this would mean the vegetation would not be able to start growing as winter receded. This could lead to an agricultural disaster.

The second reason was concerned with what would happen inside the house if the decorations were left

there. Although the tree spirits were immensely grateful for the shelter they were given indoors, they were anxious to return to their natural habitat outside as soon as midwinter was past. If they were made to stay indoors as the days lengthened and the weather improved, they would soon become mischievous and eventually downright hostile, causing havoc all over the house until they were released.

Originally when conditions were primitive and there was little outside work that could be done in the dead of winter, the Christmas festivities went on for weeks, not ending until early February. It was then the greenery had to be returned outdoors



Why do we put a fairy on top of the Christmas tree?

Although it may sound unlikely, the popular fairy on top of the Christmas tree started out life several hundred years ago as a sacred effigy of the Infant Jesus. It then went through a series of gradual transformations until it finally developed its modern, non-religious image.

Its story began in Germany in the 7th century, where baroque architectural moulds of cherubs were used to make little wax figures of the Infant Christ. These were hung all over the Christmas trees as a reminder of the nativity.

Eventually, one larger effigy called the Tin-g 'l' Angel was developed from the early cherubs and this was placed alone on top of the tree. It still represented the Christ-child

but he had now become an angel and had sprouted wings. His body was covered with gilded tin so that he glistened and glinted in the Christmas lights.

In the 19th century doll makers converted him into a Christmas angel-doll, made from wax or porcelain. Now, instead of being the Infant Jesus, he was a guardian angel.

In the form of the Christmas angel he arrived in Britain in early Victorian times. Because he looked like a doll, children begged to have him as a toy after the Christmas tree was removed at the end of the festive season. His clothing was then changed and he



was dressed up as a fashionable doll. In the process, at some stage, he also changed sex.

By the turn of the century we now have a female doll image on top of the tree each year as a protective angel. The next step sees the intrusion of the Christmas pantomime. Victorians loved their pantomimes. A favourite character for children was the Good Fairy, who waved her wand and saved the hero and heroine from evil villains. The protective angel on the tree became the protective Good Fairy. By the 20th century the Good Fairy from the pantomime had simply become 'the fairy.' And that is how, in six stages and over several hundred years the Infant Christ became the fairy on the Christmas tree.

Celebrate the Season!

Vancouver Chamber Choir
JON WASHBURN, CONDUCTOR

GLORIA! A Bach/Vivaldi Christmas

8pm, fri, dec 8, The Orpheum

Special guests: The CBC Radio Orchestra & the University Singers

Tickets \$15-37

group discounts call 738-6822

AN OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS Special Event!

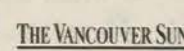
3pm, sun, dec 17, Holy Trinity Anglican Church

Lessons & carols for the whole family.

Tickets \$17-20

Call 280-3311 for tickets

www.vancouverchamberchoir.com



Vancouver Cantata Singers

Guest Conductor

Wayne Riddell C.M.

Associate Conductor: Tony Funk

Messiah

A radiant Messiah... Vancouver Sun

Karina Gauvin, Daniel Taylor, Nils Brown, William Sharp, Pacific Baroque Orchestra

Saturday, December 16 ♦ 7.30 pm
Orpheum Theatre

Sunday, December 17 ♦ 3.00 pm
Orpheum Theatre

Tickets \$34/\$26/\$24 adult, \$34/\$21/\$20 Senior/Student

Ticketmaster outlets: 280-3311
or www.ticketmaster.ca

Group rates for 10 or more \$14 at 921-8588



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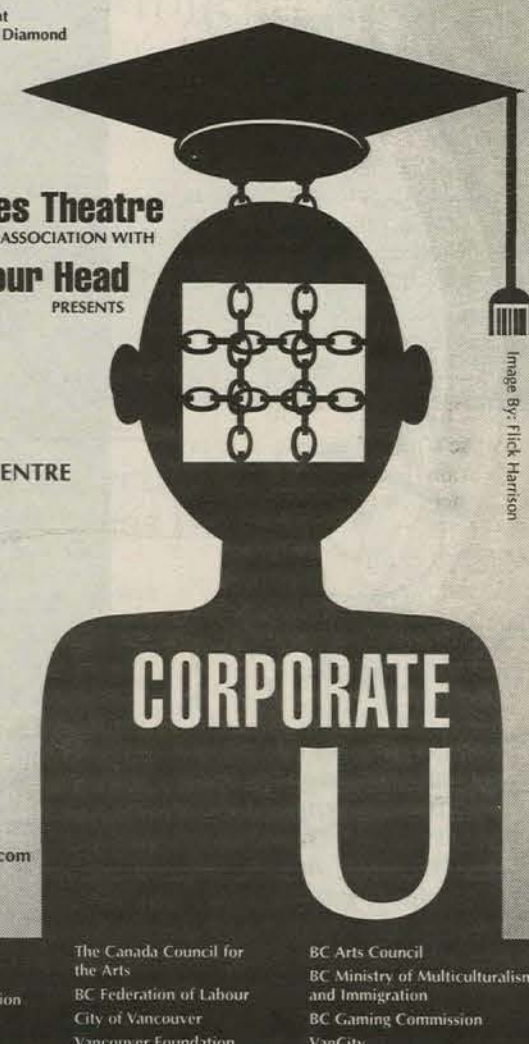


Image By: Flick Harrison



Vancouver Academy of Music

S.K. Lee College

OPERA WORKSHOP

presents

AM AHL & THE NIGHT VISITORS

by Gian Carlo Menotti

Saturday, December 16

7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 17

Matinee 2:00 p.m.

Koerner Recital Hall

Vancouver Academy of Music

1270 Chestnut Street

Vancouver

Tickets

\$10.00 General Admission

\$5.00 Students

Available at the Academy office
or at the door

Telephone: 734-2301

It's What's Inside That Counts



There is nothing more exciting than the delicious suspense of receiving a lovely package wrapped in fine papers and bows, and tearing back the wrappings to discover the treasure within.

For the last two years the Craffthouse Gallery has held a December fundraising event called "Packages" in which artists were

A fundraising Mystery Raffle to benefit Craffthouse

asked to create work that could be used to hold or wrap gifts.

This year they are trying a new twist; a number of fine artists have created something special that will be wrapped and displayed at the gallery and they are selling tickets for a chance to choose a mystery gift.

Photographs of the gifts will be displayed around the gallery walls to tantalize you.

Tickets can be purchased at Craffthouse: \$10 each, 3 for \$25.

Winning tickets will be drawn each week leading up to December 25.



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Granville Island

Join us for New Year's Eve



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FALSE CREEK

- * Waterfront location
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IT'S OPEN HOUSE AT STAMPS!



For further information:
Call: 879-0821 Fax: 879-0274

Beer and Wine available
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On behalf of Management and Staff at Stamps Landing Pub
we would like to thank all our neighbours and friends for
their support during the past year

The Academy of Music's Opera Studio presents Gian Carlo Menotti's colourful and poignant one-act opera for the delight of young and old this Christmas.

Menotti was commissioned by NBC TV, in 1951, to do a piece for Christmas. During a visit to the Metropolitan Museum he was inspired by the wonderful painting *Adoration Of The Kings* by Hieronymus Bosch. The painting reminded him of the Christmases he had known as a child in Italy where gifts are brought by the Magi rather than Santa Claus. Having no experience in television but a great love for the stage, he elected to write the opera as a stage work, which could be adapted for the screen. This is why the opera works so well on the live stage and why, after nearly fifty years, it is still performed every year somewhere in the world.

The story is seen through the eyes of the child Amahl, a crippled boy who lives in poverty with his mother, and who receives a visit from the Three Kings on their way to Bethlehem. The boy has a vivid imagination, as most children do, and therefore the setting and characters are more fanciful than authentic, which appeals to children of all ages.

The academy is proud to be able to present this marvellous opera, which will showcase the many talents of the voice, orchestra and ballet divisions of the Academy.



Granville Island presents

Festival of Song

December 16 – 21, 2000

Granville Island Public Market Courtyard

Saturday, December 16

- 1 pm West Coast Harmony
- 2 pm Lions Gate Chorus
- 3 pm Fandango

Sunday, December 17

- 1 pm Richmond Singers
- 3 pm Black Velvet

Monday, December 18

- 6 pm Caminando

Tuesday, December 19

- 6 pm Gentlemen of Fortune

Wednesday, December 20

- 6pm Vancouver Chinese Choir

Performance Works

Thursday, December 21

Festival of Song Gala*

8 pm – 10 pm

*Free admission with a donation to the Vancouver Food Bank (non-perishable food item or monetary contribution).

December 18 – 23 (Holiday Hours)

Public Market, Net Loft & Kids Market open late until 7 pm.



Granville
Island

THE VANCOUVER SUN



Unique, affordable gift books for everyone and endless browsing

by Beryl Wilson

Many people claim December is the most stressful month of the year, what with all the gift buying and wrapping, Christmas card writing, cooking, entertaining and visiting.

For me the pressure comes from all

the reading to be done. My rule is that all books purchased for gifts have to be read beforehand; chiefly because I'll never get around to borrowing them later. Secondly because sometimes the verdict is the book isn't appropriate for the person for whom it was intended - which has already happened this year.

(Could that explain why I later frequently greet a book on my shelves

with "Why ever did I buy this?")

Once in a while a book appears that would be perfect for almost everyone on the Christmas present (or any-other-occasion) list. I've spent several happy hours browsing in two such gems. Because one or other of them is bound to solve the "what on earth can I get for....." problem - read on.

Wanted Words: Language gaps found and fixed

edited by Jane Farrow

When Jane Farrow, of CBC Radio One's *This Morning* puts out a call for new words to describe things and processes that really need a name, the program is bombarded with hundreds of e-mails, faxes and phone calls from "wordies" coast to coast. The submissions are brilliant!

Are you a horrible cook? If so, you're a *gourmet*.

What do you call the noise of an engine starting on a cold morning? *Cranksinatra*.

And those coats, seatbelts and dress hems that hang out of car doors? *Undercarments*.

What do you call that last cold blast of winter following the first warm days of spring? ... *Indian bummer*.

Need a term for the headache caused by drinking or eating something very cold? *Chillbrain*

What to call the long, cold, dark span between New Year's Day and Good Friday? *Forevuary*

How to describe the dread of hosting a party, due to an intense fear of social failure?.. *Hosteria*

What to call those who engage in loud and obnoxious use of cell phones in public places? ... *Motorolamouth*

Now all of these and dozens more of the best words contributed by listeners have been brought together in this wonderfully entertaining book.

Listeners aren't just e-mailing and faxing their words to C.B.C. They are writing delicious letters explaining the origin of their new words, and many of them included in the book.

When Peter Gzowski hosted C.B.C.'s *Morningside* the letters he received were so numerous and such

treasures they resulted in *The Morningside Papers* which proved so popular what was intended as a one-time-only book became an annual event for four more years.

Thousands of listeners from coast to coast are having so much fun contributing *Wanted Words* (and the situations for which new words are wanted), C.B.C. will have to continue the segment forever - and produce a book just in time for Christmas every year.

Jane Farrow usually comes on air with the challenges and *Wanted Words* submitted in the second hour of *This Morning* (10 -11 a.m.) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. C.B.C. Radio One is at 690 AM on the dial.

Last month *Wanted Words* was already into a second printing. I found my copy at Duthie's: \$9.99. If they are out of stock, order one and give the recipient an I.O.U.

A Hurricane in the Basement and other Vancouver Experiences

Portrait V2K, a legacy story and photo collection project, was the City of Vancouver Millennium Project. From October 1999 to October 2000 people from nine to ninety-plus years contributed Vancouver photos and stories reflecting the past, contemporary experience, or their predictions for the city's future.

The major exhibit at the Vancouver Museum, featuring every story and photo collected, has been held over until June 2001.

The full collection of stories and photos can be found on the project web site: www.portraitv2k.com (Warning: you'll be browsing for hours).

Over 500 of the stories and photos collected are highlighted in a book, **A Hurricane in the Basement and other Vancouver Experiences**, available at the Central Library Gift Shop, the Vancouver Museum and the Vancouver outlets of London

Drugs (\$8.99).

The book lists the locations of the story stones and street plaques, placed in neighbourhoods around the city.

The stories are wonderful - little snapshots of ordinary people's lives, then and now, which do indeed add up to a Portrait of Vancouver - warts and all.

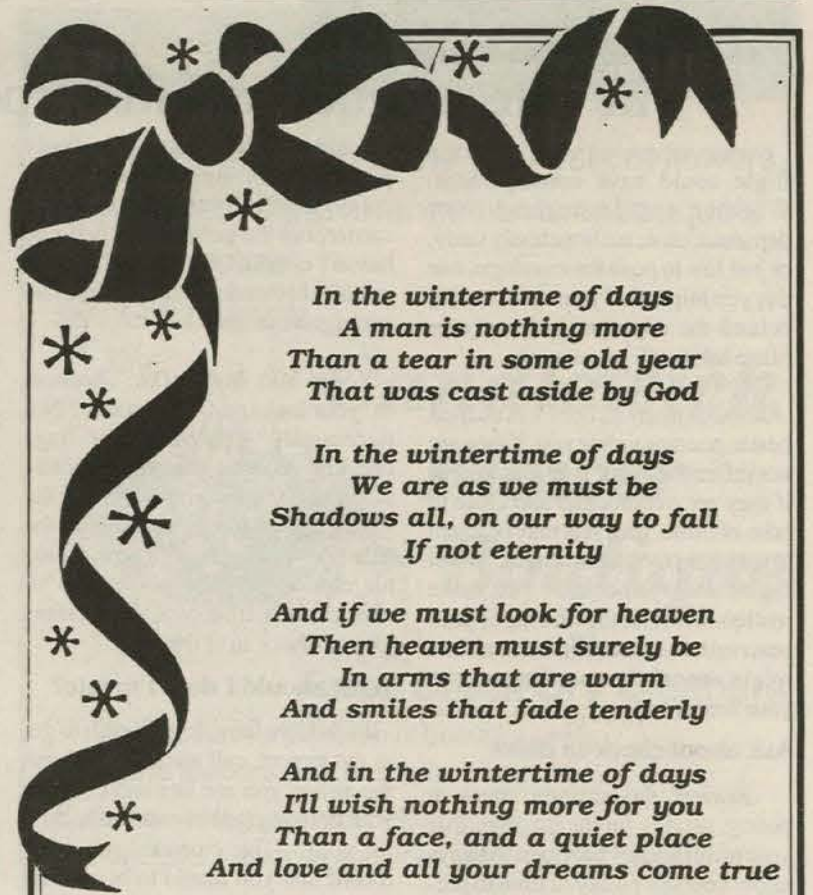
It's fun to recognise so many names amongst the contributors (all indexed at the back) and makes one realise we all had a story to tell.

Any one of the thousands of people tormented by being the owner of a 'leaky condo' will respond to a wonderful (and all too evocative) poem contributed by Nora Grove - a neighbour of mine until she sold her condo and escaped a couple of months ago.

I laughed so hard at this story I simply have to include it:

VACANT LOTS by Jill Purdy

When I was a child there was a wonderful vacant lot near the corner of Cypress Street and Cedar Crescent, which was close to our house. It was a no-no place for me because of the brambles, but my brother and his friends built forts under the brambles. People used to dump all kinds of things into that vacant lot, even sofas, which the boys used in the rooms of their forts. Sometimes people dumped garden cuttings there. One day my grandfather cut down a ten-foot tree and decided that he would walk it over to the vacant lot. He tied it up with rope and dragged it behind him down to the corner. But a guard had been put on the vacant lot because somebody was going to build there. The guard said, "What do you think you are doing with that tree?" My grandfather said "I'm taking it for a walk." Then he walked the tree all the way around the block and back into our driveway!



*In the wintertime of days
A man is nothing more
Than a tear in some old year
That was cast aside by God*

*In the wintertime of days
We are as we must be
Shadows all, on our way to fall
If not eternity*

*And if we must look for heaven
Then heaven must surely be
In arms that are warm
And smiles that fade tenderly*

*And in the wintertime of days
I'll wish nothing more for you
Than a face, and a quiet place
And love and all your dreams come true*

* * * * *

*We would like to wish you all the best
for the holidays
May you be surrounded by friends and family
and most of all love!*

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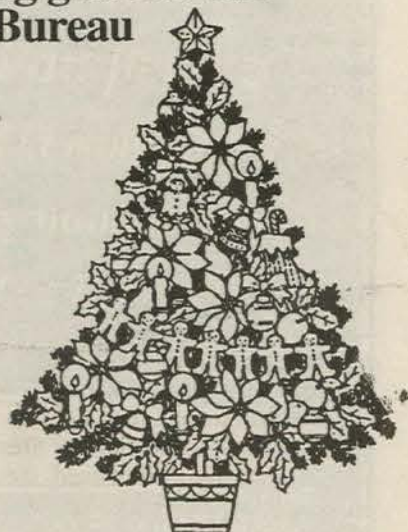
The Waterfront Theatre on Granville



Santa is collecting gifts for the Christmas Bureau

Kids Market and the **Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau** are helping less fortunate children this Christmas as they do every year. Drop into Kids Market and pick a star from the Wishing Tree. On each star is the name, age and sex of a child. Purchase a gift and return it unwrapped to the Wishing Tree or, when you visit Santa at Kids Market, you can drop it off to him before, December 20.

You can also help the Christmas Bureau by donating a minimum of \$1 per gift when you have your gifts wrapped at Kids Market.



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Sat. Dec. 9 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sun. Dec. 10 Noon - 5:00 p.m.

TRAVEL NOTES

The consequences of late airport check-in

Excuse or not, arriving late for a flight could have consequences. Whether you've misread your departure time, are hopelessly tardy, or just like to push the envelope, one day you might find yourself standing behind the departure gate as your plane takes off.

Although many airlines will do their best to accommodate you, if they are not informed about your lateness, or if they are overbooked and close to take-off time, your seat may be given to another paying passenger. Most flights are overbooked. To make matters worse, if the first leg of your reservation is cancelled, the airline might cancel the next leg or even your return trip.

Ask about check-in times

Review the airline's check-in policy, usually on the itinerary that your travel agency provides. Always allow yourself plenty of time to pre-board, especially in unusual circumstances such as a strike. If you are picking up e-tickets at the airport, assume there will be a line-

up, since this is an increasingly popular option for air travel. The cut-off time will vary from carrier to carrier, but the general rule is if you haven't checked in within 20 to 60 minutes before departure, airlines can reassign your seat.

You're late, but you've "checked-in" your luggage. Are you safe? Not necessarily. Having your bags checked in does not automatically imply that you are checked in for the flight. Make sure you ask what the rules, preferably ahead of time. Some air carriers require passengers to check in at the front desk, while others let you check in at the gate.

What should I do if I'm late?

If you have time, in your rush to get to the airport, call ahead and advise the airline you are late and confirm your booking (or have someone do it for you). This creates a computer record that you intend to board that flight, reducing, but not eliminating the chance that you will be bumped. If your lateness violates the airline's check-in policy they might give your

seat to another passenger. If you are denied boarding, don't take it out on the counter staff. And don't panic just yet. You might still be able to get a seat on the next available flight, although you might have to pay a premium for this. Check with the airline or contact your travel agent or its after-hours call centre to try to make alternate flight arrangements.

What about my refund?

If you've shown up late for a flight and well past the cut-off point for that airline, you may not get your money back. If your reservation is cancelled and you have a refundable ticket, you will be compensated, but the airline can add a cancellation fee. Most tickets are now re-useable with a change penalty and can be used within one year for future travel. If your ticket is non-refundable, you've paid a high price for your error.

Erin Mussallem and Cheryl Gray of UNIGLOBE Navigators Travel (736-8079) help travellers from Vancouver smooth any bumps encountered when on the road.

Safety on the high seas

If you haven't yet been on a cruise, you're missing out on great value and a very safe way to travel. Over the last decade cruises have grown to be one of the most popular forms of travel. The cruise industry offers a fascinating array of onboard programs and ports of calls but also has an excellent health and safety record that surpasses that of other travel sectors.

All cruise ships must comply with the laws of the ports they sail to and from and undergo routine inspections when calling into US ports. Crews are trained to deal with emergencies should they arise, and most ships regularly carry out their own fire and abandon-ship drills.

Cruise lines view their guests' health as critical to an enjoyable trip. There

is a ship's doctor aboard and often a modest pharmacy to deal with minor health issues. Although serious illness is rare, ships can always safely evacuate passengers who need hospital care. Medical facilities vary from ship to ship. In a 1994 study of 123 major cruise ship medical facilities, Conde Nast Traveler magazine found that the level and type of care on board largely depended on both the ship's itinerary and the average age of guests. If you have questions about the level of care provided on your cruise, consult your local travel agent.

Seasickness is rare on large modern cruise ships. Most have stabilizers that decrease the see-sawing motion of the sea (from port to starboard) and make sailing a pleasant experience.

In case of inclement weather, ships often sail into an alternate port of call to assure passenger comfort.

Cruise passengers can be confident that ships operate at optimum condition and, should an equipment problem arise at sea, there are the people and tools needed to address it. Many technical systems on today's cruise ships have duplicate systems or backups so that the ship can continue to operate in case of any system failure. Although fire aboard a cruise ship is unlikely, should it happen, staff are trained in fire safety procedures.

Cruise lines are in the hospitality business. They want to assure that you have a fun-filled holiday and they pay great attention to the care and safety of everyone aboard.

Sheila Fowler died on November 27, well into her 80's.

She came from Montreal, in 1982, to give False Creek a 'try-out'. From the balcony of her rented apartment in Alder Bay Place she fell in love with the place and we met over the phone when she sent a poem to *The Creek*.

I told her one the joys of False Creek living was to take my mug of tea out to the seawall on sunny mornings, still in nightie and housecoat, to revel in the passing parade and talk to passing acquaintances and strangers alike, often 'til noon.

Enchanted by the idea one could do that, in the middle of the city, she resolved to join me, in nightie and housecoat. Although she did buy the townhouse next to mine we never did have tea on the seawall together.

To her chagrin, what she hoped would be only a short trip back to Montreal, to tidy up her eastern affairs, turned into a five year absence from her adopted home.

She was so happy to be able to return to the Creek and then moved to Leg-in-Boot Square. She said her family complained the absorbing activity and spectacular view she enjoyed from her window made a recluse of her.

In Memoriam - Sheila Fowler

Sheila didn't telephone; she wrote letters; beautifully written letters - by hand. Even when she lived next door she wrote letters to me!

Over the years she contributed five poems to *The Creek's* pages and, once, a delicious tongue-in-

considering becoming *The Creek's* book reviewer the family prevailed on her to write a family biography which was to be titled *Mainly Sunny with Cloudy Periods: A century of family weather*. Despite the wealth of material available she was such a perfectionist she barely got past the beginning. It is the family's loss, for it would have been a document to be treasured.

Sheila never quite recovered from the death, in 1995, of Mary MacIntosh who had been an integral part of her life for 55 years. Mary joined Sheila's family in 1940, to rear her younger siblings; stayed to rear Sheila's own brood, and when they had all flown the coop, stayed to look after Sheila - through widowhood and cross-continental moves. Mary was clearly much more to the Fowler family than 'an old family retainer'. In Sheila's words she was the C.E.O. and "the hearth round which our joie de vivre revolved."

Their ashes were scattered in the same place; I like to think this means they'll meet up again and continue their Indian summer together.

Sheila and I spoke and met quite rarely. And yet we were friends, in an odd way. She was a remarkable lady; elegant, almost aristocratic, with a mischievous sense of humour. I'm glad I knew her.

Beryl Wilson

Balcony on Alder Bay

*Under the Granville Bridge they glide
Silent, stately, sleek, serene,
Slipping smoothly side by side
into False Creek's glassy gleam*

*Haughty ladies svelte and chic
From mizzen-top to burnished brass,
Furled sails of silk o'er her decks of teak
What modern Helen could surpass
in elegance their bowsprits' thrust
Flanks dipping to the sea's embrace,
White feline flanks that lean with lust
When sheets are taught the wind to face*

*Arrogant in action they,
like greyhounds cross vast English Bay
But twilight brings them home to me
A gentian violent symphony
of rigging, masts and sun's last ray
At evensong on Alder Bay*

check "review" of [as she put] *three-tomes to be found on the shelves of every literate household*: the Oxford English Dictionary, the Bible and the Telephone Directory.

Around 1997, just when she was

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We're happy to be back

All the staff at False Creek Community Centre welcome you back and thank you for your patience during our closure. We are very happy to be back and look forward to providing you with great leisure time fun.

All the fall programs that started in September were RESTARTED on November 20. For all of you who

began a program in September those earlier classes are considered **ab.onus** for you

Registration is ongoing through theseason. **Please drop in to the Centre to sign up for classes that are starting now.**

Many of our events scheduled for October and November had to be cancelled, but December events -

such as **Breakfast with Santa, Seniors' Christmas Lunch** and the **Winter Solstice Lantern Procession** will go on as usual.

As for brochures and seasons, we plan to have a new brochure out in the latter half of February covering the season from late March to the end of June.



Lantern Workshops

Pre-registration required.
Children must have an adult helper.



5800.302	OPEN	Sundays	December 10, 17	drop-in 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
5800.303	GLOBE	2 Wednesdays	December 6 & 13	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
5800.304	SUN	2 Thursdays	December 7 & 14	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
5800.305	GLOBE	2 Fridays	December 8 & 15	5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
5800.306	STAR	2 Saturdays	December 9 & 16	12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
5800.307	STAR	2 Mondays	December 11 & 18	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
5800.308	MOON	2 Tuesdays	December 12 & 19	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
5800.309	PAPER	Saturday	December 16	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
5800.310	SHINY	Sunday	December 17	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
5800.311	SHINY	Wednesday	December 20	drop in 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Open = Create your own design on a drop-in basis. Limited instruction. Fee per lantern: \$25
 Star, Sun and Moon take 2 sessions to complete: Total cost: \$25
 Globe takes 2 sessions to complete: Total cost: \$15
 Shine & Paper take 1 session to complete. Total cost: \$10

Singing Workshops

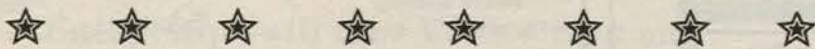
5801.301 Tuesdays 7:00- 9:00p.m.
 December 12, 19 \$15 / session

Learn an exciting variety of multi-cultural songs of the season to prepare for the night of the Winter Solstice on Dec. 21. The Lantern Procession will begin with a participatory Singing Circle. When we reach the Community Centre Ukrainian singing quartet Zeellia will perform in Tye Hall, inviting the audience to sing with them. Instructor Beverly Dobrinsky is the musical director of Zeellia.

Drumming Workshops

5802.301 Mondays 7:00 - 9:00p.m.
 December 11 & 18 \$10 / session

Rhythm is one of the most universal ways to communicate, transcending differences of culture, race, age and gender. The first hour of each workshop will be devoted to teaching simple rhythms for beginner and intermediate levels, and the second hour will be an open drumming circle for all levels. Participants will be encouraged to help lead the Lantern Procession along the seawall on the night of the solstice. Instructor Ron Stelling loves to drum and teach.



Local stories featured in Portrait V2K Book

If you read the paper from back to front, when you flip to p.5 you'll find out what the Portrait V2K book is.

False Creek Community Kudos

by Bill Taylor

A community centre is the best place to become involved local events. I saw a flyer inviting people to help clean up False Creek for a couple of hours on a Sunday morning. This led to Sunday drop-in dances, my participation in dragon boats, and also kayaking classes. From the day I walked in to say "I would like to

help" False Creek Community Centre has allowed me to contribute to my community, develop friendships and have a sense of belonging.

Hoop School

by Dean Olson

I like playing basketball at the courts just in behind the False Creek Community Centre. They are pretty good. In the summer the big guys from Kits Beach come to play. They try to push us off the courts, but we fight back. We play for them instead. Maybe we play three on three and the team who gets the most

baskets gets to play the next set. The losers sit the next one out and can try again after the game. They will challenge the winners. If you're good, you can play all day.

Naomi Singer has two stories in the book. One about being on the last volunteer bartending shift at the last dance at the Commodore before its temporary closure in 1996.

The other is about Irene Marcoux and her mother Lea Brunelle who lived at 2321 Heather St. for over 50 years in what many of us referred to as 'the religious house.'

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we'd noticed in the *Vancouver
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very model they coveted the most -
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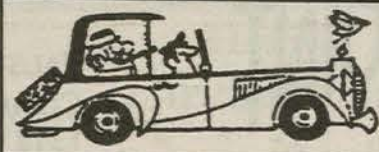


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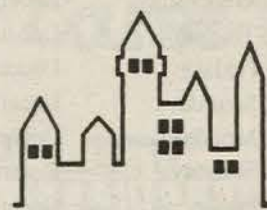
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