

Between The Bridges

Special COVID-19 Bulletin #9 | May 22, 2020

A publication of the False Creek South Neighbourhood Association

As a community response to the COVID-19 emergency, **Between The Bridges** is publishing a series of bulletins providing information of local interest within the False Creek South neighbourhood. You can also find resources and supports at falsecreeksouth.org/special-covid-19-bulletins.

THEY'RE BACK!: FALSE CREEK FERRIES AND AQUABUS

False Creek hasn't looked the same since the False Creek Ferries and Aquabus shut down due to COVID-19. But as of today, there is some good news! Both companies are back in operation, with some new rules and reduced schedules.

All passengers are requested to wear face masks and pay by tap, if possible. Physical distancing markers have been put on the docks, and passengers will be spaced out on board as well. The Aquabus will have hand sanitizing stations available at docks and on board. You can find all of the information at [False Creek Ferries' Instagram](#) and [Aquabus' Facebook](#) page.

See you on the water!

COMING (BACK) SOON: VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Self-defined bookworms anxiously await the promised re-opening of the Vancouver Public Library (VPL) in line with Phase 2 of BC's Restart Plan - but it will be a little while yet. The VPL is presently conducting a survey to determine what services people want and their comfort zone in physically accessing the buildings. Depending on where you live in False Creek South, the closest branch is either the Firehall at West 10th near Granville, or the Central library downtown at 350 W. Georgia. You can find the survey, which ends May 27, at <https://www.vpl.ca/survey/index.php/671145?id=web>.

And while you're at the website, check out the new-to-VPL streaming service, Kanopy, that offers anyone with a library card "over 20,000 documentaries, classic, independent and international films, including selections from the Criterion Collection and PBS." <http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/kanopy>.

NOTE TO DOGS: BEWARE OF THE HUMANS

Organic waste - or dog harming?

Small bags of food potentially dangerous to dogs are being left around Charleson Park between sunset and sunrise. In the past few months a group of dog walkers has found them on the off-leash grass area near the sidewalk just west of the waterfall, near the fence along the soccer field, and a few times right down in the grass bowl off-leash area of the park. These include items that can be toxic to dogs: whole garlic cloves, avocado pits, shells, tomatoes and other roots. If you find anything similar or have other concerns, contact the Park Board: <https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/vanconnect-park-issues.aspx>

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LAST CHANCE FOR A FREE RIDE

The #50 bus serving False Creek South has been reinstated and the free fares continue – at least until June 1st. New protocols regarding entry, fares, masks, distancing – the whole nine yards – will be announced soon. Look for an update in the next Bulletin and meanwhile – enjoy the ride!

MUSIC MATTERS. SO DOES FOOD

Newport Quay resident Maggie McKee and fellow band members from Counting Chickens will offer a benefit concert on Tuesday afternoon, May 26, from 2 to 4 pm in front of the Convivial Café in Leg-In-Boot Square. The free event is a fundraiser for The Greater Vancouver Food Bank.

Visitors to the Square can expect lively renditions of familiar tunes. The full name of the band is Counting Chickens: a Poultry Crüe, and their motto: “Any damn fool can play with accuracy; we play with style”. Not all band members are able to come out of isolation yet, but those who can are eager to get playing again. For Maggie, along with regular Gary Ingersoll and Elaine Hanson, this is a chance to invite locals to celebrate, just a little, the waning of some bad times, and to help others who are still in need. And of course, treats from Convivial will be available too. See you (at the proper distance) in the Square!

GRANVILLE ISLAND FACING RENT CRISIS

That COVID-19 reduced business on Granville Island by over 80% to date should surprise no-one. The huge decline in revenue is, however, only part of a one-two blow. Compounding it is the decision of the federal government - Granville Island’s landlord – to offer no rent relief to its commercial tenants.

“That’s a real problem”, says Tim Willcocks, manager of the **Granville Island Pet Treatory** – aka **The Red Caboose**. Next to the Kids Only Market, the Caboose has stayed open throughout. But even as many other shops are now re-opening, with staff donning masks as part of a strict commitment to make shopping safe, Tim fears that mounting rent debt will take its toll.

Creekhouse property manager David McCann, didn’t mince words.

“Despite all of our efforts and entreaties”, he wrote in a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau, “our own landlord - the Government of Canada - has excluded us from their commercial rent relief program.

"If the decision is not reversed”, he added, “it is my firm belief that many, if not the majority, of the small businesses on Granville Island will not survive.”