

# Between The Bridges

*Special COVID-19 Bulletin #10 | May 29, 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](https://www.falsecreeksouth.org/special-covid-19-bulletins).

## **SPOT PRAWNS: BETTER LATE THAN NEVER**

One of the pleasures of living in False Creek South is the bounty available for sale at **False Creek Fisherman's Wharf**.

Spot Prawn season is getting a late start this year, with the fishermen dropping their traps on June 4th instead of early May. Prawns will be available for sale to the public as always on the Fish Sales Float, though this year will be a little different with social distancing measures in place. Sales will start on June 5th from 1pm when the boats return from their fishing grounds. Signage and staff will direct you through the appropriate measures to access this local delicacy alive and kicking, straight from the boats that catch them!  
<https://www.falsecreek.com/fish-for-sale/>

## **FOOD AND MUSIC TOO! WHAT'S NEXT?**

As promised, Leg-In-Boot Square was a lively place on Tuesday afternoon, as members of the Counting Chickens band played and sang familiar hits. Chatting in small groups, locals and passers-by enjoyed treats provided by the **Convivial Café**. The musicians enjoyed it too; as one remarked, "It was happy, like playing at a picnic happy!" All in a good cause, donations to the Food Bank came in just shy of \$400.

Cookies, scones, coffee and tea came courtesy of what Convivial owner Beth Dempster calls the "Convivial Community Fund," an informal reserve of donations to the "pay it forward" board and from others made in general support for Beth's remarkable community-building commitments.

Beth thinks a lot about how to help Leg-In-Boot become the warm and welcoming place it was initially intended to be, an interest shared by many. She keeps an email list of those who come to her with ideas for livening up the Square. Please send further thoughts to Between The Bridges or to Beth directly. A brainstorming session may come along soon.

## **MUSIC BEFORE CHEERING**

While False Creek South joins the rest of the world with the daily 7 pm cheer for essential workers, Spruce Village residents get an early start.

Each evening at 6:45, they gather in the courtyard for a musical prelude in the form of a group sing of whatever songs contain words most people might reasonably know. And, we're told, you don't have to reside in Spruce Village to join in with the other singers and accompanying musicians. A 15 minute collective sing-along is a great antidote to self-isolation – especially one that ends with universal pot-banging.

### **COMING (BACK) SOON: PLAYGROUNDS, BASKETBALL COURTS AND MORE**

With Phase 2 of reopening underway, next to open are schools and playgrounds. Parents looking for more ways to entertain their kids can expect playgrounds across the city to open on Sunday, June 1. Physical distancing recommendations are still in place, and parents should wash their kids' hands before and after playing on any playground equipment. The City of Vancouver will also be reopening synthetic sports fields, basketball and volleyball courts, roller hockey rinks, and more, just in time for summer!

### **THIRD PLACE A WIN FOR FALSE CREEK SOUTH**

Last week Sean Conway, outgoing president of the **Charleston Community Garden**, reminded gardeners of the importance of the Third Place they occupy.

Unlike “first place” (the private space of home) or “second place” (school, worksite), Third Place is, above all, a public space: community garden, library, dog park, farmers’ market. Citing sociologist Ray Oldenburg, Sean emphasized that “Third Places create a village-like feeling” that can reduce people’s anxieties and help counteract loneliness by creating or enhancing a sense of community on a smaller, more human scale – “a relief from the overwhelming sensory experience of a large city”.

The “must haves” checklist includes: walkability, where people can connect and visit without needing a car; parkland space that encourages interaction and, above all, “the most important thing: the valuable social capital that successful Third Places offer”.

If all that sounds familiar, it should. Purposely designed to break down barriers of age, income and social isolation, False Creek South is, as was intended, a significant Third Place in and of itself. As well, it contains many smaller Third Places within its courtyards and walkways and, of course, its extensive public space. Brought into being more than 40 years ago as a living expression of community resilience, our Third Place can and should be a model for neighbourhoods throughout the city.

### **GRANVILLE ISLAND RELIEVED ABOUT RENT**

An item in last week’s **Between The Bridges** reported a “rent crisis” among Granville Island merchants since its landlord – the federal government – excluded them from the federal Rent Relief program. A few days later GI representative and former FCSNA treasurer David McCann, expressed his own relief upon learning that the Feds have now reversed their position.

Thanking everyone who had lobbied the government, David wrote, “I really don’t have the words to express how I feel”, something he described as “a very rare occurrence for me.”