

Between The Bridges

Special COVID-19 Bulletin #11 | June 5, 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.

REPLAN TO MEET WITH CITY COUNCILLORS

Originally set months ago but postponed when Covid-19 hit, July 6 is now the date for a meeting between RePlan and Vancouver City councillors. In RePlan's understanding, the meeting was requested by councillors who may be in receipt of mixed messages about False Creek South, including the increasingly critical issue of lease renewal for the co-ops, stratas and non-profit housing situated on the 80% of neighbourhood land that is City-owned.

For several years, RePlan – the Neighbourhood Association's planning committee - has expressed the community's mounting concern over the City's apparent inability to implement policies affecting False Creek South – including those unanimously passed by City Council.

Of necessity, the 1½ hour meeting will take place online with the City councillors working from home. City staff will attend virtually but will not speak at the meeting. Representing False Creek South will be the chair of RePlan, the FCSNA liaison, chairs of RePlan's co-op, strata, non-profit and community planning groups, and one of RePlan's three consultants.

COMING (BACK) SOON

For seawall walkers, a great destination just east of False Creek South is the **Sole Foods Market**, re-opening this week at West 1st and Crowe. Market days are Thursdays, 4 pm to 7 pm.

Calling itself North America's largest urban farm project, Sole Foods has transformed acres of vacant and contaminated urban land into street farms. By providing jobs, agricultural training and community inclusion, the project empowers individuals with limited resources who are managing addictions and chronic mental health problems.

Also coming soon: a major site update. Sole Foods is consolidating all its operations from other locales in Vancouver onto its new farm, to be developed right up against the east side of the Cambie Bridge.

The **Museum of Vancouver** will officially reopen its doors on Thursday June 11, 2020! MOV has implemented a series of new health and safety procedures to provide a safe experience for both visitors and staff. New hours of operation are Thursday to Sunday from 10am to 4pm. All ticketing will be done online, and visitors will select a specific entrance time. Two current exhibits, *Acts of Resistance* and *Haida Now*, explore Indigenous culture and heritage. We look forward to an upcoming exhibit opening this summer called *A Seat at the Table: Chinese Immigration and B.C.*

CHILL BUT NO GRILL

Despite a lot of brainstorming about how to hold our annual barbecue, Grill ‘n’ Chill, in the midst of a pandemic, delegates to the last Neighbourhood Association meeting concluded that it may not be in the cards for this year – at least, not by August. The major obstacle: restrictions on gatherings of more than 50 people. Last year the barbecue attracted more than 200, and though it may be possible to restrict numbers to the event, no-one wants to turn people away. After exploring a battery of good ideas, delegates decided to wait for the Phase 3 announcement – or even Phase 4. Meanwhile, funds for the event remain intact and Grill ‘n’ Chill organizer **Pascale Rosada** (Connaught Co-op) is open to any and all ideas. Send to the Bulletin @ www.falsecreeksouth.org.

BACK TO SCHOOL FOR FALSE CREEK KIDS

After two full days back at False Creek Elementary, Grade 4 student Ben Golen is pretty happy with the new Covid-19 school rules. In fact, according to his mom, Yael Stav, he likes having only 7 in his classroom.

Ben has joined other K-5 kids back in class as BC’s Phase 2 Re-Start process began. His big brother Tom joined other Grade 6-ers for their one-day-per-week return to school, while children of essential service workers attend 5 days. All participation is voluntary at this point.

As the liaison between the FCSNA and the school, Yael reports that teachers are increasing outdoor activities with “lots of physical activity in the field, yoga classes on the lawn, walks in the forest and the park.

“We’re fortunate to have so many school entrances”, said Yael, because for pickup and drop off each class must use the entrance closest to their classroom.

“The kids line up in pre-marked spots at the right physical distance, and then at 9:00 the teacher opens the door and the kids walk directly to their classrooms where they will wash their hands and place their belongings under their desk (no cubbies or hooks are used now). Needless to say, parents are not allowed in the school any time.”

Kids bring their own supplies from home, including pre-filled water bottles (water fountains cannot be used), eat their snack and lunch in the classroom and take home their garbage. Yael, who is also the Association’s chair of its Resilience and Sustainability Committee, added with a smile, “This is one way to go zero waste.”

COULD A POOP ZAMBONI SOLVE THE GEESE PROBLEM?

That was a question put to FCSNA delegates at its June meeting. President Wendy Herdin relayed concerns from residents in two strata enclaves, Harbour Terrace and Fountain Terrace, where the presence of geese is making their outdoor spaces almost unlivable.

As park and seawall users in False Creek South well know, avoiding stepping or sitting on goose droppings is a more or less constant struggle. But, as delegates were told, a Poop Zamboni – a kind of super duper pooper scooper – has been used on soccer fields and, as reported to the CBC, with great success.

Other ideas percolating at the meeting included certain food that is attractive enough to geese that they eat it – but then find it repellent; a sort of avian aversion therapy. One delegate reported the existence of a pelleted substance in food that is actually a form of birth control – which led to more questions: Are the geese a protected species? Are humans protected from protected species? In the result, Wendy agreed to write to the Park Board and see what more experienced minds are thinking.

For the CBC story, go to <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/asithappens/as-it-happens-monday-edition-1.5491009/b-c-official-uses-poop-zamboni-to-clear-goose-droppings-from-soccer-fields-1.5491516>