

Between The Bridges

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A publication of the False Creek South Neighbourhood Association

The Between The Bridges editorial team is looking for more volunteers! If you are interested in helping put together the Bulletin, please email newsletter@falsecreeksouth.org.

Your story ideas and news items are always welcome at newsletter@falsecreeksouth.org. Find this issue and all previous stories at falsecreeksouth.org/betweenthebridges.

REFUGEES NO MORE: AN UPDATE

In 2016 and 2017, the FCSNA's Refugee Sponsorship Committee helped settle two Syrian families into our community, welcomed by Twin Rainbows Housing Co-op until they found permanent housing. The first family, Rami, Sedar and Lilyan (and subsequently Rosel, born here in November 2016) now lives close to Jericho Beach but retains links to the Creek through work and friendship.

Last week Kathleen MacKinnon (Regatta) met with Rami and asked a few questions about his work experience since he arrived.

Q. Tell me about your work experience in Canada.

A. I first came to Canada four and a half years ago. I got a job at Spruce Harbour Marina. Mostly I fix things around the marina and clean up or repair docks. Sometimes people ask me to fix something on their boat or their dock.

I got a full-time job on Granville Island in The Creekhouse - and then I had two jobs! I got laid off first on Granville Island and then at the marina because of COVID-19. Now I work for different people in the neighbourhood. I clean decks and fix some plumbing or electrical problems. Sometimes I just help reorganize furniture.

Q. What differences have you found in your work in Canada?

A. For plumbing, I never used copper before. Syria is all plastic piping. And the buildings: in Syria everything is concrete. Also the names of the parts. I had to use Google Translate to figure out the name of the part I needed.

Q. What work has been the most rewarding?

A. I can figure things out. For example I built four platforms for people at the marina. They liked them. In Canada, nobody gives me less (pay); they always give me more.

Q. Tell me about how you've settled into life in Canada

A. I miss my family in Syria. I haven't seen them for 6 1/2 years. But I am happy here, especially for my kids: a good future for them and safe; not war like in Syria. I'm lucky to have some good friends. I appreciate that.

ED Note: For now Rami is available to do odd jobs for you around your home. He can be reached by e-mail at ramibarkoo@gmail.com or by phone at 604-442-2045.

CHARLESON PARK PLAYGROUND COMPLETION SOON - HONEST!

The new and, no doubt, improved playground just north of the school in Charleson Park, originally slated for completion at the end of August, is still a construction site.

It seems that A Series Of Unfortunate Events slowed the work over the summer, and while the reasons for the delays have not been disclosed, it's a safe bet that whatever they were begins with the word, "Covid".

Park Board landscape architect Jason McMillen, replying to an email inquiry, said that as of September 24 "we are realistically targeting a completion date around mid-late November". While there are no plans for a formal opening event, he continued, the option to do so "can be explored if there is a strong desire from the community".

So - over to you, community.

REPLAN UPDATE: A BIG DAY FOR FALSE CREEK SOUTH CO-OPS ON NOVEMBER 25

We learned this week that the City of Vancouver has tentatively identified November 24 or 25 to present the proposed Co-op Housing Lease Discussion Paper to Council in a public meeting. Later this month, the City plans to release a new public summary of the Paper. This will give communities approximately one month to familiarize themselves with how the lease renewal options may have changed as a result of information and insight gathered through meetings between city staff and residents at co-ops on leased city land.

For more information, contact RePlan@FalseCreekSouth.org.

False Creek South: The Solution, Not The Problem

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY AN AFFORDABLE MIXED INCOME COMMUNITY?

False Creek South was the first Vancouver neighbourhood planned specifically for mixed incomes and mixed housing tenures. What did that mean for the neighbourhood? And has the model been successful? This is the second in the series, The Solution, Not The Problem, from the False Creek South Neighbourhood Association.

Read more at <http://www.falsecreeksouth.org/2020/10/what-do-we-mean-by-affordable-mixed-income-community/>

TALKING ABOUT SEA LEVEL RISE

The return of the rainy season and imminent winter weather are bringing to mind the king tides and flooding that happened on the sea wall earlier this year. As global temperatures continue to rise, we will see more and more frequent occurrences of flooding along False Creek. Faced with 50cm of sea level rise in the next 30 years, and 100cm in the next 100 years, sea level rise poses a threat to the homes, business, and infrastructure in False Creek South.

As part of its preparation for sea level rise, the City of Vancouver hosted three Community Conversations for False Creek South residents. The Community Conversations provided an overview of the impact of sea level rise in False Creek, and asked participants to identify the things they value most about their community that they would want to see protected from future flooding. Responses included the close-knit community, local businesses, and access to nature. Next steps from the City are to reconvene residents in November to discuss design principles and adaptation approaches.

For more information on sea level rise in False Creek, check out: <https://shapeyourcity.ca/sea2city>. Additional resources, including a [kids' activity kit](#) and [Conversations in Canoes](#) videos are also available.

A SEAL (OR SEA LION) MAKES ITSELF HEARD

As president of the False Creek South Neighbourhood Association, Wendy Herdin has heard the odd complaint from a resident. But not until last Sunday was she ever growled at, let alone by a seal. Or maybe it was a sea lion; distinguishing between the two is beyond her pay grade.

She was near the Granville Island Hotel at an area known locally as The Green Hill which, Wendy says, is not a real hill as nature intended. Years ago she had watched its construction from nothing. It's actually "man made" - an archaic term once used before women were discovered. But we digress.

The growling seal, or sea lion, had left the watery world and was basking on the dock in the sunshine, much to the pleasure of passers-by. One of them was Wendy with her dog, Moxy, who was unfairly and wrongfully accused of growling which she (the dog) would never do and neither would Wendy for that matter, at least not often or in front of witnesses.

Readers who look at this photo and know the difference between a seal and a sea lion and whether its growling is A Thing and why it would growl at the innocent are invited to share their knowledge: newsletter@falsecreeksouth.ca.

PUBLIC ART IN FALSE CREEK SOUTH

There are some intriguing pieces of art in and around our neighbourhood, all deserving of attention. In an earlier issue, we featured the neon art sign -- Should I Be Worried? —sitting atop a rickety structure next to the Cambie Street Bridge. The City commissioned it to spark interest in big issues facing us, such as rising water levels in the Creek.

Another curious art piece is the concrete 100 located in the Granville Loop park next to the south end of the Granville Bridge.

Guess what it signifies?

- A. A designated space for centenarians and anyone celebrating their 100th birthday.
- B. A wayward road sign awaiting delivery to 100-Mile House in South Cariboo.
- C A gift to the City of Vancouver in 1986 to mark its 100th birthday since incorporation.
- D. The switch from the imperial to the metric system of measurement.

You'd be correct if you guessed "C".

When Vancouver City Council received the gift, then-councillor Marguerite Ford astutely suggested that it be altered every year to reflect the passage of time since Incorporation. Today it would read 134. Not nearly as catchy as 100, but accurate.

Next up - "Centennial Rocket".

- *Wes Knapp (Regatta)*