



FALSE CREEK TIDINGS

The FCHA Board of Directors 2009

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Director – Jon Hunter - Prospector

Director – Gray McPhedran – Thetis Queen

Director – Steve Johansen – Blackheart

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President’s Message

Welcome back for another wonderful season at the False Creek Harbour Authority – Fishermen’s Wharf. Hopefully, this year will be a great success for all Harbour Members and Harbour Users. The Board of Directors is very excited about the improvements and changes happening at the Fishermen’s Wharf, and is looking forward to another great year filled with upgrades & projects to benefit all of the Harbour Members and its Users. The Harbour is looking forward to the new ideas being brought forth by the new Board of Directors and hope that the Fishermen’s Wharf can improve on every aspect of being known as the Best Harbour along the British Columbia Coast. Finally we remain “Committed to providing safe, affordable moorage for Commercial Fishers and the preservation of the Commercial Fishing Harbour as a valuable asset for the citizens of Vancouver” That is our mandate.

Barry Curic CFV Western Warrior

Berthage Agreements and Vessel Insurance

As a reminder to ALL Vessel Owners, a Current Berthage Agreement must be filled out for each year. Also for ALL Pleasure Craft Vessels, as a condition of moorage at FCHA you must provide the Harbour office with a current copy of your vessel insurance. As well, we ask that when your vessel insurance expires if you could have your insurance provider fax us an up to date copy to ensure your continued moorage with FCHA. The new 2009 annual parking passes are available at the Harbour office. If you have not yet obtained your 2009 parking pass we will not issue any temporary parking passes to vessel owners without current updated information, and will be leaving reminder notes on your vehicle.

Annual General Meeting 2009

This year’s Annual General Meeting was held on Monday February 16, 2009 at the Granville Island Hotel. We had a great turn out of people supporting the Harbour by sharing their input and ideas. Here is a brief overview of some of the topics that were discussed: the False Creek Harbour Authority is respected locally and nationally, as we are viewed as one of the model Harbour Authorities in Canada. The new Board of Directors and Harbour Management will be working on a “5 Year Plan”; Harbour Members and Users will have input into the vision of a “Community Harbour” – one which preserves the CFV presence in the harbour for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. FCHA recognized Karyn McQueen for her hard work and dedication in helping beautify the Harbour in the garden area, and gave her an award of appreciation. It is people like Karyn that continue to help our Harbour be known as the Best Harbour along the British Columbia Coast.

Payments and Charges

This is a reminder to all vessel owners that if your account is in Arrears when monthly charges are processed, the Daily Rate will apply. We will also do our best to remind and give advance notice to all Harbour users when their moorage is due, however it is ultimately up to the vessel owners to be responsible for their own accounts. The harbour is also set up to receive payments over the phone to help simplify the payment process as we understand that some Harbour users live out of town or work during regular business hours. For any account inquiries please contact Alison at the Harbour office.

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Manager's Corner

The past year has been an exciting and eventful time for FCHA, with numerous improvements to our facility being undertaken. The staff and I are happy to have been able to be a part of these changes and look forward to continuing the work.

Clearly, the most visible and notable change was the total renovation of our washroom facilities. This long-overdue upgrade impacted all of our Harbour Users and was met with overwhelming approval. Clean, secure and incorporating many 'green' initiatives, our facilities are the envy of many HA's on our coast. Additionally, this improvement has made our facility even more attractive to the many Transient boaters who visit us.

Less visible, but equally important, have been some of the Environmental Management Practices implemented in our Harbour. As the first HA in the country to adopt an Environmental Management Plan, we have taken our program to a higher level by instituting recycling programs for electronics, fluorescent bulbs, dry-cell batteries and out-of-date propane tanks. In conjunction with the existing waste metal, cardboard, paper and plastic recycling programs, we are happy to be a leader in 'green' policy, not just in the Small Craft Harbour program, but as a member of the entire marine community. Currently, FCHA in partnership with SCH, is nearing completion of Phase 1 of a new Stormwater and Runoff water Management project that will see FCHA become the first 'zero-emitter' in the Harbour Authority program. With regulations aimed at reducing runoff water pollution from boatyard and marina operations getting tighter and tighter, we are taking a proactive approach by our participation now. Recognition of our policies has come in many ways. Early in 2008, DFO began an environmental audit of ALL facilities within its management scope. We were very happy to receive a highly complimentary report for our facility. As the recipient of the DFO-SCH Regional Award for Environmental Stewardship at the annual conference of the Harbour Authority Association of BC in January of 2008, we would have been embarrassed by any other result! In fact, FCHA became the standard against which other HA's were measured, a high compliment indeed. In November of 2008, we were invited to Ottawa to receive the DFO Prix d'Excellence National Award for Environmental Stewardship, further affirming the sound policies developed by FCHA's Board of Directors and Management. Recognition is important in terms of maintaining momentum for programs and for the morale of the staff and Board, but it is also a strong commendation for our Harbour users. Without the participation of our Harbour users, none of the programs in place would be successful, so on behalf of the staff and Board, I would like to thank all of our Harbour users, CFV, Recreational and Transient, for helping to make FCHA a leader in the area of environmental responsibility.

Last year was notable for other reasons as well. In my role as Vice President of the HAABC and as a Director of the Pacific Coast Congress of Harbormasters and Port Managers, I have had the opportunity to meet and discuss the future of the Harbour Authority program with the decision makers who will help decide that future. Along with Liz McLeod from Comox Valley HA, I gave a presentation to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans on the importance of not only continuing to fund, but increasing the funding levels for Small Craft Harbours in the Pacific Region. Additionally, the HAABC recently signed a Contribution Agreement with SCH that will see an expanded role for the HAABC in the delivery of some services to all HA's in the Pacific Region. Some of the areas covered by the Agreement include helping smaller Harbours develop multi-year business plans, expand and improve the content and accessibility of our annual conference, update and improve the regional website for the exchange and dissemination of information, development of outreach programs for smaller Harbours to help them grow and become more self sustaining, coordination of regional HA training opportunities and an expanded role as the liaison between Pacific Region HA's and other HA and fishing Harbour organizations. Pacific Region HA's have gained a reputation for leading the way in Canada in many new initiatives. The HAABC has developed a standardized berthage agreement for use by all Harbours in Canada, partnered with the Pacific Coast Congress in the development of a training program for Harbour staff and managers and is looking at getting an affordable benefit package that would be available to all member HA's, similar to the Directors and Officer Liability Insurance program that was made available to all HA's in Canada, last year. These programs represent long term sustainability for many Harbours on our coast and we've only just begun. At this year's conference, held in January, we announced to the membership the formation of the Derelict Vessel Committee, with representatives from SCH, Transport Canada, the Receiver of Wrecks, Coast Guard, Environment Canada and the HAABC. This committee is tasked with developing a strategy to aid all HA's with the ever-increasing problem of dealing with abandoned or derelict vessels and minimizing the environmental liability resulting from sinkings or spills from such vessels. As the newly elected President of the HAABC, I look forward to continuing the work in these areas, and the development of future initiatives to further the objectives of all HA's in the Harbour Authority program.

2008 was expected to be a 'down' year in terms of transient vessel traffic, given higher than reasonable fuel prices and the downturn in the US economy. Given the dire forecast, we were pleasantly surprised to find that we experienced a relatively minor (10%) decrease in boat visits, and in fact, many vessels stayed longer, minimizing the actual financial impact. We do expect to experience further decreases in transient visits as the economic difficulties deepen, but the forecast for FCHA remains strong as we continue to improve our facility and make ourselves more attractive and accessible to the boating public. As evidenced by our auditor's report, solid business practices and strong vision from the Board and management will help sustain our viability through the current conditions and into the future.

In the coming months, the Board of Directors and management will be working on a new '5 year plan' for FCHA, establishing goals and objectives to help guide us into the next decade. There will be opportunities for input and feedback from Harbour members and Harbour users, as well as from our community neighbours and the City. We are strongly committed to preserving FCHA and the Commercial Fishing Vessel presence in Vancouver as an attraction and resource for the enjoyment of all residents and visitors to Vancouver. With the eyes of the world focused on Vancouver during the 2010 Olympic Games, we are confident FCHA will be seen as the truly unique facility it is, a true 'Community Harbour' with one of the most beautiful cities in the world as it's backdrop.

In closing, I would again like to thank and commend our staff for all of their hard work over the past year, commend the Board of Directors on their commitment to the Harbour and recognize the cooperation of our Harbour members and users in the implementation of policies and programs designed to improve the Harbour for ALL users. We have set a very high standard that has earned us the recognition and respect of all in the National Harbour Authority program, as well as in the entire marine community.

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Environmental Awareness

Over the last several years there has been a lot of discussion over waste holding tanks on vessels and more specifically, regulations governing the use of these tanks. As of September 27, 2007, the Canadian Government amended the *Canada Shipping Act* (Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and for Dangerous Chemicals) to reflect their new attitude towards disposal of waste from vessels, including but not limited to, human waste. The new regulations conform to international standards for disposal of human waste and were largely created to regulate cruise ship activity through waters along the British Columbia coastline, however they will affect every vessel on the water throughout Canada.

The current the regulations requiring all vessels to have a holding tank or marine sanitation device apply to new vessels built after May 2007, but the law only grants leniency for all other vessels until 5 years after the law has been written. This means that as of May 2012, ALL VESSELS that have a marine head will need to be fitted with a holding tank or marine sanitation device. The territorial limit for pumping sewage into open water has been set at 3 nautical miles from the closest land mass, except for areas where the distance from shore to shore is less than 6 NM AND there is no pump-out service. In that case, the discharge has to be as far from shore as possible into a current running away from shore. This amendment was put in place to allow vessels to continue using the Inside Passage and Johnston Strait without placing themselves in a position of illegal activity.

The False Creek Harbour Authority has had a policy in place for several years of not allowing vessels to pump out sewage in the harbour, but now with the revisions to the Canada Shipping Act, we will be taking a hard line approach in enforcing this regulation. This means that anyone caught depositing sewage into the waters of False Creek Fishermen's Wharf will be reported and dealt with accordingly. This will benefit not only the harbour users, but all boaters throughout False Creek.

As always, our pump-out system is available for use for anyone who wishes to continue using the holding tank aboard their vessel while in the harbour. This is a free service that is provided to harbour members. The charge for non-harbour members is \$5.00 per cycle of the pump-out, meaning \$5.00 each tank or if a tank requires multiple cycles (set at 4 minutes per cycle) then the charge applies to each cycle. The pump-out station is operated by harbour staff only and is open for use from 8:30AM until 3:30PM every day of the week. Please ask FCHA staff if you have any other questions regarding its use.

There is now 'zero tolerance' under the Canada Shipping Act for pollutants discharged into the water. The FCHA and vessel owners are required by law to report pollutant spills. As a vessel owner, YOU are responsible for any discharge into the water and the associated cleanup costs. These costs and/or fines can be substantial. Any cleanup costs incurred by the FCHA will be recovered from the party responsible for the pollution. Be informed on what is required of you; information is available at the Harbour Office.

The differences between cleaning a vessel, cleaning a car or truck, or even your house are very striking. Any cleaning done on terra firma has a distinct advantage over cleaning on water: any cleaners or chemicals you use for your car or truck will fall to the ground and be filtered by the earth (not completely) before reaching ground water sources. This is not the case on water. Everything you use to clean your vessel is deposited directly into the ocean without filtering of any sort. This can affect marine mammals, crustaceans, fish, and even sea birds. The biggest concern for this type of pollution is definitely petroleum products, but with the amount of phosphates, acids, emulsifiers and other assorted chemicals in cleaners these days, the total cumulative effect can be just as disturbing. Use a bilge sponge to keep your bilge water clean and be aware of potential spills when working on your vessel. When working with fluids, put down absorbent materials to catch any spillage. Use a tarp to catch paint scrapings while scraping your boat. These are just a few easy steps towards helping everyone enjoy our waters for years to come.

We have also been actively attempting to guide both our membership and staff in our efforts to become more environmentally friendly. The most effective tool at our disposal in these efforts is not more recycling programs or stricter regulations, but education and information. If everyone understands the importance and reasons behind environmental regulations, then we can all begin to work towards the same goal: a beautiful, CLEAN harbour.

Product Care Recyclers!

An important issue was raised at the Annual General Meeting this past February regarding recycling programs and the accessibility of convenient locations to recycle hazardous substances. This issue is one that we all at the False Creek Harbour Authority have been trying to find a solution to for over a year. The recycling of paint, anti-fouling paint, solvents and other chemicals is a problem that, until recently, had no clear cut answer. However, we have just discovered a non-profit stewardship association that is funded through the Eco-fees that companies include on the purchase price of any of their products. The service is free to use and all that you need to do is take the unwanted product to one of their recycling depots, the closest of which is at # 7 - 2286 Ontario Street (corner of East 7th Ave.) in Vancouver.

There are programs in place to recycle paint, sealers, varnishes, stains, primers, acetone, kerosene, strippers, thinners, pesticides, and even gasoline that has been contaminated with water. Specific locations will even accept Marine antifouling paints! Some depots have a reusable paint supply where you can pick through leftover cans of paint if you don't need much!

You can contact Recycling Centers of British Columbia by phoning 604-732-9253 inside Greater Vancouver or 1-800-667-4321 toll free throughout BC. They also have a website at www.productcare.org where all of the depots are listed as well as a full list of the products they accept and helpful tips to keep in mind when buying, using, or disposing of recyclable materials! Informational brochures will also be available at the Harbour office.

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FCHA Announcements

In Passing

It is with sadness and regret that we announce the passing of Bill Nguyen. Bill was a longtime Commercial Tuna Fishermen and the Skipper of the CFV Northern Princess No I. Bill had been a good friend and a part of this Harbour for a number of years. We send our condolences to his family on the passing of this kind and generous soul.



Harbour Ambiance

A Special Thanks to Karyn and Steve on the “Long Trick” for their continuing care of, and attention to the flower baskets, displays and the “GREEN” areas.

Go Fish - Seafood Restaurant



“Go-Fish” Seafood Emporium continues to draw visitors to the False Creek Fishermen’s Wharf, serving up Vancouver’s finest Fish ‘n’ Chips. They offer a wide variety of grilled Seafood and an inviting selection of homemade soups. “Go-Fish” has partnered with the local Fishermen to create a joint brochure to promote and inform people of our spectacular facility, and what we have to offer the community. These brochures are located at Go-Fish and the Harbour office. In a rush? No need to stand in line, phone in your order @ 604-730-5040.



3rd Annual Spot Prawn Festival at the Fishermen’s Wharf

Last year’s Spot Prawn Festival was a huge success. We are looking forward to an even bigger turnout for this year’s event with even more Chefs eager to come and cook BC’s Famous Spot Prawns down on our docks. The Spot Prawn Festival will be held on the first Saturday after the fishing season opens, and we are currently anticipating the date for the festival to be held on Saturday May 9th 2009. The Harbour staff will post notices when the date has been confirmed.

No one was more surprised by the success of the festival than the Spot Prawn Fishermen’s Association and their members, who did not believe there is a market for top quality Spot Prawns in Vancouver. With well over \$100,000.00 worth of ink in local and national publications, television and radio air time, (I can’t even guess what all the internet activity was worth). False Creek Fishermen’s Wharf and the Sales Dock were discovered by a lot of people for the first time. The False Creek Fishermen’s Wharf has expressed their gratitude for bringing life to the Sales Dock and increasing public awareness of a closer alternative for Vancouverites to buy fish rather than driving to Steveston. The support that the fishermen received from the general public, lining up for the boats to arrive rain or shine, leads us to believe that more than a few pounds of imported farmed tiger prawns were passed over for the fresh, local, Spot Prawns. Granville Island was a big supporter of the Spot Prawn initiative and their fish shops reported a tremendous increase in Spot Prawn sales and a greater public awareness of the issues surrounding farmed tiger prawns. Frozen Spot Prawns are currently available for purchase at the Fish Sales Float and when the season opens in May 2009, there will be fresh Spot Prawns daily.



Steve Johansen
CFV Organic Ocean I

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Harbour Happenings

FCHA – Parking

Just a reminder, the new annual parking passes are available at the Harbour office for all homeport vessels. We appreciate everyone's cooperation with the parking restrictions, (1 vehicle per vessel) and hope that all Harbour users understand the harbour only has 105 parking spaces with 260 Vessels, which limits the parking availability. If you wish to have a second vehicle on site please make arrangements with Harbour Management between Mon-Fri 8am-4pm.

Vessel Identification

This is a reminder to all Harbour users that **ALL** vessels must have a name to identify the vessel that is clearly visible from the dock to assist staff when doing our daily boat check. An emergency contact number posted in the cabin window is also a good idea to ensure a maximum level of security & safety for your vessel. Thank you for your support with helping the staff. All CFV's must display a CFV # and current CFV tags.

Waste Net & Rope

Our garbage compactor is unable to process any waste net & rope, therefore we have set up bins next to the compactor to hold the waste material. If you find that the bins are full please inquire at the Harbour office for assistance. These bins give others an opportunity to reuse the waste material for various projects. The Harbour will have a large bin on site sometime in April 2009 to discard any large amounts of net and rope. There will be signage posted for the dates the bin will be on site. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Mike or Chris at the Harbour office.

Weather Woes & Healthy Docks

Don't let weather make you woeful. Strong winds and heavy rain can do bad things to vessels. Ensure your vessel tie up lines are strong and secure and that your batteries are fully charged. Some Harbour users may have noticed that the mats that they have placed on the docks have been removed to their vessels. **Mats are not allowed on the docks** as they retain moisture and promote rot. If you wish to keep dirt off your boat, the best place for the mat is at the boarding point of your vessel. Furthermore, the Harbour would appreciate vessel owners keeping vessel debris to their boats, as the docks are not for storage. Please coil up lines and hoses when not in use to prevent tripping.

Storage Lockers

In good standing with our fire & safety regulations, we would like to thank all locker users for the co-operation in removing all items that were hanging off of the sprinkler lines and by keeping all of our fire lanes open, located at the end of each aisle.



Sewage Pump-Out Service

The sewage pump-out system installed by Inner Harbour Technologies has been a great addition to our facility. It's located at the end of the Fish Sales Float and is **FREE** to **ALL Annual Harbour Users**. We currently have a number of boats using the pump out on a regular basis but we would like to encourage more vessels to use this service as there will be more regulations regarding waste disposal in the years to come. The hours of operation are 7 days a week from 8:30am to 3:30pm. For use of the Pump-Out System please inquire at the Harbour office.

Garbage & Waste Recycling

We would like to remind all Harbour users that the garbage compactor is for **Harbour Waste Only**. Please do not bring any large furniture items from home as it creates a disposal problem for the staff. Anyone seen discarding any offsite garbage will be warned and possibly fined by Harbour Management.

Tidal Grid

With Environment Canada enforcing the new policies pertaining to ALL Tidal Grids on the BC Coast, we have been doing our best to comply. For anyone wishing to use the Tidal Grid please inquire at the Harbour office during regular business hours to sign a Tidal Grid Agreement form, make a payment, and receive a current copy of regulations provided by Environment Canada.

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Open Storage

The open storage area is charged at a minimum of \$20 + GST per month, per owner for combined items. Any total combination of items that is more than 14m² will be charged at \$1.50 per square meter. As a reminder, the open storage area is to be used only for gear pertaining to commercial fishing. We would like to remind everyone using the open storage area to please identify your belongings with your CFV # and vessel name. Items currently in the open storage area that are unmarked will become property of FCHA and will be disposed of at our discretion. We do encourage anyone needing assistance to retrieve any items, to please ask at the Harbour office.



Website

The Harbour Website www.falsecreek.com has been a great addition to FCHA, as we receive a large number of emails from people inquiring about our facility. The website has been renewed and updated, adding a fresh look by uploading new pictures of the Harbour and its surroundings. This past year the website had 410,643 hits and 33,126 visits and it seems to be catching on with more visits every year. If anyone has any pictures that they would like to see on our website please inquire at the Harbour Office or email them to fchaf@telus.net.

False Creek Harbour Authority
Fishermen's Wharf

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604-733-3628

E-mail
Manager@falsecreek.com

Account Inquires:
Falsecreekofc@hotmail.com

Moorage Information:
Info@falsecreek.com

Safety & Security

As many of you know we have recently upgraded the bathroom doors with a push code locking system. Between the hours of 11am-7pm the bathroom doors will be open to all of the Harbour users and to the public, for use of the facilities after hours please inquire with the harbour staff to retrieve the access code. Also as a reminder we encourage everyone to get to know your neighbors and help us in fighting against theft and other related incidents.

To report any suspicious activity, please call the Harbour cell.

24hr/7days @ 604-834-1140

Ten Steps to Vessel Security

1. Lock your Boat! (Doors, Windows, Hatches & Storage Lockers)
2. Remove items of value from sight. (GPS, Binoculars & Alcohol)
3. Mark your valuables (Use your Drivers' license number.)
4. Alarm your boat. Or leave a small Light and radio on!
5. Lock, Secure your dinghy & motor.
6. Check on your boat frequently and report any tampering to Staff.
7. Talk to your neighbors.
8. Introduce yourself to the Harbour Manager and Security Staff.
9. Inform your trade's people to check in at the Harbour office.
10. Reduce the chances of theft.



*Lock it or
Lose it*

“Go Boating”