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that the Vancouver Children's Fest is the longestrunning professional performing arts festival for young
audiences and the first of its kind in North America and
Europe? It presents the world's finest music,
theatre, dance, puppetry, acrobatics and
storytelling, as well as creative arts activities
for the entire family. Families come from near and far to
experience this extraordinary annual arts festival created
specifically for children and families.

EVENT LISTINGS

ALL SUMMER LONG



Granville Island Buskers | By Donation
Splash Park & Waterpark | Free
Granville Island Bicycle Valet | Free
Hope and Healing by Tracey-Mae in the
Children's Market Courtyard | Free
Blind Pig Music Series – Waterfront Theatre
and Performance Works | Free + Ticketed



SUMMER CLASSES: Carousel Theatre, Arts Umbrella, Ballet BC, False Creek Community Centre, Opus Arts, Beadworks, and various artisan studios.

Daily Water Tours
False Creek Ferries | Ticketed

Artist in Residence PopUps every weekend at the Circle Craft in the Net Loft | Free
Kayak, Boat, SUP | Rental

Kayak, Boat, SUP | Rental
Whale Watching | Ticketed
Public Market Tours | Ticketed

The Improv Centre, Kids Market, False Creek Community Centre, Opus Arts and more | Free + Ticketed

Public alcohol consumption permitted 11AM – 8PM daily in Public Market & Public Market Courtyard

JULY EVENTS

Jul 1	Canada Day Activities – Island Wide Free
Jul 1	2:30 PM Canada Day Ceremony & Kid's Cake Cutting,
	The Honourable Dr Hedy Fry, MP Vancouver Centre
	Public Market Courtyard Free
Jul 1, 8, 15, 22	The Late Show – The Improv Centre Ticketed
Jul 2	Tall Tales: The Quest is Up to You – The Improv Centre
	Ticketed
Jul 3 - 23	Annual International Mail-In Art Exhibition
	Federation of Canadian Artists Free
Jul 5 - 26	Improv Shows, Wednesday through Sunday – The Improv
	Centre Ticketed
Jul 6	Her Ladyship Sketch Comedy Show — The Nest Ticketed
Jul 6 - 16	Indian Summer Festival – Island Wide Free & Ticketed
Jul 9	Indian Summer Festival Sound System – Public Market
	Courtyard Free
Jul 9	Stand Up at The Improv – The Improv Centre Ticketed
Jul 13	Femme, Femme, Femme! – The Improv Centre Ticketed
Jul 14 - 15	Fools at Play Live Theatre – Picnic Pavilion Free
Jul 15	Southern Resident Killer Whale Outreach – Park Behind
	Maritime Market Free
Jul 17	All Over the Map Dance Performances – Picnic Pavilion Free
Jul 17 - Aug 13	Vancouver Mural Fest Intermittent Live Painting – Multiple
	Locations Free
Until Jul 20	Carrying Water by Bettina Matzkuhn – Craft Council of
	BC Free
Jul 20 - 23	Circle Craft Artist Pop Up: Je Burnette, Inner Sanctum
	Glassworks Free
Jul 23, 27, 30	Honda Celebration of Lights Fireworks' Cruises – False Creek
	Ferries Ticketed
Jul 24- Aug	2023 On the Edge Exhibition – Federation of Canadian
	Artists Free
Jul 27 - 30	ReimAgINe 2023: Applied Improvisation Network – Global
	Conference Ticketed
Until Jul 31	BC Craft Council - The Earring Show, 2023 Exhibition Online
	Gallery

AUGUST EVENTS

Improv Shows, Wednesday through Sunday – The Improv
Centre Ticketed
Shrek Jr. Musical Theatre Intensive, Lights Up Musical
Theatre, Waterfront Theatre Ticketed
Pride Party – Granville Island Brewing Free Entry
Canoe Cultures, Indigenous Marketplace – Ocean
Artworks Free
Dance in Transit – Tango Lessons + Public Dance Night
Picnic Pavilion Ticketed
All Over the Map Dance Performances – Picnic
Pavilion Free
Southern Resident Killer Whale Outreach
Park behind Maritime Market Free
Kids on Wheels – Granville Island Free
Ice Cream Truck Social Live Concert Series & Dance
Party Free
Circle Craft Artist Pop Up: Chi Cheng Lee, Chi's
Creations; Je Burnette, Inner Sanctum Glassworks;
Suzanne Squires, Suzu An Jewelry Free
Flamenco Rosario Pop-up Flamenco – Picnic Pavilion Free
Adults and Play Urbanarium Session – Railspur Alley
Park Free
Argentine Tango Lessons – Picnic Pavilion Free

Can't remember what events are happening while you're on Island?

Stop by the volunteer-staffed Info Desk in the Public Market to see these event listings!

RECENT & UPCOMING EVENTS

The sun is shining; the weather is warm; time to take Summer events by storm!

Festivals & Island Wide Events

Throughout May-June we celebrated the return of Cultural Partner festivals. The Vancouver International Children's Festival, producing dynamic and playful events for children and youth had another successful year on the Island at the end of May. The Vancouver International Jazz Festival increased their presence on Granville Island this year with new daily programming at the Revue Stage and the return of the Ocean Art Works and Performance Works stage at the end of June.

Between July-August, the Indian Summer Festival returns to Granville Island, offering audiences multi-arts experiences of exceptional caliber, curated through a South Asian lens and centering the exciting work of dynamic artists. This festival will showcase 10 days of programming at Performance Works, an art installation at Ocean Art Works, and a live music showcase at the Public Market Courtyard.

The Vancouver Pride Society will return to Granville Island in celebration of Vancouver Pride Month, during August 4-6 with a number of events to be announced in the coming weeks, alongside with Island-wide décor in place all summer to celebrate LGBTQIA2S+ Pride.









Monthly Free Performances

It gets even better - the Island will continue to be animated monthly with free performances & concerts throughout the summer, supported through CMHC-Granville Island. In April of this year, the Vancouver Fiddle Summit Busker take over (pictured here) kicked off the beginning of free monthly events.

The next free concerts & dance performances are as follows:

June 23 – July 2 – Vancouver International Jazz Festival
July 8 & 9 – ISF Soundsystem – presented by Indian Summer Festival
July 14 & 15 - Fools at Play – Live Theatre - Picnic Pavilion
July 17 – All Over the Map – Dance Performances - Picnic Pavilion
August 12 – Dance in Transit – Tango Lessons and Public Dance Night
August 13 - All Over the Map – Dance Performances - Picnic Pavilion
August 27 – Argentine Tango Lessons - Picnic Pavilion
August – Ice Cream Truck Live - Live Music pop-up concerts throughout
August.

Come explore our many theatre offerings or gallery exhibits! We can't wait to see you there!

Theatre Performances

Carousel Theatre recently presented the West Coast premiere of the internationally lauded solo play Alphonse May 2-7 at the Picnic Pavilion. It was a heartwarming tale of a missing child who meanders along a country road, weaving an intricate web of stories, as everyone is searching for him.

Trying to beat the heat? Head indoors and enjoy a number of events hosted by Granville Island Theatre District venues; including musical theatre to choral performances and everything in between. You can also enjoy new media presentations by Boca Del Lupo with the Live Performance 360 Series, exploring innovative new-tech theatre presentations with various showtimes throughout the spring and summer.

Million Dollar Quartet – June 22-August, presented by the Arts Club Theatre is inspired by true events, and is a 'rocking jukebox musical' detailing 'the famed jam session that brought together rock and roll legends Presley, Cash, Lewis, and Perkins.' The Improv Center will be hosting a number of weekly events featuring comedy & improv and are also welcoming the 2023 AIN World Conference to Granville Island July 27-30. This event will bring hundreds of International improv performers to Granville Island.

Stop by the Circle Craft, Craft Council BC, or Federation of Canadian Artist galleries to check out feature art exhibitions, or head over to the Kids Market or False Creek Community Centre for a number of children' friendly events hosted throughout the summer.



All summer long there are numerous events and activities to check out! Hang on to the events listing above or keep an eye on our website for more event info.

Did you know that there are approximately 800 cobblestones in one 70 ft x 4 ft area of

YOU KNOW

Granville Island?! That's right! That means across the Island, there are tens of thousands of mostly original, as well as restored cobblestones!



Arts Umbrella - Expressions Festival (May/June)

Expressions Festival, presented by RBC, is Arts Umbrella's annual celebration of learning from the School of Art & Design, the School of Dance, and the Robert M. Ledingham School of Theatre, Music & Film. Check out Arts Umbrella's social media changels if you missed the incredible array of events but want a flavour of the highlights and behind-the-scenes content.

Kicking off the Festival was the annual culmination of work by Arts Umbrella's Pre-Professional and Intensive level students in the Robert M. Ledingham School of Theatre, Music & Film. This year's Mainstage productions included two musicals and two plays, running May 12-June 11 at the Jack and Darlene Poole Theatre at Arts Umbrella's Granville Island location. From June 12-17, the School's Yearlong Theatre and Film Intensive students performed as part of the Intensive Showcase series. The Theatre Festival concluded with Cabaret performances June 17-23, featuring solo works by Pre-Professional students.

Jon Jory's play 'The Boxcar Children', based on the children's books by Gertrude Chandler Warner, on stage from May 12 to 19, told the tale of four resilient orphans in the 1920s. Elaine Avila's brand new environment-centric play Hummingbird, created as part of Arts Umbrella's Eco Theatre Project, explored a pipeline project's curious disruption. From May 27 to June 10, audiences got to see Jasper in Deadland, a musical journey into the afterlife written by Hunter Foster and Ryan Scott Oliver. The Secret Garden: Spring Version, which ran from June 3 to 11, was a musical adaptation of the classic novel about an orphan's interaction with a spirit-filled garden and featured music and lyrics by Marsha Norman and Lucy Simon.

From May 18-20, Arts Umbrella Dance Company presented their annual Season Finale performance at the Vancouver Playhouse to celebrate the art of dance with choreographic works by Crystal Pite, Sharon Eyal, Aszure Barton, Johan Inger, William Forsythe, and more. Season Finale is a series of performances that represents the art of dance as envisioned by some of the world's greatest choreographers. This presentation of choreographies is a unique and extraordinary view into the world's stage of dance, leaving audiences transfixed and transformed.

Season Finale is generously supported by Peeter and Mary Wesik.

Finally, over the first two weeks of June, the School of Art & Design took over Arts Umbrella's Granville Island and South Surrey locations, covering nearly every wall and surface with colourful creations from Visual and Media Arts students of all ages, including the earliest learners to advanced teens. Showing their work in a dedicated, public space gives these young artists an important perspective, confidence, and pride in their artistic accomplishments.



Photo Credit: RBC & Arts Umbrella

RECENT INSTALLATIONS

Red Dress Day Installation (May 1-7)

This Red Dress Day Project, exhibited in Ron Basford Park, was a collaboration between Chepximiya Siyam'/Chief Janice George and Granville Island. Chepximiya used fabric in a two-dimensional design to evoke missing women, who should, in life, fill all three dimensions of the dress. The installation was done by visual display artist, Kamila Gougain.

Red Dress Day is a day of to honour and raise awareness and education about missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG), and two spirited people. The day of acknowledgment was started in 2010 by Indigenous artist Jaime Black to focus on the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women. Missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG) refers to the high and disproportionate rates of violence and number of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada.



The artist felt the colour red represented a calling back of the spirits of these women, allowing them a chance to be among us and have their voices heard through their family members and community. Red also symbolizes "our lifeblood and that connection between all of us, and both vitality and violence" said Jaime Black in her artist statement.





Concrete, and on the cover page of this Newsletter, were painted by twin

artists from Brazil, OSGEMEOS, as part of the 2014 Vancouver Biennale? Measuring in at 70 feet tall, it's one of the biggest public murals they've done to date!

ONGOING INSTALLATIONS

Hope & Healing by Tracey-May Chambers (May 9 - August 9)

Tracey-Mae is Métis installation artist, a member of the Métis Nation of Ontario, who travels through Canada and the USA creating site specific art installations at residential school historical sites, cultural centres, museums, art galleries and other public spaces.

The goal of these works is to broach the subject of decolonization with viewers and staff. The installations are created with large premade crochet, and knit pieces made with red yarn. The stories from each participating venue will culminate into a book and traveling exhibition.



Artist Statement:

"Since July 2021, I have been building site-specific art installations across Ontario, at residential school historical sites, cultural centres, museums, art galleries and other public spaces. Many (but not all) of these public spaces serve to present a colonial viewpoint and primarily speak about the settlers who arrived and lived here, but not the Indigenous people that were displaced along the way. The installations are constructed with red acrylic yarn, which is strong and resilient. The string represents the connectivity between each other and our environment, as it will also not last forever.

Red is the colour of blood. Red is the slur against Indigenous people. Red is the colour of passion and anger, danger and power, courage and love.

The goal of #hopeandhealingcanada is to broach the subject of decolonization and reconciliation. These discussions are hard to start and harder still to maintain. I am hoping to bridge the gap between settlers and Indigenous, Métis, and Inuit people by creating art that is approachable and non-confrontational, so we can start. "







NEW TENANT OPENINGS

Ballet BC - 1286 Cartwright Street

It's official! For the very first time, Granville Island's new tenant, Ballet BC, opened their doors and welcomed visitors to celebrate. On Saturday, May 27th, the company invited visitors into their space to explore a day in the life of a professional dancer, including the unique opportunity to view company class, an insider's look at the rehersal process, and

short performances of Ballet BC's repertoire in their newly renovated studios. On Sunday, May 28th, they offered participatory classes in ballet, contemporary dance, and yoga. Weren't able to attend? Not to worry! There will be plenty of opportunities to explore and experience this inspiring, world's leading contemporary dance companies, including four state-of-the-art studios. Visit balletbc.com for more information on upcoming events and shows!

Nach'i'm Gallery - 1420 Old Bridge

After a successful "Pop up" here on Granville Island, Nach'i'm Studio Gallery has found a permanent location on Old Bridge Road and we are pleased to welcome Master Weavers, Chepximiya Siyam' Chief Janice George and Skwetsimeltxw Buddy Joseph to Granville Island. With traditional Salish style fabric weaving, used in a clothing designs and wraps, as well as innovative art installations through the world, these two Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) artists are known across multiple continents. The shop, when opened, will be managed by Chepximiya's daughter, Stephanie Watts. The space is currently operating as a mixed artist Pop Up, featuring Indigenous and Canadian artisans. Expect a further announcement when Nach'i'm Studio Gallery officially opens.









Gathering Space - Behind Arts & Innovation Hub

Granville Island is pleased to welcome renowned xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) artist, Deborah Sparrow to Granville Island. Originally a Coast Salish Graphic Artist, Deborah changed her focus to the revival of Salish textiles, gaining a national reputation for combining textile and Salish designs in a contemporary way through geometric, hand spun blankets and hangings. Her work can be seen in museums and installations across Canada. The image attached is an amazing project Deborah did with BC Place, with one of her blanket designs illuminated within the iconic roof line. For an up close look at her beautiful designs, look no further than the Granville Street bridge pillars, part of Granville Island's Mural program. The Salish Blanket Company will be located in the former "Gathering Place" behind the Arts & Innovation HUB (Formerly Emily Carr). Deborah will be using the space to test new looms and new designs. The workshop is not currently open to the public, but a further announcement will be released when it is.

Ghislain Brown Kossi

Born and raised in Lyon, France, Ghislain Brown-Kossi experienced great diversity throughout his childhood and schooling. His family's heritage from the Ivory Coast and Ghana further provides the artist a background full of dialects and mixed language history. Presenting his first photographic exhibition in an apartment in Paris, he has since had many exhibitions in France, England and Canada. Currently residing in Vancouver, BC, Brown-Kossi has been accepted into the 2023 artist residency



program at La Napoule Art Foundation, France. His first solo exhibition in the Ivory Coast, Africa was held in February 2023 at LoiSimone Guirandou Gallery, along with curated shows at Future Artifact II, Dal Schindell Gallery and the French Culture Center, both her in in Vancouver.





A female owned, curated collection of vintage clothing for women with an emphasis on romantic, modern style. Each vintage piece is uniquely handpicked, and the collections of clothing are built up from around the world, sourced locally and from Europe. Located upstairs inside the Wendel Gallery. Shop by appointment or keep updated with public opening times posted on their Instagram @undunvintage

La Bise Bakery

If you haven't already had a dozen of these tasty pastries, then you will have at least noticed the line ups for our newest Public Market tenant. We're thrilled to introduce Nicole Scriabin and La Bise Bakery, both a new tenant and nearby neighbour, specializing in canelés, a gorgeous French pastry from Bordeaux. Nicole started her business selling in local farmer's markets. When the new kiosks in the Public Market came up for lease, Nicole felt it was the perfect time to grow her business and so did we! These decadent desserts take two days to make and come in a variety of toppings including salted caramel, passionfruit, pistachio and more. Visit the new La Bise bakery in the Public Market, now open daily from 9 AM - 6 PM.

Provence En Couleur

A familiar name; a familiar scent - now officially tenanted on Granville Island! Provence En Couleur has been a regular at the Little Mountain Pop Ups in the Net-Loft and now, you can find them year round in their newest location at 1628 Duranleau St. Specializing in the production of lavender products using high quality ingredients imported directly (and primarily) from France, the company's products are designed in Vancouver, with 90% of them being assembled by hand, bottled,



and packaged in Canada. Stop buy and grab some fresh lavender bundles, lavender sachets, candles, essential oils and more!

Little Mountain Pop Ups

Like many - we've grown to love the excitement and mystery around which new business to expect at Little Mountain! Over the course of July, Little Mountain is welcoming a number of

high-quality, artisan jewelers to their store! Be sure to check

it out!

July 3-9: Devi Arts Collective + Sarah Mulder

July 10-23: Lover's Tempo

July 24-August 6: Sita Fine Jewelry







Circle Wellness

Wondering about the new containerships by the Granville Island Hotel? When they open, Circle Wellness will combine ancient wellness rituals with modern technology for an immersive, memorable healing experience. It is the first of its kind in the world.

At its simplest, they utilize earth elements—salt, wood, clay, charcoal, and minerals—paralleled with radiant heat, ventilation, sound, and light to provide multiple therapeutic elements, including wet, dry, hot, cold, and different natural textures. Circle Wellness offers numerous benefits for circulation, the lymphatic system and anti-inflammation.

The experience is private, built for just one or two people at any time, with the intention to minimize distraction, allowing you to disconnect from the outside world and deeply relax. The self-guided "circuit" takes you from local river stones, embedded with a radiant heating system, creating a comfortable skin-to-stone connection.

A reinvented and reimagined sauna, usually kept around 50c, will feature natural therapeutic materials in an open-concept space, allowing for a full range of motion. At the same time, the Himalayan salt walls produce negative ions, soft glowing light, and gentle radiant heat, allowing you to breathe deeply, absorbing minerals and trace elements through your skin.

The Hydrotherapy element relieves stress, loosens tense and tight muscles, boosts your

immune system, and improves mental clarity by immersing yourself in fresh un-chlorinated hot and cold water. In contrast, radiant infrared heat relieves inflammation, stiffness and soreness by increasing your blood circulation and metabolism, providing oxygen-rich blood to your muscles.

Circle Wellness will open later this summer. Bookings are not currently open; please watch both our social channels and circlewellnessspas.com for updates.

SOAK





STONES

TENANT ANNIVERSARIES

You may or may not know, but there are tenants that have called Granville Island home since its Industrial history! Since then, many more tenants have joined the Island, adding to an already rich array of cultural and unique offerings. Please join us in congratulating those tenants who have or will be celebrating an anniversary between January- July of this year!

MILESTONE	BUSINESS NAME	WHERE TO FIND THEM
60 YEARS	Ocean Concrete	1415 Johnston Street
40 YEARS	Granville Island Brewing Fibre Arts Studio Kingsmill Studio Pottery Kroma Artist's Acryclics V&J Plants Island Studio Malaspina Printmaker's Society	1441 Cartwright Street Net-Loft Net-Loft Net-Loft Public Market 1551 Duranleau St 1555 Duranleau St
35 YEARS	Four Seasons Farm	Public Market
30 YEARS	Federation of Canadian Artists Market Grill John Nutter Studio Laurelle's Louise Bunn	1241 Cartwright St Public Market Net-Loft Public Market Railspur Alley (Lynn Falconer Studio)
25 YEARS	Per Wendell Madsen Gallery Maritime Market & Marina Sprig Contemporary Greek Kitchen A la Mode	1490 Johnston St 1676 Duranleau St Public Market Public Market
15 YEARS	Beaver Pond Creative Production Inc Gigi B Studio 13 Fine Art Maiwa	Railspur Alley Net-Loft Railspur Alley 1663 Duranleau St
10 YEARS	Bread Affair Tenderland Meats	1680 Johnston St Public Market
5 YEARS	Lee's Donuts Arts Umbrella Royal Vancouver Charter Yacht Popina Sen Pad Thai	Public Market 1400 Johnston St Dock 7 1691 Johnston St Public Market
1 YEAR	Tap & Barrel Bridges Black Business Association of BC Preservatory Provisions Noorongji Books Pallasite Ventures (Office) Little Mountain Shop	1696 Duranleau St Net-Loft Public Market Net-Loft Public Market Net-Loft

GOODBYES

Peter Kiss Gallery

After 22 incredible years on Granville Island, the Peter Kiss Gallery has closed its doors in Railspur Alley. We want to give a special thank you Peter Kiss and Tania Gleave for enriching the Granville Island community and sharing their art and talent with all of us over the years! Congratulations and best wishes to the two of you on your next chapter. Though the studio is now closed, Peter and Tania will continue their work and take commissions.

"Peter Kiss Gallery Closing/Not Closing.

Thank you so much to everyone who has visited and brought friends and family, business associates, lovers, thinkers, critics, teachers, supporters, artists, wives, husbands, partners, posers, poets, painters, builders, collectors, fashionistas, freaks, creatives and most of all lots of loyalty over 22 years to the gallery on Granville Island. It's now time for a change. We're Closing the gallery, but not stopping.

For any commission work questions, enquiries or to be added to our mail list, please email: contact@peterkiss.com

Thank you for 22 Fabulous Years!"





IN MEMORIAM: Darren Barefoot

Darren Barefoot, entrepreneur, writer and environmentalist, died on February 20, 2023 of complications from metastatic cancer. Darren, with his wife Julie Szabo, founded Capulet Communications here on Granville Island, where they launched inventive advocacy and fundraising campaigns for NGOs and charities. Darren's work with the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society was compelling and admired. It aligned with his deep concern for the climate and steadfast passion for the environment. Those wishing to remember him are invited to donate to the Darren Barefoot Legacy Fund through the Vancouver Foundation: https://bit.ly/darrenbarefoot.

MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

On Tenacity and Transformation

There's a tenacious spirit that thrives on Granville Island. People here aren't afraid to roll up their sleeves and get to work. Pair this hardworking ethos with an abundant amount of talent and it's no wonder that the community at large gets to enjoy so many cultural, artistic, social (and delicious!) benefits from Granville Island. As we work towards our strategic priorities and 2040 vision, we're feeling inspired to embrace that same determination that helps make magical things happen around here.

One such space to watch is how we plan for and adapt Granville Island for coastal flooding events and sea level rise. We're proud to have championed the Resilient Granville Island Flood Mitigation Guide, the first such guide geared at tenants in Canada! Now it's time to leverage our status as a nationally significant public space to test and implement new adaptation solutions. We are working toward becoming the national hub for learning and education, experimentation, and implementation when it comes to innovation in climate adaptation. Granville Island Council is keen in its drive to support bold and strategic attraction of funding and educational sources to help create a road map for this important work.

From the Arts and Innovation Hub to food innovation, exciting groundwork is happening on several fronts. As we start to see changes come to fruition on the Island, we often ask ourselves, how do we best bridge the past and the future? We want to welcome new beginnings on Granville Island, whether that be revamped spaces, new entrepreneurs, new cultural offerings and partnerships, and continuous relationship-building with Indigenous Nation Members. The key is that these incremental transformations build on the incredible cultural, business, and community assets that are already here on Granville Island. We're after the kind of transformations that enhance the capacity of Granville Island to deliver local art, culture, flavours, and creative and educational spaces. At the same time, we hope these changes interweave harmoniously into the tapestry of indispensable community value that so many persevering people have already built here.

It's no doubt that the pursuit to be the most inspiring public place in the world continually calls for mighty ambition, and we salute all the tenacious folks out there making that vision viable.

To learn more about the Granville Island Council's strategic priorities, visit https://admin.granvilleisland.com/granville-island-council/ and stay tuned for more information on the Granville Island Council succession planning process in the coming months.

MESSAGE FROM GM

Dear Granville Island community,

Small victories can be so much larger than they appear. With so much going on all across the Island right now, I'd like to take a moment to celebrate just one of them.

The opening of the new public washrooms in the Public Market has been a journey to say the least. Designing, permitting, and building them is a microcosm of how things evolve on Granville Island. The creative reuse of old industrial buildings is one of the original tenets of this Island. And in the 70s and 80s, it was possible to get away with some "creative renovation"...

As we carefully peeled back the layers of history in the north east corner of the Market (in a corner of the Revue Stage), buried train tracks running under the slab saw daylight for the first time in many decades. While designing the washrooms, the early challenge was in connecting them through the Revue Stage foyer into the mop sink area by A La Mode and L'Epicerie. The City got creative in their permitting response to our request (more on City permitting in a future issue of this Newsletter), trying to assess what all these layers of renovation joined/covered over/pushed aside/glued together, tacking on many months to the process. We used principles of Universal Accessibility in designing the washrooms and then took great care in the signage to ensure that All People feel welcome. Those public washrooms are a testament to careful curation and the hundreds and hundreds of staff hours that went into making them a reality have not gone unnoticed. Without painstaking care for that project by Granville Island staff, we would still be at square one, wondering how to provide those critical facilities. And likewise, the vendors in the Public Market; your patience and flexibility are very much appreciated. My sincere thanks to all of you.

And so finally, we can happily say that the Granville Island Public Market has a world class public washroom in a world class location and with million dollar (literally) views. Yes, it may seem like a small victory, but I am celebrating this one. I might even hold that celebration after any one of the eight incredible events happening throughout June around the Island, and I'm even thinking about holding that party in the Public Market, or in the courtyard, and I may even do it with a glass of wine in hand, enjoying the sunset, content in the knowledge that there's an amazing public washroom mere steps away.

Happy summer everyone!

Tom

and with that,

ISSUE NO. 3
OF THE GI
NEWSLETTER

comes to an end.