



Marina is close to townhouses in False Creek.

the residents themselves; and, most importantly, there was to be public involvement at all stages of the project. This involvement goes back to 1972 even before the land was cleared; parts of the sea-wall were being built and the public was encouraged to explore the area and make suggestions. Kiosks were set up to explain the over-all concept and to invite criticism and comment. This citizen participation has continued to the present and largely accounts for a strong feeling of community among the residents.

Although all levels of government were involved in the initial stages of the project, Vancouver City Council decided that the day-to-day management should be carried out under the auspices of a consulting team, the False Creek Development Group.

According to a survey commissioned

by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the overwhelming majority of the residents who moved in during Phase I, are pleased with their community. Many aspects of the project mark a drastic departure from the usual standards of urban living. The survey also pointed out the differences in responses between those living in the different types of housing and in the two mini-neighbourhoods, Heather and Spruce. Heather has five "doughnut" shaped enclaves and Spruce three, each of which was sponsored by either a non-profit group or a private developer. While Heather also has shops, restaurants, a pub and squash courts, the Spruce neighbourhood lacks any central point where residents can meet, although a small retail area is planned for the future.



Marine Mews university non-profit condominiums.

At the moment, Spruce residents and their neighbours to the west in Phase II can use the market on Granville Island, a CMHC-sponsored rehabilitation project which has converted another of False Creek's industrial areas to a cultural and commercial centre with theatres, restaurants, shops, and the Emily Carr School of Art. It has added considerably to the appeal of False Creek for residents.

Social levels mixed

The most challenging feature that Vancouver City Council demanded for the first phase of False Creek was a "social mix". Subsidies from three levels of government enabled people of all income levels to move there, but nobody knew what the outcome would be. The survey shows that on the whole, the mix of income levels, young and old, children and childless couples, has worked out well.



Development includes luxury apartments.

The False Creek Community Association, which has proved to be a powerful advocate for the residents, pressured City Council and the provincial government to provide the \$625,000 necessary to convert an old warehouse into a community centre. Located on Granville Island, it has daycare, an after-school room, crafts workshops, seniors' lounge, and a large meeting room. The Community Association is now trying to find another building close by for a club with other facilities for adults.

(Excerpts from an article by Mark Budgen in Habitat.)