

The Planning & Construction of EXPO 86
An Unofficial Chronological Overview

FEBRUARY 1978

Architect Randle Iredale delivers "concept study" development proposal of Marathon lands in False Creek for Provincial Recreation and Conservation Minister Sam Bawlf. Objective is to develop concepts for event during Vancouver's 100th birthday, 1986. Bawlf had suggested multi-use stadium. Iredale adds the Roundhouse complex as a technical museum, a convention centre and international trade exposition facilities, a transportation centre, eating and service facilities, parks, and a series of canals. The concept encompasses many of the BC Place/Expo elements on a smaller scale. Bawlf proposes as one possibility: "An international exposition to complement Vancouver's 1986 centenary."

MARCH 1978

The Iredale proposal is publicly released as possible final north shore phase of False Creek development. It is endorsed by Larry Bell (who worked on detailed planning of False Creek south shore development), Paul Manning, and Martin Zlotnick. The National Harbours Board unveils harbour-front scheme which includes Provincial Secretary Grace McCarthy's recommendation for a convention centre on Pier BC. The Vancouver Board of Trade adds support.

APRIL 1978

Jack Volrich defeats May Brown to succeed Art Phillips as mayor of Vancouver. Volrich opposes False Creek site, preferring the PNE as the location for a new stadium. "Stadium for Downtown Vancouver Association" formed to oppose Volrich stand. It includes Paul Manning and Larry Bell (who will later be asked to recommend location), Gordon Campbell, Martin Zlotnick and Frank Rigney (who would together develop the Georgian Court Hotel adjacent to the stadium site), ex-mayor Art Phillips, and Randle Iredale.

MAY 1978

McCarthy announces Trade and Convention Centre concept for Pier BC. Finance formula sets budget at \$25 million and opening for spring of 1981.

JUNE 1978

In London, England, at the Cavalry Club, McCarthy and Patrick Reid discuss possibility of hosting a world exposition in Vancouver.