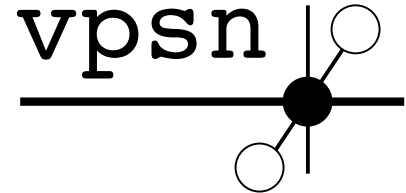


November 9, 2006



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UPCOMING VPSN EVENTS

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- Thursday November 16 at 7:00pm - VPSN Green Spaces Meeting
- Monday November 20 at 7:00pm - VPSN Security & Surveillance Meeting
- Wednesday November 22 at 7:30pm - Does Public Space Really Belong to Everyone? (Repeat of the 14th)
- Tuesday November 28 at 7:30pm - Privatization and the Public Good

PUBLIC SPACE CALENDAR

- Thursday November 9 at 6:00pm - 4th Annual Pivot Busker's Ball and Christmas Auction
- Tuesday November 14 at 7:00pm - V:pgs, iPods and Beyond: Public Media's Terrifying Opportunities
- Monday November 20 at 7:30pm - Effects of Gentrification On the Downtown Eastside
- Wednesday November 29 at 7:00pm - Urban Development: A Greenspace Opportunity
- Wednesday November 29 at 7:30pm - Graham Osborne: Vancouver Wild
- Monday December 4 at 7:30pm - Vancouver's Best-Kept Secret: Stanley Park National Historic Site of Canada
- Tuesday December 12 at 7:30pm - Murray Newman - The Vancouver Aquarium Story

NEWS

What's Wrong With This Picture? Police Propose Surveillance Cameras for Granville Street

With little forewarning and a continued absence of public consultation, the Vancouver Police Department re-announced the development of a proposal to install a series of surveillance cameras in Vancouver. This time the focus is on Granville Street in the Downtown core.

At the May 17, 2006 meeting of the Vancouver Police Board, Chief Jamie Graham was given the green light by Board members to develop a business plan for the installation

of surveillance cameras in a number of downtown neighbourhoods. The cameras cost a minimum \$20,000 each and can be as more than five times that figure depending on the specific technology used. Additional costs for monitoring and reviewing the CCTV feeds are exclusive of this figure.

Yesterday, police representatives again confirmed that the Department is "developing a proposal to install and monitor an unspecified number of CCTV, or closed circuit television cameras," on downtown Granville Street. According to an article in the Vancouver Sun, police are concerned about the number of instances of alcohol-related disturbances that take place along the strip - notably in the area between Georgia and Davie.

It is the VPSN's convention that none of these arguments advanced thus far is actually able to support the case the police are trying to make. The efficacy of CCTV in entertainment districts has never conclusively been established, and there are a number of mitigating factors that impact on any ability reduce in crime. For one, people who want to commit a crime without being caught on tape can and will move to the next street over. (A number of studies support this, pointing to the potential for CCTV to migrate crime, while suggesting that any evidence to say that they reduce it is far less compelling... and in many cases simply nonexistent).



One of the many surveillance cameras already covering Granville Street.

The second consideration is that intoxicated party-goers are, in fact, one of the groups *least* likely to be concerned with - or even aware of - being caught on tape. (Indeed, if they're assaulting police officers then it's unclear that cameras will act as a deterrent at all). What this suggests is that the vigilant police, in responding to CCTV generated issues on Granville, will likely continue to need to the same number of extra officers, putting them in the same situations as before. Net result: there is little to sustain the argument that the cameras will lead to a reduction in policing costs or staff-time.



Another club... another camera. If existing CCTV isn't working, then why spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to install more?

One other point needs to be made here. In September 2006, when VPSN members conducted a surveillance mapping project along Granville Avenue, they found that it already had a substantial number of privately administered cameras in place - outside clubs and theatres, near residences, and within and outside a large

number of shops and services. In fact, it turned out that Granville Street had more cameras on it than any other street that had been inventoried up to that point. All of which also begs the question: if several dozen privately paid for cameras are already insufficient to provide a deterrent, why would we be in any rush to fork over hundreds of thousands of dollars for even more?

For more the complete article, relevant links, additional resources on CCTV and more on the VPSN's work on Surveillance and Security >>

<http://vancouverpublicspace.ca/index.php/campaigns/surveillance>.

What you can do >> If you're concerned about the possibility of VPD cameras being installed, write a letter saying as much. Send it to Shona McGlashan, Executive Director, Vancouver Police Board, c/o 312 Main Street, Vancouver BC V6A 2T2; or email: office@vancouverpoliceboard.ca. Information on the Board, as well as Board members, can be found at www.vpd.ca.

Word Up? Naming Rights Policy Goes Before Council

In early November, the City's Office of Cultural Affairs presented a set of draft policies to members of Council. The two documents - *Naming Rights Policy for Civic Community Facilities* and *Commemorative Naming Policy for Civic Community Facilities* were appended to a general policy report on Naming Rights. In summary, the City is looking to codify its current ad-hoc naming practices with a more coherent and consistent set of guidelines. Under the new guidelines, the sale of corporate naming rights will be permitted for interior and exterior components of all new sports and cultural facilities, and interior components of all Parks Board, Community, Social Services and Childcare facilities owned by the City.

In response to the draft policies, the VPSN wrote to Council expressing its concern. Our letter suggested that there was more at play with naming rights than good corporate citizenship and requested that Councillors be wary of adopting the draft policies. Our position on this issue is that businesses large and small can and should be encouraged to be donors to all sorts of cultural, sporting and civic activities, but that donor-status should not be premised on branding activity. Good corporate citizens, after all, shouldn't need to see their name in lights in order to play a role.

For more on the VPSN's take on Naming Rights and corporate sponsorship >>

<http://vancouverpublicspace.ca/index.php/campaigns/corporatization>.

To see footage from the November 2 meeting, or to access a copy of the Naming Rights Report:

<http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20061102/csb20061102.htm>

What you can do >> Read the policies and draft report and let Council know what you think. They'll be debating the documents on Tuesday November 14 at 2:00 - so be sure to get your comments to prior to that.

Tom Barrett. Homeless Activists Scoring Points. Published in The Tyee. November 3, 2006

The following article provides an update on the squat that took place near City Hall last week. The day after police raided the Cambie Street Squat the only material remains of the protest was a small Anti-Poverty Committee flag that hung from a one of the building's south-facing windows. But the effect of the protest - not to mention the promise of continued unrest over the issues of housing and homelessness - continue to linger. The NPA slate at City Hall appears increasingly unable to deliver anything more than vague promises on the issue. At the same time another motion on the homelessness issue will be going before Council on November 14. Details of which can be found below.

It's Tuesday afternoon and David Cunningham is rallying about 100 supporters on the lawn behind Vancouver City Hall.

The veteran Downtown Eastside shit-disturber has said the group plans to occupy city hall to protest council's lack of action on homelessness. Occupying city hall, Cunningham says, is the only way the group will ever get to talk to Mayor Sam Sullivan.

"We're going to go in through the front door," he declares, as the crowd whoops. The protesters, who came by bus from the Downtown Eastside, look serious. One wears a black helmet and gas mask. Others wear bandanas over their faces.

Chanting, "Social housing now," they march. But as police and security guards watch from the city hall entrances, the crowd heads in the opposite direction -- down the hill along Cambie, almost to Broadway.

There they occupy a building -- not city hall, but an abandoned city-owned apartment house.

For the complete Tyee article >> <http://thetyee.ca/News/2006/11/03/Housing/>

Actions to Address Homelessness: Unfinished business at Council

As noted in on the Agenda for the meeting: "Following the hearing of speakers at the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting on November 2, 2006, Vancouver City Council referred discussion and decision on a motion on Actions to Address Homelessness to the Regular Council meeting on November 14, 2006, as Unfinished Business.

To see the agenda for the meeting >>

<http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20061114/ag20061114.htm>

For further information >> call Tarja Tuominen, Meeting Coordinator at 604.873.7191, e-mail tarja.tuominen@vancouver.ca or Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator at 604.873.7268, e-mail tina.hildebrandt@vancouver.ca

UPCOMING VPSN EVENTS

Tuesday November 14 at 7:30pm - Does Public Space Really Belong to Everyone?

Join us for an exciting discussion on public space issues in Vancouver. Part of the Vancouver Public Library's Speak Up 2006 series on Privatization and the Public Good, this evening's panel dialogue is the first of two presentations entitled Public Space: Does it Really Belong to Everyone. The Vancouver Public Space Network is proud to be participating in both discussions.

Here's how the VPL is billing the discussion:

"Great cities are renowned for their public spaces. Vancouver is described as one of the most beautiful and best-planned cities in the world." This evening's panel discussion "explores the nature of our public spaces and their relationship to democracy. Are our public spaces increasing or decreasing? What are the important public spaces in Vancouver? Are the private spaces of shopping malls now our most popular gathering spaces? Do public spaces always have to be public squares? What are the trends in public space development in Vancouver and world-wide? What is the impact of "naming opportunities" for our public spaces? What is the relationship between public spaces and democracy?" The panel discussion features urban designer Bruce Haden, architect Bing Thom and VPSN co-founder Andrew Pask. The event takes place at the Central Library (350 Georgia Street). The panel discussion is repeated a week later (**November 22**) at the Hastings Branch, 2674 East Hastings.

For more information >> <http://www.vpl.ca/speakup/public-space.html>

Thursday November 16 at 7:00pm - VPSN Green Spaces Meeting

This is the first of two project specific gatherings that the VPSN is organizing in November. On Thursday the 16th, join us for a planning meeting to look at possible green-space related projects for the VPSN. With two workshops and a successful guerrilla forestry piece completed, we're looking to update some on-going initiatives as well as define some new projects. Possible areas of consideration include community food gardens, urban (re)design, and fence greening. Learn about the projects, lend your voice, and check-in for interesting volunteer opportunities. The meeting location is currently being confirmed. Stay tuned for details and **please RSVP** so that we can plan appropriately.

For more information >> info@vancouverpublicspace.ca

Monday November 20 at 7:00pm - VPSN Security & Surveillance Meeting

As a follow-up to our August workshop on security and surveillance, the second VPSN meeting of the month will review the various concerns and considerations that surround the increased securitization of the city, and the resulting growth of closed circuit television and private security firms. In addition to looking at the most recent VPD proposal to install cameras on Granville Street, the meeting will also feature a review of the VPSN's Surveillance Mapping project, examine other current activities with regard to this issue and look at additional ways for the VPSN to work on this issue. The meeting location for this event is being confirmed and details will be posted shortly. If you are interested in attending, **please RSVP** so that we can plan appropriately.

For more information >> info@vancouverpublicspace.ca

Thursday November 22 at 7:30 - Does Public Space Really Belong to Everyone?

The second of two panel discussions at the Vancouver Public Library. (See November 14).

For more information >> <http://www.vpl.ca/speakup/public-space.html>

Tuesday November 28 at 7:30 - Privatization and the Public Good

The final "Speak Up" night at the library. "The 2006 *Speak Up* series on Privatization and the Public Good wraps up with an evening of public dialogue. Representatives of the various sessions held during the fall will be providing some introductory comments and the evening will be given over to public participation." This event takes place at the Central Library.

For more information >> <http://www.vpl.ca/speakup/public-space.html>

PUBLIC SPACE CALENDAR: OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday November 9 at 6:00pm - 4th Annual Pivot Busker's Ball and Christmas Auction

The Pivot Foundation's annual celebration and fundraiser features music and other performances from some of the city's best street performers. The evening's events also include "breaking news updates, terrific entertainment, exciting live and silent auctions, door prizes, refreshments and much, much more. Auction items include

vacation getaways, tech toys body treatments, fine dining, family adventures, and original artwork - including an oil painting by Ken Kirby.” Proceeds from the event go to support Pivot’s campaigns and projects on behalf of residents of Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside.

For more information >> www.pivotlegal.org.

Tuesday November 14 at 7:00pm - Vlogs, iPods and Beyond: Public Media’s Terrifying Opportunities

Patricia Aufderheide presents the 2006 Graham Spry lecture at SFU’s Harbour Centre (515 West Hastings Street). A cultural journalist, policy analyst and editor, Aufderheide is the author of *The Daily Planet: A Critic on the Capitalist Culture Beat*.

The lecture is free but reservations are required. Call 604.291.5100 or email cs_hc@sfu.ca.

Monday November 20 at 7:30pm - Effects of Gentrification On the Downtown Eastside

A wide-ranging discussion on the effects of gentrification in the Downtown Eastside. Speakers include: David Eby (Pivot Legal Society), Liz Evans (Portland Housing Society), Ken Lyotier (United We Can), Linda Mix (Former Chair, Impact on Communities Coalition) and Jean Swanson (Carnegie Action Project).

Admission is Free. The event takes place at the both the Alma Van Dusen and Peter Kay Rooms on the lower level of VPL’s Central Library (350 Georgia Street).

Wednesday November 29 at 7:00pm - Urban Development: A Greenspace Opportunity

From urban renewal around London, to sustainable community design in Gibsons, development can provide opportunities to secure natural urban green space. Guest speaker **Brian McDonald** explores how the development process is securing lands in the Thames Gateway Green Grid - an interconnected network of public and private green spaces designed to restore biodiversity, offer flood protection, and provide recreation for local communities in Europe’s largest regeneration project. Brian is with *Natural England*, a national UK body for conservation and community. For the evening’s discussion he is joined by panelists Lee Ann Johnson (Councillor, District of Gibsons), and Kevin Kay (KeyPlan, and former planner with the District of Highlands). The event is moderated by David Beers, editor of *The Tyee*. who will profile local developments addressing greenspace protection.

Free, at UBC Robson Square. To register call 604-822-1444, or for more information contact Denise at Evergreen by writing... denise@evergreen.ca.

Wednesday November 29 at 7:30pm - Graham Osborne: Vancouver Wild

Join photographer Graham Osborne for a tribute to the Vancouver region's precious ecological heritage, natural beauty and wild landscapes. A slide presentation and talk on his new book **Vancouver Wild: a Photographer's Journey through the Southern Coast Mountains**. Osborne showcases giant red cedars, snow-covered mountains, and sea stars in shimmering pools. Biologist Richard Cannings text introduces the animals residing in the diverse ecosystems of this region.

Free. The event takes place at the Alice MacKay Room at the VPL's Central Library (350 Georgia Street). For more information please contact Vancouver Public Library at 604-331-3603.

Monday December 4 at 7:30pm - Vancouver's Best-Kept Secret: Stanley Park National Historic Site of Canada

Vancouver's Stanley Park is world famous but few people know that it is a national historic site - an evolving natural and cultural landscape that is a classic example of the large urban park. This illustrated lecture by Lyle Dick will reveal some of the outstanding but little-known historical features of our city's favourite place for paths, picnics and play. Dick is the West Coast Historian with Parks Canada in Vancouver and the author of 65 publications, including the book **Muskox Land**, which was awarded the Innis Prize in 2003. Part of the Parks Canada Speaker Series.

<http://www.pc.gc.ca> (604) 666-3163

Free. The event takes place at the Alice MacKay Room at the VPL's Central Library (350 Georgia Street). For more information please contact Vancouver Public Library at 604-331-3603.

Tuesday December 12 at 7:30pm - Murray Newman - The Vancouver Aquarium Story

From the VPL webpages: "The author of *People, Fish and Whales: The Vancouver Aquarium Story* recalls the people, creatures, controversies and triumphs that make up a fascinating history of a nonprofit organization entirely supported by the public.

When it opened in 1956, the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre was the first public aquarium to be built in Canada. *People, Fish and Whales* is a behind-the-scenes underdog success story, a celebration of what the aquarium has achieved and a look into its future role, as told by Murray Newman, aquarium director from 1956 to 1993. The aquarium has welcomed 30 million visitors to the underwater world and introduced generations of schoolchildren to the importance of conservation."

Free. The event takes place at the Alice MacKay Room at the VPL's Central Library (350 Georgia Street). For more information please contact Vancouver Public Library at 604-331-3603.