

City of Vancouver Film Office News



December 2008

HOLIDAY GREETINGS...

Last year at Christmas we were all looking forward to a bit of a break from a very busy year of filming. This year I think we all learned a lesson about 'being careful what you wish for'. The past year has been a difficult one - with the writers strike, the strong Canadian dollar and the possibility of an actors strike affecting the green lighting of productions in Vancouver. However, from the rumours abounding as this year draws to a close, it sounds like we're in for a very busy 2009.

This has been a year of change for us, with an office move, the death of long-time Film Office staff member Pamela Bromley and the early retirement of Michelle Root. We were very pleased to have veteran location manager and DGC Training Committee co-chair Geoff Teoli join our staff on a temporary basis to fill the gap left by those changes...and even though business slowed considerably shortly after Geoff arrived we've taken advantage of his expertise to finish a few special projects that had been put on the back burner when Pamela became ill. Geoff created a post-filming survey reply card, he's working with other Engineering branches to get a new, secure parking lot for film production vehicles under the Georgia Viaduct, and he'll continue to assist with a new power hub initiative the City is currently working on as part of the BC Film Commission's Reel Green program. It's been a delight to have Geoff in the Film Office - and a really good learning experience for both him and us. In fact it's led to discussions about how we might implement some sort of informal joint training for LM trainees and our film liaisons. Stay tuned for more ... and in the meantime, from all of us at the Vancouver Film & Special Events Office - ***MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!***

Sensitive Areas



A relatively slow fall has allowed us to shorten the sensitive list temporarily. While there are fewer "HOT" locations there are still a number of frequency restrictions in sensitive neighbourhoods like **GASTOWN**, **YALETOWN**, and **SOUTHLANDS**, and other areas in the City that have or will have significant filming activity. Remember to check with the Film Office before showing any locations to your production team, as what's hot and what's not can change on very short notice.

HOT: (no new permits at or around these locations)

- 1975 W 17th
- 3357 W 34th
- 3800 Angus

SENSITIVE: (more details available from your liaison)

- 1489 McRae (Hycroft)
- 5400 Cartier (Vancouver College)
- 1300 W 46th
- 3689 Selkirk (Rosemary/Cenacle)
- 200-300 Alexander
- 300-400 W Cordova
- 4490 Angus
- 7275 Blenheim

Holiday Hours of Business:

The Film Office will close at noon on **Wednesday, December 24th** and will reopen on **Friday, January 2nd**. Please ensure your paperwork is submitted before Christmas Eve for any work to be done before mid-January.



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Road Ahead

For up to date information on major roadwork projects please visit

www.roadahead.ca. The following are some streets that will have interruptions due to street work:

Carrall St (Pender to Hastings) - Greenway project reconstruction.

Granville St (W Cordova to Drake) - Water main construction Monday to Friday includes sidewalk reconstruction, relocation of power lines and paving. For more information on the Granville redesign please visit vancouver.ca/granvilleredesign

CANADA LINE PROJECT:

For up to date information on construction related closures and reroutes please visit www.canadaline.ca

Cambie St

- **W 13th to Cambie Bridge** - road reconstruction in progress;
- **W 2nd/W 6th** - excavation work on 2nd at Cambie is underway, traffic reduced to one lane each way.

W Hastings at Granville is reduced to one lane each way until further notice for the Waterfront Station construction.

Granville Mall is closed between Pender and Cordova, and from Robson to Georgia.

Mainland Closures - The Mainland Bridge is subject to intermittent closures for material delivery and will encompass approximately 2 hours each.

Davie St - Pacific to Hamilton closed.

Special Events

January 1st - Polar Bear Swim: No filming will be permitted around English Bay.



February 1st - Chinese New Year: Parade and festivities will affect Keefer, Pender, and Main St.

February 15th - First Half Half-Marathon: Affecting Yaletown, Stanley Park, and the West End.

March 14th/15th - Celticfest: At the VAG



March 15th - Celtic Parade: New route will affect Georgia, Howe, and surrounding streets.

March 26th to 29th - Junos Street Party: Celebrations will affect 700-900 Granville and surrounding streets

March 29th - Juno Awards: GM Place.

News and Reminders

Neighbourhood Follow Up Survey:



In an attempt to better understand the varying impacts of film activity on neighbourhoods, the Film Office has created postage-paid post-filming survey cards which will be distributed around locations where significant production has just wrapped. The feedback will help us determine the activities that have the most impact on neighbourhoods and residents and enable us to better address them.

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2009 Permit Fee Increases:

As is standard practice in the City, fees for zoning, building, and trade permits fees will increase in 2009. This will affect the cost of your business license and electrical permits. Other permit increases may also take effect; we'll post them on our web-site early in the new year, and your liaison will be able to advise you further in the new year.

Polling: How to get an answer faster

Polling isn't ever going to be easy, but you'll get a response to your request for an extension much faster if you provide a map showing in a graphic way the responses you've received. In fact, if you don't provide a map you might just get all your results sent back to you with a reminder to submit them again the correct way. For everything you need to know about polling - from writing your letter and compiling your polling results - check our website at http://www.vancouver.ca/engsvcs/filmandevents/filmoffice/documents/Polling_Guidelines.pdf) And remember, if you're polling in areas with residential towers, attempts must be made to contact residents impacted by the work, either through a strata council representative or a property manager. A sign off from a non-resident manager is a last resort after all other efforts have been exhausted. If you can't get an answer from a Property Management company let your Film Office liaison know, and we'll make the call from our office.

It's Elementary, Dear Watson

Composing notification and polling letters is easy - if you refer to the sample notification and polling letters available on our website before writing your letters. The letters need not be identical to our templates, but must contain all the information described on our sample. And remember, we're busy too, so please please proof read your letters for accuracy before sending them to us. Liasons are here to be a second set of eyes to catch the small errors or omissions, not to catch significant factual errors or rewrite them for you. We prefer to get them by e-mail

Howdy Neighbour

Neighbours *directly adjacent* to your filming location must be contacted *directly and personally* prior to locking in your location. This contact will ultimately make your filming day(s) run smoothly. If, for example, the next door neighbour is starting work on a new deck the same day as filming, it's good to know ahead of time; and if the person across the street hates filming and threatens to disrupt it might be better to find an alternate location before you lock in.

Film Office Phones...getting better

We've managed to overcome some of the early problems with our direct line phones, and now - if you call during office hours at least - you can 'press zero' to reach the general line, if your liaison isn't immediately available.