

Lively plans for 'urban wasteland'

VANCOUVER | Planners propose neighbourhood commercial development under Granville Street Bridge

BY DOUG WARD
VANCOUVER SUN

The area around the north end of the Granville Street Bridge is somewhat devoid of the hum of the downtown life — except for the comings and goings of frustrated motorists retrieving their vehicles from Busters Towing.

But in two years the desolate area of vacant land and parking lots will be a lively quarter with nearby condo dwellers walking to a cluster of new stores, including a grocery, under the bridge.

And Busters will be at its new home in the False Creek Flats area, east of the VIA Rail station.

That's the vision set out in a staff report going to Vancouver city council Tuesday on the proposed new one-block commercial centre under the north end of the bridge.

"Right now it's a bit of an urban wasteland down there," Jerry Evans, development manager with the city's real estate services, said Wednesday.

"What we want to encourage is not only a new retail centre, but also a new, vibrant public



The land under the downtown end of the Granville Bridge could go from this 'urban wasteland' to a vibrant neighbourhood core.

realm," said Evans, one of the authors of the report.

The centre would serve a projected future population of about 6,500 residents south of Pacific Street between the Burrard Bridge and Homer Street.

The new stores would serve the Granville Slopes neighbour-

hood, west of the Granville bridge, and the Beach neighbourhood, east of the bridge. Residents in those neighbourhoods are a considerable distance from downtown grocery stores.

The proposed centre also has a sustainability factor, said Evans. "We're trying to encourage peo-

ple to walk to buy their food and go to the pharmacy without getting in their car."

Most of the land under the bridge is city-owned and the successful developer or group of developers would be granted a 60-year, pre-paid lease from the city.

The report sets out design guidelines which, if approved by council, will shape the new development.

The proposed commercial centre will be modest in scale, with buildings ranging from one to four storeys.

The centre would include a small grocery store, a drug store, other stores and a restaurant, plus offices or retail on upper storeys of new buildings.

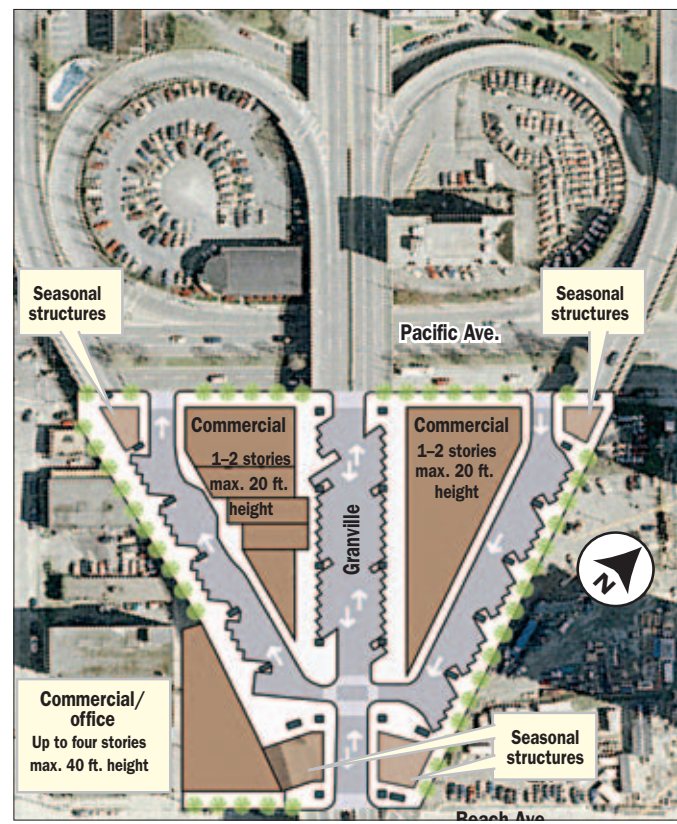
It is estimated that about 7,800 square metres of commercial development could be in the centre, according to the report.

The report also urges retention of two adjoining old industrial buildings — including a two-storey brick building that has been a popular spot for parties and other events.

dward@png.canwest.com

Facelift under Granville bridge

The city is proposing that a one-block commercial centre be developed under the north end of the Granville Street Bridge.



Source: City of Vancouver

VANCOUVER SUN

Ferry user feared he was about to die

NANAIMO | A man whose pickup truck — and livelihood — plunged into the harbour in Nanaimo during a botched ferry loading says he feared for his life as his vehicle teetered on the ramp.

"I could see the ocean right through the windshield," said Randy Nicifore. "I thought I was going in."

Nicifore, 56, said everything was normal as he pulled on to the ramp Tuesday and was told by a BC Ferries crewman to stop as he was boarding the *Quinsam* for the 10-minute trip to his home on Gabriola Island.

But when he stopped "the ramp slipped, the boat was not underneath it like it should have been."

The self-employed contractor said he was one step ahead of the crew who were telling him to get out of the truck.

But he knew as soon as he took his foot off the brake, the 1991 GMC pickup with all his tools would likely roll further

down the ramp.

He opened his door and scrambled to the safety of a nearby handrail, slowly making his way back to the higher end of the inclined ramp closer to shore and safety.

By coincidence, BC Ferries president David Hahn had just arrived in Nanaimo and helped find hotel rooms for stranded travellers.

"He's [Nicifore] a pretty gracious man and he was also pretty brave through this," Hahn said, stressing the important thing was that no one was injured.

The vital question of whether human or mechanical error caused the truck to plunge into the harbour will be the focus of investigations by BC Ferries and the Transportation Safety Board.

TSB staff will be in Nanaimo today to start their investigation, said senior marine investigator Raymond Mathew.

Canadian Press and CanWest News Service

INTRODUCING THE WORLD'S FASTEST AND EASIEST PHOTO PRINTERS.*

Now printing a lab-quality photo is as simple as inserting any digital camera memory card and pressing a button. And since HP Photosmart printers come with Original HP Vivera Inks, every picture lasts for generations! They're reliable too — they've been *PC Magazine's* Readers' Choice for service and reliability for 15 years in a row. Brilliantly Simple.

DOES IT EASILY
Pop in any memory card and you're off printing 4x6 and 5x7 lab-quality photos. HP Photosmart A616. \$149⁹⁹**

DOES IT FAST
4x6 photos in as fast as 12 seconds. Quick everyday printing. And an easy-to-use touch screen. HP Photosmart D7360. \$249⁹⁹**

DOES IT ALL
Print. Copy. Scan. For work. For homework. For photos. HP Photosmart C5180. \$299⁹⁹**

For more information, call 1-877-231-4351, click hpshopping.ca or visit your local retailer.

CanWest CanSpell Presented By CANADA POST / POSTES CANADA

Word of the Day
abyssal
uh-BISS-ul
DEFINITION: of or relating to the bottom waters of the ocean depths
Scientists have discovered remarkable creatures living in the abyssal depths of the sea.

From Merriam-Webster Online at www.Merriam-Webster.com

Capilano Audi Inc.

Audi
Never Follow capilanoaudi.com

we're just across the bridge

1151 Marine Drive, North Vancouver (604) 985 0694
www.capilanoaudi.com D# 10515

We all want the same thing.

And the 1.2 million members of Rotary around the world are making it happen. Rotary's educational programs and scholarships are dedicated solely to promoting peace.

Together we can create a more peaceful world.

Rotary Humanity in motion.
www.rotary5040.org 604.290.9644
www.rotary.org

Word of the Day
abyssal
uh-BISS-ul
DEFINITION: of or relating to the bottom waters of the ocean depths
Scientists have discovered remarkable creatures living in the abyssal depths of the sea.

CanWest CanSpell Presented By CANADA POST / POSTES CANADA

From Merriam-Webster Online at www.Merriam-Webster.com