

Cathedral to ring in the Games with century-old bells

BY KELLY SINOSKI

VANCOUVER SUN

The bells of Holy Rosary cathedral will ring in the opening of the Olympics on Friday, Feb. 12.

The church, on Dunsmuir at Richards, features eight bells, the heaviest of which weighs almost a tonne. Cast in France and the United Kingdom more than 100 years ago, the bells are rung to celebrate Roman Catholic religious services and to mark special civic occasions.

The bells will be rung at 5:45 p.m. on Feb. 12 and can best be heard at the park across from the cathedral's main entrance on Dunsmuir Street or on the corner of Dunsmuir and Homer.

Home for the Olympics

The West Coast Fishing Club's North Island Lodge was moored this week at False Creek, directly under the Granville Bridge.

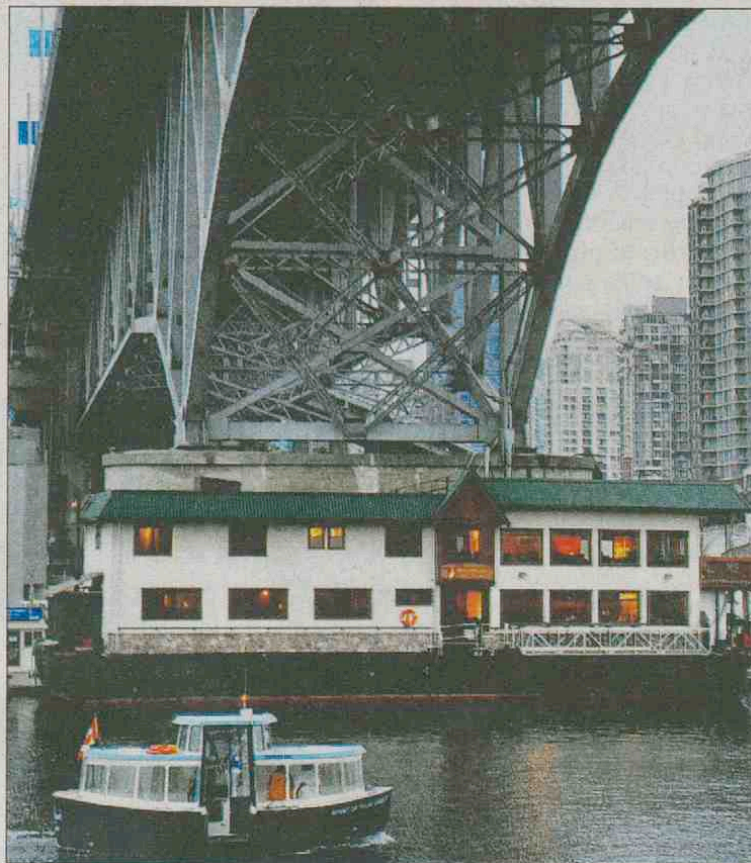
The two-storey lodge, which normally resides in B.C.'s Haida Gwaii (formerly known as the Queen Charlotte Islands), has been booked by a local corporation for the duration of the Games.

West Coast Fishing Club also has a fleet of Boston Whalers available for charter throughout February.

Parking check

Extra parking is being provided at Whistler Blackcomb for skiers and boarders wanting to hit the slopes before or after the Games.

But they're warned to book ahead to reserve a spot. A minimum 1,300 paid parking spaces — both indoor and outdoor — will be available daily Feb. 1-10 and March 1-21, including at Lot 10, at the Whistler Driving Range and the Whistler North parking lot, 2.5 km north of Whistler Village off Highway 99.



IAN LINDSAY/PNG

The West Coast Fishing Club's floating North Island Lodge, moored under the Granville Street Bridge, awaits Olympic guests.

The price is \$20 for 12 hours. Skiers and riders can reserve their parking spot at advancednet.ca starting Feb. 1.

There will be no day-skier parking available Feb. 11-28. Day skiers and riders are encouraged to travel to Whistler on private carriers from Vancouver.

The Sea to Sky checkpoint will be in effect Feb. 11-28 from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Vanoc books northern ferry for relay

Passengers hoping to catch a last-minute ferry from Prince Rupert to Port Hardy during the torch relay on Feb. 1 will be out of luck unless they leave the car at home. Vanoc has reserved the bulk of vehicle spaces on the ferry for the torch relay between the two towns.

BC Ferries spokeswoman Deborah Marshall said about

203 passenger spaces are booked for the sailing, which leaves room for another 397 foot passengers, but vehicles will be on standby that day.

Olympic strike action?

Unionized workers at Hertz Rental Cars served 72 hours' strike notice to the company Tuesday, meaning they will be in a position to take job action as early as Friday morning.

The union, COPE 378, said the notice was issued after talks broke off and the mediator had booked out of negotiations. The union has been in mediation with Hertz since January following a unanimous strike vote by employees.

E-mail ksinoski@vancouver.sun.com if you notice any changes to your neighbourhood as a result of the Olympics.