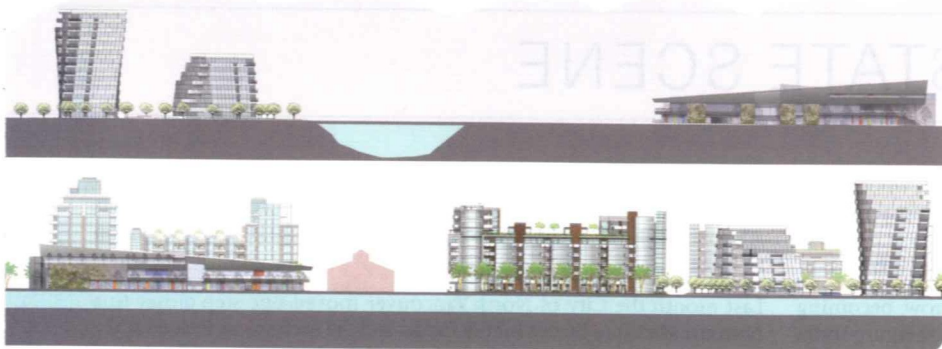


# THE CHALLENGE OF DESIGNING FOR THE OLYMPICS AND BEYOND



Streetscape views of Millennium Water show the community centre, top right, and the view from the north side of False Creek, above.

## MILLENNIUM WATER

Sixteen buildings will make up this high-profile development, planned first to house athletes for the 2010 Olympics and later to become a model sustainable community of 1,100 residential units.

“Millennium Water is the place to be,” says Barry Scott, partner of Maynards Auctioneers, observing the bustle of construction on the southeast sector of False Creek from his office window on West Second Avenue.

Scott, who was born and raised in the neighbourhood – at Seventh and Columbia – knows the area as well as an auctioneering block.

“As kids we used to play in the water in False Creek. It was all industrial,” he recalls.

In two years, the area known as Southeast False Creek will become the Vancouver Olympic Athletes’ Village, providing accommodation for 2,800 Olympic athletes, coaches and officials before being converted into a model sustainable community.

“The rest of the world is looking at what Vancouver’s doing here,” says Scott.

“The whole space between the bridge and Science World, from Second Avenue to the water – it’s amazing what’s going on. It’s the quality of what’s being built there and the balance of what’s on the site – a school, community centre, parks, amenities. There’ll be limited traffic, lots of bike routes, walking paths, and an electric tram. It’s all really designed for people.

“You could live in the area without a car. You can easily get to sports or cultural events, art galleries or restaurants by a boat ride across False Creek or a walk around the seawall.”

Millennium Water, situated on the last remaining tract of undeveloped waterfront land near downtown Vancouver, includes approximately 25 acres of former industrial land once used for sawmills, foundries, shipbuilding, metalworking and salt distribution. In fact, the heritage building, the Domtar Saltbox, has been shored up and designated for public use on the site.

When completed, the neighbourhood will comprise approximately 1,100 residential units – 730 condominiums and townhouses, 120 units of modest market housing and 250 units of affordable housing. It will establish a new standard for sustainable development in North America, with green buildings that use less energy, are based on renewable resources and help protect the environment. For example, the area will be heated by waste thermal energy from filtered wastewater. Fifty per cent of the roofs will be green.

Millennium Water is developed by Millennium Southeast False Creek Properties Ltd., part of the Millennium Group of Companies, selected by the City of Vancouver to develop the project.

Sixteen buildings will make up Millennium Water with the flagship designed by renowned Vancouver architect Arthur Erickson. His plan includes two gently curving crescents that face each other across a public garden of waterfalls and ponds.

Architectural firms involved in the development include Merrick Architecture, Gomberoff Bell Lyon Architects, Arthur Erickson/Nick Milkovich Architects, Inc. Walter Francl Architect and Lawrence Doyle Young and Wright Architects.

According to Trish de la Paz, marketing project manager at Rennie Marketing, there has already been a lot of interest in Millennium Water.

“Our challenge and our goal is that we consider all the environmental aspects at the site while at the same time creating a luxurious product for the market and a lasting legacy for the community.”

Construction will continue up to and beyond the Olympic Games. “We hosted Expo ’86 and that’s when we handed out our business card to the world . . . and the world kept it. I don’t think we, as Vancouverites, understand the potential impact of what is likely going to be the single largest Vancouver world positioning event of our lifetime,” says Bob Rennie, principal of Rennie Marketing Systems.

The expansive Millennium Water presentation centre will open for previews Sept. 29 at 212 West First Avenue (at Cook Street). Sales begin Oct. 27. Prices range from \$450,000 to \$6 million. For VIP priority register on line at [www.millenniumwater.com](http://www.millenniumwater.com). For more information phone 604-733-2010. □