



Southeast False Creek was frequented by First Nations peoples for at least 3,000 years, and likely for about 10,000 years. The area is part of the territory traditionally used by the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-waututh peoples.

SEFC was subdivided into streets by Israel Powell in 1888.

In the 1890s, the city's residential development spilled south over False Creek, creating the city's first suburb, Mount Pleasant, but construction had not yet reached the area's shoreline.

Sawmills and shingle mills lined the shores of False Creek in this decade. In total, 17 sawmills were eventually built, employing 10,000 workers.

During the First World War, the city block at the foot of Columbia Street (the Canron site) was home to Coughlan's Shipyard, where a large contract to build 8,000-tonne naval ships made the company Vancouver's largest employer in 1918.

A number of new wood and coal yards appeared along the SEFC shore, while the sawmills and metalworking industries thrived.

Despite the Great Depression, SEFC was the site of new and increasing activity in the 1930s. In 1931, the Vancouver Salt Company constructed a new building at the foot of Manitoba Street.

During the war years, the Industrial Age peaked in False Creek as 5,000 union workers laboured at the Canron site. Thousands of other workers cranked out materials for the war effort at more than a dozen sawmills.

The main plants along the SEFC shore, from west to east, were the City Yard, Dominion Bridge, Western Bridge Steel Fabricating (later Canron), Sauder Lumber Company, Vancouver Salt Company and Ruskin Cedar Products.

In the 1960s, industry began to leave False Creek. In 1970, the City of Vancouver rezoned much of False Creek for housing and parks. Meanwhile in SEFC, workers in the Canron Building were fabricating steel for sites all over the world. Local applications include downtown Vancouver high-rises, the Alex Fraser Bridge, West Edmonton Mall, Canada Place, Seattle's Husky Stadium and the Boeing plant in Everett, Washington, which was at that time the largest free-standing building in the world.

In the 1980s, industry was cleared from the north shore of False Creek in preparation for hosting the Expo '86 World's Fair.

In 1990, the City of Vancouver removed the SEFC lands from the industrial land base. Vancouver's city council adopted the "Clouds of Change" report, establishing pollution reduction targets. In 1991, the City of Vancouver proclaimed that SEFC would be the site of a model sustainable community. In 1999, Vancouver's city council adopted the SEFC policy statement, which established sustainable development principles for the site's development.

On March 1, 2005, Vancouver's city council approved the Official Development Plan for SEFC. In April 2006, Vancouver's city council selected Millennium Properties Ltd. as the developer of the SEFC Olympic Village site. Construction began in 2007 and is scheduled for completion in October 2009. Vancouver and Whistler host the 2010 Winter Olympic Games from February 12-28, 2010 and the Paralympic Games from March 12-21, 2010. The summer of 2010 marks the permanent occupancy of Millennium Water Olympic Village.

MAYORS OF VANCOUVER

