

## Troubled waters

Charlie Denson, founder of the Coney Island History Project, stood under the hull of a ship junked decades ago in the Coney Island Creek. The Brooklyn native said he remembers when the narrow estuary was a favorite dumping ground for developer and presidential paterfamilias Fred Trump and others.

Earlier this year the state fined one of the elder Trump's old developments, Beach Haven Apartments, \$400,000 for discharging sewage into the channel. The Cuomo administration has now converted most of that money into grants for environmental projects along the creek's banks. Interested organizations have until July to respond to the request for proposals.

Denson, whose museum is holding an exhibit on the creek's past, dreams of seeing it returned to its pristine, 19th-century state.

"I consider it the real essence of Coney Island," he said. "It should be used for recreation. It should be carefully monitored. And it should be restored as a natural environment."

— WILL BREDDERMAN