

The Inner Harbour is a place of beauty and should be maintained as an area to be enjoyed by all.

At present we already have several problems that impact on the city in a negative way. I recently talked with someone who has visited Victoria for at least twenty years to holiday and relax. He now avoids our town due to the changes. He stated:

- the harbour reeks of airplane fumes and the noise of continuous aircrafts steal the ambience of the area
- we are losing the old world charm
- too much development downtown that makes it look like any other city

Having traveled to a similar, albeit slightly larger, harbour in Barcelona I can not help but compare the two. Barcelona is crammed with yachts and has lost some of the magic it once must have had. To see the same happen to our smaller bay would be detrimental to Victoria. Pollution would become a concern, sea life would continue to decrease, and we could end up with some of the concerns that James Bay is dealing with from cruise ships. The inner harbour will be a storage area for the yachts of absentee owners . This was noticed in Campbell River where my brother occasionally worked on similar moored crafts. Repairs were done with parts flown in from other regions, those sailing on the boats arrived by air, boarded the boats and immediately left port providing minimal benefits to the community. Let us not fool ourselves that the benefits would be greater than the negative impact.

What brings tourists to and makes locals appreciate the area is the natural beauty. The ability to see kayakers, canoes, "pickle boats", etc. in an uncluttered bay is part of the old world charm. A multi fingered wharf with presumably restricted access is a poorly thought out and backward step .

Let us remember that the harbour belongs to us all not the tourists, developers or the rich. The plan for this marina was designed many years ago when the area was not as busy but times have changed. We have maximized it's use. Now let us severely limit the growth so that it may be enjoyed by all with limited impact on the environment and great impact on the aesthetics of the city..

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