

## **What People are Saying:**

May 1, Charlene Simon, Canada

The waterfront access and spectacular view is now available for free for all to enjoy. That is priceless, as once it is developed as a parking lot for boats and cars, the road crosses over the public pathway and the locks go on the gates, we Victorians have lost something irreplaceable. Once it is gone, it is gone. Some things are too precious to sell out, and our harbour is one of them.

Apr 30, Penny Hobson-Underwood, Canada

Let's preserve the parts of the harbour that we still have access to for those who truly love and appreciate the views and the wildlife; residents and tourists alike who find Victoria such a charming and beautiful city that is still relatively unspoiled, with relatively low levels of air, water, and noise pollution. Lets not add to the madness by selling ourselves short and caving to yet another short-sighted and greed oriented development scheme that for the mostpart benefits the developers and those with large ecologically horrific yachts. Once it's gone, it's gone.

Apr 30, Brian Mycroft, Canada

The harbour is a difficult place to navigate now. There are over 40,000 aviation movements annual. Each airplane must balance need to land into wind, perpendicular to waves, avoid tourist boats, kayaks, canoes, pickle boats (harbour ferries), etc. Oh yes, do not forget the Coho ferry. Any further reductions in space will increase risk of calamity. The land is all sold and now we are working on selling the water lots. At some point we must stop or our tourist destination, Victoria will be just as trashy as the city of Niagara Falls.

Apr 26, Stephanie Weinstein, Canada

The public lands and walkways of Victoria's Inner Harbour are enjoyed by residents and millions of visitors each year and are one of the defining features of our beautiful city. Lets not destroy this public good to benefit a wealthy few! No mega yacht marina!

Apr 26, Robert and Anita Lowe, Canada

The marina development proposal would defile Victoria's defining feature, her beautiful working harbour, which is the main attraction for visitors from the world over. We say NO to this ill-advised proposal.

Apr 26, Tom McLean, Canada

Let's preserve this gem! We are extremely concerned that there is no "Big Picture" overview of the impact this marina would have on our harbour. Great cities strive for a balance between the built environment, and greenspace (in this case, bluespace), and set aside areas as commons, for the enjoyment of all. Examples include Beacon HillPark and all our other parks in Victoria, and the great commons of other cities – Central Park in New York is an excellent example. In all cases, those in charge at that time employed a Big Picture perspective, to retain these spaces for enjoyment by all, in perpetuity. This development would tip the balance the wrong way, and destroy this gem in the heart of our city. Too often, it seems there is a trend to pave over or develop all available space. We have an opportunity now, if we choose, to stop this trend, and preserve the harbour in its present optimum balance between developed and natural. Let us remember that when a large diamond is cut into smaller gems, then cut again into even smaller gems, the process results in the original value being greatly diminished. Carving up our harbour will lead to the same thing. Let's keep this beautiful gem as it is.

Apr 22, Jean Sparks, Canada

I do not see the need for this facility in Victoria Harbour. If this site is ever developed as a marina, it should be small scale, cater to non power boats and provide a recreational facility for the residents of Victoria. Not a marine storage lot for the super rich!

Apr 22, Barry Douglas Johnston, Canada\

We live in Comox now but spend a lot of time visiting family in Victoria. We grew up in Victoria and have watched the inner harbour grow busier and busier. We strongly oppose the marina plan for any part of the inner harbour for the reasons stated in this petition as well as the overuse of the harbour.

Apr 21, Cassandra Carswell, Canada

The walks I have shared along this path at the Inner Harbour, have been some of the most memorable I have EVER had in a city.

Apr 21, Bernie Waddick, Canada

As a resident in the area I do not feel that allowing mega yachts will add any value to the people who live in the area - as these vessels cost so much to buy and maintain only a fraction of 1 percent of the population will ever get to use the facility - thus taking public park property away from the majority of the people of British Columbia.

Apr 19, Tammy Kaglik, Canada

This is a time when people are starting to realize that we must protect our environment for our children and thier futures. We can't let these things keep happening. People that truly care about our environment would never condone the building of this marina and I will be appalled at the government if they allow this to happen. We must quit destroying the nature and interfering with the way things are meant to be.

Apr 18, Jan Starling, Canada

I find it inconceivable that any level of government would consider granting approval to such a massive marine parking lot in the midst of a small, busy working harbour/airport. Besides the obvious environmental and safety concerns, it would be taking a natural treasure away from the people to place in the hands of a for-profit developer. This project would definitely not be in the best interest of the public. The negative impact on Victoria would be immense.

Apr 17, Carolyn Smith, Canada

We don't need the pollution or the sight of these yachts in the harbour. The mammals and fish do not need more stress as do the citizens of Victoria. I think those that have money could put it to better use than to ruin the view for everyone else!

Apr 17, Shelly Tellier, Canada

Nature is sacred, how can you put a price on it? The Inner Harbour is a unique attraction that should be protected.

Apr 17, David Kent, Canada

This project will ruin the inner harbour for both tourists and residents. All to provide a parking lot for 3 storey mega-yachts? Of course it could be free entertainment watching the 100' plus yachts jockey for space with the ever

increasing float plane traffic. Especially when the yachts cross the plane landing area to refuel at Fisherman's Wharf!! This project will be as successful as the other great project of late, the wonderful BC Experience!!

Apr 15, Marie Stebbing, Canada

Proposed marina not suitable for this location in the Songhees, especially directly in line with the Juan de Fuca Strait where the winds are ferocious. This area is also too congested with the various traffic that helps Victoria's economy and services the Victoria residents, float planes, Coho, Clipper, and our canoeist/kayakers, outriggers that is beneficial to the well being of our residents. Environment considerations and wave attenuation reports are incomplete and require peer reviews to substantiate their facts.

Apr 15, M Munro, Canada

The city has created a magical Inner Harbour that keeps locals and tourists yearning to visit and enjoy the views both while walking or paddling. The view of this large body of water must be treated with great respect to keep it vibrant and alive. Hiding it with parked mega yachts will detract from the magic. As well, there is not enough room for recreational and commercial boats, planes and ferries to safely share the channel when it is taken up with parked yachts.

Apr 14, Sharlene Patterson, Canada

"I think that in this time of economic and environmental crisis it is unconscionable that we are considering building a mega marina that is designed for the small elite that use an unethical amount of resources. Surely maintaining the use of the harbour and its surrounding areas to be used by locals and the present tourist flow, protecting the natural area and cultivating economic projects that serve a greater good would be more valuable and responsible."

April 12, 2009, Janet Etter, Victoria

### **No to the proposed Victoria Harbour Marina**

This marina is too big for our small harbour. Not only will it destroy picturesque views from many points along the harbour it has serious safety concerns. To take away the natural beauty of our harbour for the advantage of so few benefits is wrong. This is a public space that not only locals love and enjoy but it is what brings people from all over the world to our city. Our quaint, natural waterfront is something that is hard to find these days. It is what brings in the tourist dollars. We have active marine life, seals, water birds, otters, etc. Once we lose this there is no going back. I do not want to lose this natural beauty for an intrusive restaurant and marina that will hinder many of the beautiful views as we walk along the walkways. These boats are large and will block the line of sight views throughout the harbour. Even from West Bay marina looking back towards the Empress Hotel will be hindered. Common sense should tell us that it is not right to destroy this natural beauty for profit to a private developer.

I work on the harbour at the fuel dock and the summer traffic flow is already too much for this narrow space. I have witnessed many close calls between visiting marine traffic and airplanes. Visiting boats just don't seem to understand the floatplane traffic patterns. This marina belongs somewhere else maybe over at Macaulay point where there is already a breakwater and boat launch. Our Waterfront is for all to enjoy and it should not be taken over for a private business. I feel we benefit more by the tourists that visit our city for its natural beauty than any benefits we will get from absent boat owners. There are other locations for this marina that would not destroy the natural environment of our harbour.

Apr 11, 2009, Jeannette Rosenblum, Canada

Victoria Harbour is minuscule compared to great world harbours such as Sydney Australia or to Vancouver. The proposed megamarina development is grossly oversized, chokes marine traffic lanes and advertises a lack of con-

cern about overconsumption at a time when the global environment is threatened,I agree with my skipper:Alastair Wilson.....Paddler Jeannette

Apr 10, 2009, Vern Starling, Canada

While factual information is being bent, re-evaluated, and re-assessed in an attempt to obtain and meet minimal impact requirements on many concerns from safety issues through to environmental issues...Impact is still Impact...The real tragedy and truly un-measurable abstract impact is the location within the inner harbour itself. The loss to and displacement of thousands of Greater Victoria Area residents, user groups and tourists who enjoy a natural setting to walk or paddle would be lost forever...The serenity and beauty offered on the north shore of Victoria's inner harbour is a natural jewel that needs to be preserved for all to enjoy, for today and the future...The proposed development is violating the public interest with only the private developer smiling...

Apr 9, 2009, J. Bryan Hayter, Canada

Having had the distinct pleasure of enjoying this relatively small, beautiful,undeveloped, accessible to the public area I think it is inconceivable that it should be considered for anything other than what it is. Please let it be so that the present generation and those to come can look back with pride for the wisdom that such a decision would reflect on those who are considering this matter today

Apr 8, 2009, Daryl Williams, Canada

This proposal brings nothing to our harbour but blocked views and crowding. This is NOT the marina envisaged back when the project was approved. We were expecting a marina that catered to the local boaters who mostly own much smaller boats. These new boats are as high as six story buildings and almost 200 feet long. Belonging to the super wealthy from around the world they are rarely used and just sit there month after month. Bottom line: we are prostituting our beautiful harbour for the few bucks they will pay for maintenance and caretaking. If it goes in we will have this tragedy for years to come.

Apr 3, 2009, F. Scott Ritter, Canada

Living in the floathome community at Fisherman's Wharf, I see paddlers everyday navigating the Songhees shoreline. I use the same area myself in either my kayak or rowing dinghy. The new marina will cause major safety concerns for all vessels trying to navigate to and from the Inner Harbour.

Apr 3, 2009, Kathryn Arundell, United Kingdom

I know this view (and the rest of the harbour) having lived in Victoria. One yacht this size is bad enough, but multiply it by many more and it doesn't bear thinking about. The plan is seriously flawed and, if it is approved, the only thing that will be protected is the developer's wallet. Protect the views, protect the kayakers rite of passage, avoid potential collisions with the seaplanes - save this beauty spot and the continued enjoyment of unobstructed views. Listen to the people - do not approve this destructive application.

Apr 2, 2009, Tom Palfrey, Canada

Too much of the Inner Harbour has already been given over to floating parking lots for boats and planes and too much of the foreshore is already paved parking lot for terrestrial vehicles. Songhees is an overscaled suburbia that blots out the Sooke Hills, and the march of progress on Vic West side is blocking views of the harbor much as the hotels do on the James Bay side. Pretty soon the view from the Causeway will be an entirely manmade panorama with bits of smothered nature here and there. Not a pretty legacy.

Apr 1, Dave Brandon, Canada

The belief that there would be positive impact to the economy of this community is pure folly. The advantage to owners of these ships is simply to have cheap storage (Canadian \$ Vis `a Vis other currency)of their monuments to

excess located at the head of the inside passage. The belief that they would enhance the economy of this local through the purchasing of fuel, supplies and incidentals such as insurance and maintenance in Victoria is wishful thinking. In the past Victoria has placed great value on its esthetic beauty - that which draws tourism. If we are not astute in our stewardship of this limited resource and permit a very narrow corporate interest and its perceived profit above the common good, this and future generations will loose this limited natural resource.