



Navigation Study Concludes Proposed Marina Would Limit Access to Lime Bay Park

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — The City has now concluded a navigation access study of the area fronting Lime Bay Park and believes the proposed marina configuration will limit vessel access to the foreshore of Lime Bay Park, at the foot of Catherine Street and Cooperage Place in Victoria West.

“The Province is obligated to ensure our riparian access rights are not interfered with by the proposed marina. In addition, the City is concerned that the proposed siting of the marina will block views, diminishing both the aesthetic and functional value of the park,” noted Mayor Dean Fortin. “We feel it’s the public expectation that these amenities are essential to the park and should be protected.”

“The City has limited jurisdiction in this proposal but we feel the issue of access (riparian rights) as a landowner is both reasonable and significant. “

The City, through its ownership of Lime Bay Park has riparian rights – rights to access the land from the water – that extend from the upland park across the park foreshore to Victoria Harbour. The City met the Province’s deadline of March 31st to submit a statement of concerns related to water access to the park.

The Integrated Land Management Branch applies a standard when it evaluates whether riparian rights of access are interfered with. The standard applied is whether a vessel of 40 feet is able to manoeuvre and safely access the foreshore of the riparian rights’ holder’s land. The report concluded that the City’s emergency vessels and other similarly sized vessels would have difficulty accessing foreshore areas of Lime Bay Park under the proposed siting and configuration of the marina.

“In discussions with the consultant we learned it’s a standard practice internationally for authorities to conduct a risk assessment before introducing a large marina or terminal facility into a working harbour,” added Fortin.

“The size and scale of what is proposed would undoubtedly increase traffic in what is an already very busy, working harbour. We are requesting that Transport Canada conduct a risk assessment to ensure that potential risks arising from increased large vessel traffic, such as large vessel interaction with float planes, small craft and other commercial vessels, are identified and risk mitigation strategies put in place.”

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For More Information:

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