

Save Victoria Harbour

Speak up now before we lose the harbour we love!

Concerned citizens are strongly opposed to an application by Community Marine Concepts Group to acquire a lease on a 6.42 acre (2.6 hectares) water lot that is currently owned by the Province of British Columbia on the north shore of Victoria's Inner Harbour to build a private Mega Yacht Marina. If granted, the Provincial Government would be removing this valuable natural property from the public domain and granting it to the use of a single developer for their own private interests to cater to a mega yacht marina for 50 private yacht owners.

Quality of Life: The Westsong Walkway, overlooking the proposed site, is one of Victoria's most popular trails enjoyed by thousands of walkers who admire the harbour and distant mountain views while observing the wildlife that flourish along the waterfront. This quality of life experience will be lost forever if the project proceeds.

Public Water Use & Harbour Safety: Transport Canada under the Navigable Waters Protection Act is mandated to "preserve the public right of unimpeded safe navigation". Victoria Harbour is one of Canada's top five busiest harbours with a complex and active mixture of large and small commercial vessels, private vessels, and float planes. Victoria Harbour contains Canada's only designated marine airport which had 33,992 landings and take offs in 2008. The proposed 6.42 acre (2.6 hectares) marina will reduce the usable width of the harbour in an area where adequate water surface is critical to vessel and float plane movement. Thousands of kayakers and other recreational boat users will be forced to paddle in a narrow corridor between the existing aircraft taxiway and the wave attenuation wall of the marina.

Environment: Activities associated with marina construction can cause temporary and permanent impacts to marine habitat. A review of the reports submitted to CEAA (lead federal agency) by a qualified environmental specialist has found the reports to be lacking important information and does not provide adequate measures to mitigate potential impacts.

Public Participation Process: The size and scope of this project requires meaningful public participation to ensure an open and balanced process. To date, there has been no broad public consultation and concerns have been expressed concerning the transparency of the lead government agencies review of this application.

All of us must be responsible stewards in preserving the quality of life this undeveloped area provides to the region's citizens, visitors and for future generations. Do you want to forever relinquish this property into the hands of a single use developer? Please express your views to the government officials listed on the back.

Which view of Victoria Harbour do you want to see?

