

Stephen Hay  
 General Manager, Ellice Recycling & Trio Ready-Mix  
 1020 Hallowell Road  
 Victoria, BC V9A 7B6

August 14, 2020

re: Some thoughts on your proposed aggregate bin for Trio Ready-Mix at South Bay, Selkirk Water.

Dear Stephen,

Without knowing the details of your proposal, here is some feedback.

**Main concern: impact on water quality.** I trust that you have addressed this properly.

**No particular concern about the location of your silo.** This industrial site appears to have no natural shoreline and to have been modified and filled decades ago.

**Opportunities:** inspired by the massive restorations and cleanups just north of your site on the Selkirk Waterfront in recent decades, and using expert, innovative advice, I suggest that you experiment with:

**The creation of a green shore with a tidal marsh** where space is available. As this may attract invasive resident Canada Geese, plan for a goose control program.

**Keep the floating platform and logs** already in the area and possibly add some more. They will attract birds, seals and otters.

In light of the substantial height of your silo, consider installing **one or two perches for Bald Eagles**. Bald Eagles could help disperse the Glaucous-winged Gulls that pollute the roofs of nearby recycling plants.

The very high and large silo also provides an opportunity to build an **Osprey nesting platform** on the roof. (Note: The high light standards at the UVIC's Centennial Stadium and Royal Athletic Park have attracted nesting Ospreys for years). It may be easier than to do this than doubling the height of the low, quickly-installed nesting platform in South Bay two years ago. Also, this well-meaning platform is possibly too close to busy and noisy barge operations to attract Ospreys. The compatibility and proximity of perches for Bald Eagles and a nesting platform for Ospreys should be assessed by experts on birds of prey. These two species cohabit locally and all of this is possible in theory.

Lastly, thanks for installing ~20 well-built, **nesting boxes for Western Purple Martins** in the spring of 2020. In 2021, you need a committed caretaker to open the doors in late spring once the risk of an invasion by House Sparrows and European Starlings is over. Also, some of the nesting boxes closest to your new silo may have to be moved.

**Conclusion:** You have opportunities to show that industrial activities in a working harbour can be compatible and even enhance nature in the city. Doing so you will also contribute to decades of restorations and cleanups at various locations throughout historic Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary. A very positive story.

Thanks,

Jacques Sirois  
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