

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:51 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: Removal of 7 Japanese cherry trees on Menzies near Thriftys!

-----Original Message-----

From: Albert & Femmeke Holthuis [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2022 6:54 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Removal of 7 Japanese cherry trees on Menzies near Thriftys!

L.s.

I can only say: we come to Victoria in March because of the Cherry Blossoms! And we shop in James Bay at Thriftys....
I hate to think that next year those beautiful trees would be gone.

Why? Why?

Thank you for the attention to this IMPORTANT issue.

Femmeke Holthuis
14 Riverview Place
Canmore, Alberta

[REDACTED]

From: Ciska Rockwell [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2022 2:47 PM
To: Public Hearings
Cc: Ciska
Subject: OPPOSITION to proposed re-zoning bylaw amendment to lands known as 111 Croft St., 450-458 Niagara St. and 110 Menzies St. Attention: Public hearing March 24, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.

This is to be added to the agenda of the hearing being held in Council Chambers, Victoria City Hall, for the lands mentioned above, on March 24, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.

This email is a revised version of the one I submitted earlier. This is the one I want added.

My opposition email to be presented at the hearing is as follows:

The proposed apartment building (6 floors) will be higher than any other residential building in the nearby area and must be reconsidered! It needs to be lower! The proposed apartment building will not only be far too high for the area but it will also have very many suites. It will have 137 to be exact. It will also not have enough parking spaces to accommodate the tenants living there. To be exact there will only be 91 stalls with 9 stalls for visitors!

I'm assuming the residences will be more luxurious then what is presently there. I also assume that few, to none, of the previous tenants could ever manage to pay the upcoming rents in the new building. In actuality, we need more affordable housing for the people of Victoria, not more luxury apartments. We have plenty of those going up downtown!

The plan is to reduce residential parking from 146 stalls to 91 stalls!

The visitor parking will be reduced from 14 stalls to 9!

The residential parking situation in the area is already untenable at this time!

I suspect the tenants will be charged for use of parking spaces in addition to their rent.

As a result, the tenants will attempt to park in the already over crowded streets. There isn't enough street parking now.

How can James Bay accommodate extra vehicles???!!!

It will be a nightmare.

The proposed re-zoning wishes to reduce the front and back yard setbacks as well as the flanking street side yard setback on Menzies St. This amounts to getting rid of green spaces and many, if not ALL, trees on the plot.

At present there are grassy areas and numerous trees. Some trees are very old and very big.

Saanich protects it's trees and green spaces; what's going on in Victoria?

It seems the new proposed design will necessitate cutting down ALL existing trees.

This is not good thinking. It's against the very environmental practices Victoria apparently prides itself on upholding.

(As of this writing, the cherry trees on Menzies St. are in full bloom as they have been for the 50 years that I've lived here!)

It seems that the buildings that are there now will come down , since all of the tenants have been evicted. Something will go up in its place.

Please, make sure that the new buildings will not be higher than 4 floors, will have ample parking spaces for all tenants where the cost of parking will be included in the tenant's rents. Also make sure that some, if not most, of the trees that are there at present will remain. A little grass here and there, would be good as well.

Thankyou for your consideration,
Occupant at 501 Niagara St., Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1H2

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:54 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: Save the Trees!

From: Barbara Herringer [REDACTED]
Sent: March 17, 2022 3:31 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Save the Trees!

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please reconsider your plans to remove the mature purple plum trees on Menzies along Niagara. No development is worth losing trees that are so badly needed for both carbon capture, and for the beauty they provide to individuals and to the city. Even those of us who don't live in the neighbourhood derive great pleasure from them. Surely, there are alternatives to destroying healthy and beautiful trees. This is unnecessary.

Barbara Herringer, PhD

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:54 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: Flowering plums on Menzies

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: March 17, 2022 4:42 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Flowering plums on Menzies

My wife and I are opposed to the removal of these seven trees to widen the side walk. We walk by them frequently.
The trees are more important than wider sidewalks.

John Miller
2-408 Dallas road

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:52 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: Save the trees!

From: Carole Roy [REDACTED]
Sent: March 18, 2022 5:59 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Save the trees!

It is surprising to hear that the Victoria city council is considering cutting down beautiful trees at Niagara & Menzies.

As you may have heard, trees are important for ecological protection AND for mental health of people living in cities. And apparently, the reason is that to want to move the *sidewalk....?!!*

Save these trees. people all over the world want to come and live in Victoria because of trees, not sidewalks!
Be creative and find another solution than cutting down trees.

M. C. Roy
Victoria.

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:53 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: Cherry tree removal 110 Menzies street

-----Original Message-----

From: Doris Schulz [REDACTED]
Sent: March 17, 2022 6:17 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Cherry tree removal 110 Menzies street

Dear Mayor and Council,

I was very disappointed to see that the city does not want to save the beautiful blooming cherry trees on Menzies street. Council is slowly cutting down/ digging up the character of Victoria. The cherry trees farther up Menzies at Capital Park were removed and replaced with a non blooming tree. Those Japanese cherry blossom trees were given to the City of Victoria over 40 years ago, with the hope that they would be maintained until their demise, but not at the whim of a city council. These trees on Menzies are healthy, blooming right now, adding to the character of the neighborhood.

If need be. I am willing to contribute to an arborist, to confirm the health of those trees. Fernwood, proceeded with the same approach, saving their trees from councils ill thought out plan to remove their trees. I am sure residents of James Bay will also fight in the same community spirit as Fernwood.

Please don't remove James Bay Cherry Blossom trees.

Regards,

Doris Schulz

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:52 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: Trees on Menzies and Niagara Street

From: Heather Reimer [REDACTED]
Sent: March 18, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Trees on Menzies and Niagara Street

Dear Mayor and City Council,

As a resident of James Bay, I was deeply disturbed to learn the city plans to tear down 7 Mature flowering plum trees along Menzies Street near Niagara St.

Each year in February and March when the pink blossoms appear on these trees, it is a magical sign of Spring in the James Bay area. They bring unbelievable joy to the residents of this area and should not be torn down. These trees attract bees and birds and are part of the needed eco-system for so many creatures.

Victoria is well known for its lovely gardens and beautiful trees. Please stop tearing them down in favour of parking lots, construction sites and more concrete.

Thanks so much for listening.

Sincerely,
Heather Reimer
James Bay Resident

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:53 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: The uglification of James Bay

-----Original Message-----

From: Jackie Ballerone [REDACTED]
Sent: March 18, 2022 2:12 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: The uglification of James Bay

Dear Mayor and City Council,

James Bay is heading in the wrong direction. This quaint and cozy neighbourhood seems to be growing uglier by the day. But it doesn't have to be this way.

The plan to cut down the beautiful flowering plum trees along Menzies between Simcoe and Niagara is another nail in its coffin.

Just like the newly widened sidewalk being constructed on Simcoe from Croft to Oswego. Double wide concrete with nary a tree in sight.

My apartment overlooks James Bay "village" and my expansive view isn't a thing of beauty.

On the Thrifty's side is a messy chaotic parking lot, deserted buggies all over the street, a subterranean chain coffee spot, a booze outlet, a dark uninviting pizza joint and the entrance to two of the only attractions here, an enticing consignment and thrift store. But no one can see them from the "village".

Across from Thrifty's is a dreary stained brown mess of a building with more subterranean shops and services topped by a pharmacy, a bank branch, a couple of clinics (one now closed), and another messy chaotic parking lot.

The far corner is blessed by a lovely florist and a characterific used book store/coffee shop but that's about it for charm. The rest of the "village" is comprised of a rough and tumble pub, and nondescript services such as a hair salon with its permanently closed curtains, real estate agent, greasy spoon, liquor store, a quasi-bakery (no bread but you can get yet another hamburger and more pizza), a vet hospital, fast food outlet, convenience store, closed laundromat, a coffee shop situated behind yet another parking lot, a gas station under construction for at least two years.

Even the pocket park is a haven for lost souls who camp and loiter next to the kids playground. Till they come out at night and noisily roam the streets and frighten the heck out of the locals.

It's not a community that beckons to visitors, window shoppers or restaurant goers. Haphazard patio tables tucked in dank corners. A few decaying plants here and there. I don't know why but there doesn't seem to be much civic pride amongst the commercial tenants.

Capital Park might have spruced up the neighbourhood but where is the Park its name alludes to? And across the street? Another parking lot!

Take a walk down Cook Street village or Oak Bay village. They are lively, fun, safe, lots to look at, cozy pubs, coffee bars, restaurants, boutiques with inviting window displays, boulevards, trees, flowers, tables in the sun.


James Bay has a lot going for it, location, location, location, many pockets still filled with beautiful heritage houses and tree lined streets. And it has endless possibilities if treated with the respect, care and attention it deserves.

I'm aware a handful of beautiful mature flowering trees do not make a village. But they sure help hide some of the ugly. Especially needed now that some of that ugly will be years of new construction to replace the current understated, low profile, family friendly, community friendly, much needed affordable garden apartments.

When I moved to Victoria I was struck by the springtime spirit-raising beauty of its flowering trees. People walk the neighbourhoods here and actually take pictures of our trees in bloom. Even the media take a moment away from the grim news of the day to showcase this phenomenon. Has anyone ever been moved by a native tree sapling? I think not.

Come on, let's make James Bay beautiful. It could be a visitor's Mecca. Let's plant more trees not cut the ones we already have. Let's put parking lots behind buildings, not in front. Let's encourage neighbourhood civic pride amongst commercial tenants. Let's give incentives to beautify what could become a charming village instead of another urban wasteland.

Let's start by keeping the beauty we already have. These iconic mature springtime beauties lift our collective spirits in a small but meaningful way.

Sincerely,
JJ Ballerone
425 Simcoe Street


[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:53 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: Flowering cherry trees on Menzies

From: L. Cannon [REDACTED]
Sent: March 18, 2022 11:28 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Flowering cherry trees on Menzies

Oh, please, can't you save these trees? How hard would it be to build the walk around them, really?

I notice that the extended side walk from Oswego to Croft is nicely enlarged, but it would have been so much nicer still if trees had been included.

Please reconsider!

Linda Cannon
205 Government Street

[REDACTED]

From: Linda Carlson [REDACTED]
Sent: March 18, 2022 9:41 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Croft St, Menzies St, Niagara St development

Dear Mayor and Council:

Overall I am in favour of the development to replace the aging units of Village Green bordering on Croft, Niagara and Menzies Streets in James Bay. Our community will benefit from 137 housing units on that site. I applaud the reduction in vehicle parking spaces.

There are 2 issues of concern:

1. Existing tenants:

Many existing tenants have resided at Village Green for years, decades in some cases. As a result they have affordable rents. Those units are homes. Today I read that the cost of a 1 bedroom apartment in Victoria is \$1795 per month. There is no way that the Village Green residents can pay market rents like \$1795 for a 1 bedroom unit. I am deeply concerned about displacement and potential homelessness of many of my neighbours who reside there.

I do not know what precise plans are in place by the owners of the property to ensure that existing tenants can relocate to affordable units, but I believe it is reasonable for the owners to ensure that is the case. The current owners indicated at a neighbourhood meeting that their business is exclusively a rental business and that they own many rental units. I believe it is reasonable for them to offer rental units as available to Village Green tenants at rents comparable to what they are currently paying. Whatever accommodation is made for existing tenants, I believe it will require City staff to ensure that tenants needs are met.

2. Menzies Street and the removal of the flowering plum/cherry trees:

No amount of architecture can soften the streetscape on Menzies from Niagara Street north to Thrifty Foods. It is the trees along the west side of the street that make it a pleasing block.

As I write this, the trees on the Village Green boulevard are in full blossom. They are simply gorgeous and a welcome sight. I appreciate the need for wider sidewalks to accommodate all of us, regardless of our mode of getting about. I cannot tell from the proponents' drawing what kind of trees are envisioned along Menzies Street, but it would be welcome news to know that they will be of a flowering variety.

Thanks you,
Linda Carlson
43 Lewis Street in James Bay

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:52 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: Re FLOWERING TREES

From: Roberta Pyx Sutherland [REDACTED]
Sent: March 18, 2022 2:45 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Re FLOWERING TREES

Hello Councillors

Please would you reconsider cutting replacing the plum trees on Menzies St.

This replacement programme is premature.
The timing is completely I'll advised.
This is of great concern to the neighborhood.

Thank for giving consideration to this request
Roberta Pyx Sutherland

<https://www.robertapyxsutherland.com/>
No mud~no lotus

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:53 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: The Plum Trees on Menzies Street

From: Sahra Samnani [REDACTED]
Sent: March 18, 2022 2:28 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: The Plum Trees on Menzies Street

The Cherry Trees on Menzies,

Each year I wait for the blooms of the Plum Trees on Menzies Street. I live in the upper level of a heritage home, and from my den window I have a particularly wonderful view of the Spring blooms. There is no greater teacher than nature, it shows us that even after the longest most challenging of Winters- life breaks through and flourishes once more. During these difficult two years, I watched those beautiful trees gently shift each season. From my den window I observed people standing beneath the shade of them on hot days and pause for a moment while snow collected softly on their branches. I've watched the leaves fall and tumble in the autumn winds, and smiled at the soft sprinkle of blossoms in the Spring. I do not know the purpose behind the proposed tree removal, but I do know the weight and power these trees hold for our neighbourhood.

They are a moment of rest, a drink of beauty and a pause, for those of us who need it. On difficult days I know they call me out from my home, particularly in the spring, and have me walking beneath them and exhaling. They provide lessons, rest, shade, beauty and reprieve. I think we as a world often take too lightly the power of nature and the depth in which it heals us everyday. These trees have roots that extend far beyond themselves; their tendrils of support hold our neighbourhood tightly.

Our summers are hotter, and our times more difficult. These are the days we need the shade of the trees and the wisdom of their beauty. If these seven Plum Trees can be spared- please let it, so they may continue their work tending to us and our neighbourhood. Perhaps this is an opportunity to learn to work with nature, rather than against it.

With warmth and hope,
Sahra Samnani

[REDACTED]

--

Sahra Samnani
Principal

h.t.be
2-129 Menzies St
Victoria BC



[REDACTED]

From: Deborah Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2022 12:33 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: RE: Public Hearing – March 24, 2022- For Submission

March 20, 2022

To Mayor & Council:

RE: Public Hearing – March 24, 2022
Removal of Plum Trees on Menzies, from Niagara to Thrifty's

I would like to voice my dismay and disapproval upon hearing the City Council is planning to remove 7 purple plum trees currently beautifully blooming and growing at the above location.

This act is totally unnecessary and adds to the very long list of how this Mayor and Council continue to **UNbeautify** our once lovely City. These trees provide the environment with stability to the soil, oxygen, coolness in the summer, and calmness. You cannot walk down Menzies without smiling when you see and smell the beauty of their blooms. It is important for residents to be proud and get enjoyment from their community, particularly in these stressful times. Actions such as removing these 7 trees will further destroy the beauty of James Bay and Victoria. It only adds to the increasing anger in people of Victoria and their subsequent reactions and protests to the governments. So many people are already angry at previous alterations such as to Vancouver Street, the changes to the top of Government Street, etc., etc. The list continues to grow.

Victoria also thrives on tourists that visit each season and take a horse carriage ride through James Bay, viewing the tree-lined streets. Removing these lovely trees would be removing a landmark and natural beauty in James Bay. I ask you and would like an answer as to how this action is any different or any better than those people who have removed or defaced monuments in Victoria. These people are condemned or charged for such actions, yet the Mayor and Council get away with removing and defacing natural monuments that have been growing in our City for just as many years! It is shameful to remove these natural beauties along Menzies Street!

Please STOP these shortsighted actions that continue to ruin our city and cannot be undone. This Mayor and Council are not listening to the residents of Victoria and continuously take no care to what is being destroyed. It is not too late to start listening to residents in James Bay and Victoria! This is a plea to not remove the 7 plum trees on Menzies.

James Bay Resident
Deborah Robinson
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Fin Tax Service [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2022 5:44 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Re: 111 Croft St, 110 Menzies St and 450-458 Niagara St
Attachments: DSC04621.JPG

Fellow Victorians (well, some of you)

- I would like to express my complete dissatisfaction with this proposal. As a 37 year resident of the immediate area, and a 40 year resident of James Bay, I feel that this proposal is completely out of scale with the neighbourhood.

A six story building, where the balconies on the Niagara street are 6 inches from the property line, reminds me of what we are seeing nightly on the news: Soviet-style architecture, completely out of scale, and showing no respect for the neighbours. The contrast to what exists, and has since the early part of the 20th century, on the other side of Niagara, reinforces the complete unsuitability of this proposal. Displacing 59 tenants, and scores more in phase two, while offering a paltry 10% discount on the stratospheric rents the proponent will be asking, is completely unacceptable. In the 1960s, mammoth towers were allowed in James Bay. While this proposal is not a tower, its' scale will overwhelm the streetscape.

Other negatives:

- Destruction of the flowering plum trees
- Six months or more of construction noise, dust and disturbance (calculated to drive out the victims of phase 2?)
- Closure of lanes, and sidewalks and interruption of BC Transit service

We hear that the buildings have exceeded their useable lifespan. One only has to look to the east side of Menzies to see housing TWICE as old as Village Green, in wonderful condition. Should the proponent be rewarded for not being a conscientious steward of its' property? I think not.

The choice is clear: affordable housing that provides natural amenities and a sense of community, or more despoilation and ruin.

Please chose wisely.

Yours truly

Fin MacDonald

**Fin Tax Service
204-500 Rithet St.
Victoria BC V8V 1E3**
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:51 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: SAVE the blooming trees

From: Becca Leier [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2022 5:06 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: SAVE the blooming trees

Hi

I am writing in regards to cutting down the blooming trees.

I was walking today and these brought me so much joy.

Why would you want to cut down trees that bring people joy in your community?

I hope you reconsider this.

Thank you for your time.

As a resident of James Bay, I am incensed that, yet again, our tree killing mayor and council is determined to further divest my community of the spectacular flowering plum trees on Menzies Street, near the Five Corners. These trees contribute so much charm and well being to our community. Yes, you have said you will replace these trees, but your mandate seems to be planting native British Columbia saplings that will take years to mature or contribute to air quality. Tourists that flock to Victoria in the spring enjoy our beautiful flowering trees, and will not come to see immature trees, high rise condos and apartments or bicycle lanes. Stripping James Bay's urban landscape serves only to deprive James Bay of all that makes it such a charming place to live.

Barbara Marshall
Victoria, BC

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:52 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: plum trees

From: Gail McGraw [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2022 12:13 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: plum trees

To: Mayor and Council members

I am a James Bay resident. I live across the street from the plum trees on Menzies St. that you are considering cutting down.

These trees are healthy and provide shade and beauty to our community.

The sidewalk is wide enough for wheelchairs, scooters and people using walkers. I see them go by all day, every day. I have had the opportunity to

see for myself that the sidewalk is compatible for those folks with limited mobility when I regularly walked down Menzies with a friend in a motorized wheelchair.

These trees are valued, not just by those of us on Menzies St., but by all who pass by. There are people taking photos of these beauties

every day, and just looking at them in wonder, admiring their amazing blossoms.

In the summer, these trees provide much needed shade to residents and those using the Menzies St. sidewalk.

Birds of many kinds fill these trees all day, every day.

It would be incredibly destructive to decimate these wonderful trees.

Please reconsider, if you truly represent the citizens of Victoria.

Thank you.

Gail McGraw

James Bay

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:51 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: Trees on Menzies between Niagara Street and Simcoe

-----Original Message-----

From: Gloria Wagner [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2022 5:51 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Trees on Menzies between Niagara Street and Simcoe

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am emailing to implore you to not cut down the trees on Menzies between Niagara and Simcoe Streets. These trees are healthy, adding a much needed beauty in that area. The residents of James Bay always look forward to the lovely spring blossoms that are now on display. Menzies lacks trees, please do not remove the ones that are established.

Last year we experienced one of the hottest Summers on record. Our trees are needed more than ever to protect us from the dangers of climate change. We should be adding more trees, not destroying those already in place.

Thank you for allowing me this input.

Kind regards,

Gloria Wagner

A James Bay resident.

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:50 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: Cheery trees on Menzies Street

From: Harvey Koffman [REDACTED]
Sent: March 21, 2022 8:18 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Cheery trees on Menzies Street

I am a resident of James Bay. I am aware of a development being proposed on land occupied by townhouses, on Menzies between Simcoe and Niagara. I can't speak to the merits of the larger proposal, but would urge Council to save the cherry trees that line the block. I understand this could make construction more difficult, but I hope something could be done to save at least some. Failing that, would Council consider a development charge that would be used to compensate local residents for the loss of natural beauty, that could be used for improving local parks? The lack of boulevards in James Bay does mean most local greenery is on private property. Is there a neighbourhood greenery plan to ensure this important community resource is maintained and increased?

Thank you.

Harvey Koffman
201-420 Parry Street

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[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:50 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: Save the Trees on Menzies!

From: Ira Shorr [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2022 7:28 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Save the Trees on Menzies!

TO: Victoria mayor and City Council

I urge you to stop the destruction of the 7(!) beautiful, flowering plum trees on Menzies St--from Niagra to Thrifty's.

I cannot understand how the developer's proposal for Menzies, was approved with the intent to kill these trees. There are numerous reasons to save these plum trees, as many of you often note, in proclaiming yourselves "environmentalists."

If you care about the environment, protect these trees.

Sincerely,

Ira Shorr
620 Toronto St
James Bay

[REDACTED]

From: Karl Meade [REDACTED] >
Sent: March 21, 2022 12:50 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: 111 Croft Street - OBJECTION to Application, all amendments and variances

Hello,

I strenuously object to this development at 111 Croft Street and do not support granting any variances on the permit. The neighbourhood has parking issues and no reduction in vehicle parking stalls makes sense: reducing 146 to 91 stalls, or visitor parking from 14 to 9 stalls. Do not add pressure to already overcrowded streets!

Yard setbacks are in place to prevent neighbours shadowing their neighbours unduly. No one wants to be next to such a large building even without setback variances! The building is too tall for this neighbourhood. It will shadow their neighbour's homes, cause noise pollution with its heating system fan blowing 24 hours a day and ruin any privacy enjoyed by the neighbours. No, no, NO to a 6 storey development on Croft street and no to changing the zoning in any way.

Sincerely,
Karl Meade
51 Lewis Street
Victoria, BC
[REDACTED]

Longlisted for 4 CBC Literary Prizes (Nonfiction x 2, Short Story, Poetry)
Finalist for the Malahat Review's Open Season Award for Creative Nonfiction
Short-listed for Arc Magazine's Poem of the Year
KarlMeade.com



[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:52 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: Save the trees on Menzies St

From: KATHRYN OGG [REDACTED]
Sent: March 18, 2022 7:16 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Cc: Ocean [REDACTED]
Subject: Save the trees on Menzies St

Dear Mayor Helps and Victoria City Council:

I am writing in support of saving the flowering plum trees on Menzies Street between Niagara and Simcoe Streets.

There is nothing wrong with these beautiful trees. This is obvious, looking at their healthy vibrancy. They give much-needed colour and joy to the people who walk down this street. Not to mention the shade in summer and the carbon uptake that mature trees offer to help clean our air.

The City and the developer need to go back to the drawing board and find a way to keep these much-loved and necessary flowering plum trees. Move the sidewalk closer to the buildings, or rejig the street area - the way we have done during Covid - to move the sidewalk to the street.

There must be a solution to this that doesn't involve the removal of these iconic and beautiful trees.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Ogg
Victoria

[REDACTED]

From: Ocean Inglin [REDACTED]
Sent: March 21, 2022 12:42 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: input on the proposed changes to 111 Croft Street, 110 Menzies Street and 450-458 Niagara Street

To whom out may concern,

I am writing in regards to the proposed changes to 111 Croft Street, 110 Menzies Street and 450-458 Niagara Street. In particular, I am concerned with the purported removal of the flowering plum trees which grace the boulevard along Menzies St. These beloved trees are a hallmark of our neighbourhood, and their loss would be mourned by the community. As they are not on the actual property to be re-developed, but rather on city property, it would be wonderful if the mayor and council could find it in their hearts to accommodate such treasured assets to the neighborhood. I am sure that some compromise could be reached between developer and city to preserve these neighbourhood icons. I ask you to take the time to visit our neighbourhood and stroll along under the trees now while they are blooming in order to gain some appreciation for the beauty and grace that they represent. I acknowledge that affordable housing is a vital need these days, but surely these seven trees so close to the street can be saved without the loss of a single proposed residential unit.

I implore you to do the right thing and vote for accommodation and preservation.

Ocean Inglin
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:52 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: Menzies plum trees

From: Sandra Gaunt [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2022 10:36 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Menzies plum trees

Hello - Please do not cut down the beautiful plum trees along Menzies. They make for a glorious walk from Niagara St to Thrifty's. I've had family living on this end of Menzies for over 20 years and I look forward to the plum blossoms each spring. Because of these trees, Menzies is one of the most beautiful streets in Victoria.

Sincerely,
Sandra Gaunt

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:52 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: Trees

-----Original Message-----

From: Sarah Heard [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2022 2:57 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Trees

Good morning,
To whom this may concern.

I would like to ask you not to chop down trees please. I now live in the UK GB but my Family still live on the Island and main land. How can we ask the south American countries not to deforest when we have such a flippant attitude towards a few trees on our door step. England is trying to plant as many trees as possible every where they can and you have so much space you can't manage to leave a couple of trees.

Shame on you
Mrs Sarah Heard

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:51 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: please protect flowering plum trees, James Bay

From: Sherra Picketts [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2022 5:22 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: please protect flowering plum trees, James Bay

Please! Do not cut down the beautiful, healthy, mature, flowering plum trees along Menzies Street (between Menzies & Niagara) in James Bay.

Instead, have them protected from construction activity, just as the many beautiful, healthy, mature trees were for the duration of construction of Capitol Residences recently along Superior Street (between Menzies & Government) in James Bay.

Thank you!

Sherra Picketts
425 Simcoe Street, James Bay

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:51 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: Plum trees on Menzies

-----Original Message-----

From: William Donnette [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2022 6:10 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Plum trees on Menzies

Good day: we are from Edmonton and enjoy visiting Victoria in March and April, seeking a respite from the long winters in our home city. One thing in particular that we find most appealing are your beautiful blooming trees. And in fact, once we return home, one of the first things our friends and neighbours will ask us will be “ did you get to see the flowering trees?”

Those trees, along with the ocean, are the two very most endearing things about your city. We are sure they appeal to local residents every bit as much as they do to your many many visitors. For that reason we strongly urge you to NOT remove the seven plum trees along Menzies.

It doesn't seem as if the local residents are asking the developers of the adjoining property to do a lot of changing to plans they may have. For the sake of the beauty and ongoing appeal of your city we urge you to leave the trees as they are and have the developers get a bit more creative and use them as a part of the overall design of their Development.

Normally we don't get involved in any way in the politics of a place we are visiting but your trees are very dear to our hearts and we're sure to the hearts of many thousands upon thousands of other people. Do everything you can to preserve them—ALL OF THEM.

Thank you. Sincerely, Doug & Nola Leighton

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:53 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: FW: PLEASE Save the trees on Menzies Street

From: Heather Murray [REDACTED]
Sent: March 18, 2022 12:31 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: PLEASE Save the trees on Menzies Street

Dear Mayor and city counsel members It is with great shock and sadness to learn that the 7 gorgeous blooming heritage plum trees lining Menzies st. have been destined to be chopped down .?? This is depressing and a very unfortunate proposal.. I believe you should seriously reconsider this act of barbarism and find other options during our planets global warming crisis..My suggestion is to leave them alone and create a heritage tree safe zone . There are other massive trees on that property and we would like to hear from the cities" arborists as to exactly what and why they are being cut ? Conservation of nature should be top priority , James Bay is a migrating bird sanctuary and those trees also provide pollinators with the sustenance they need >> Please find another solution then chopping them down ...they are beautiful like natural living breathing works of art..
signed sincerely Heather
Murray James Bay resident for 24 years [REDACTED]