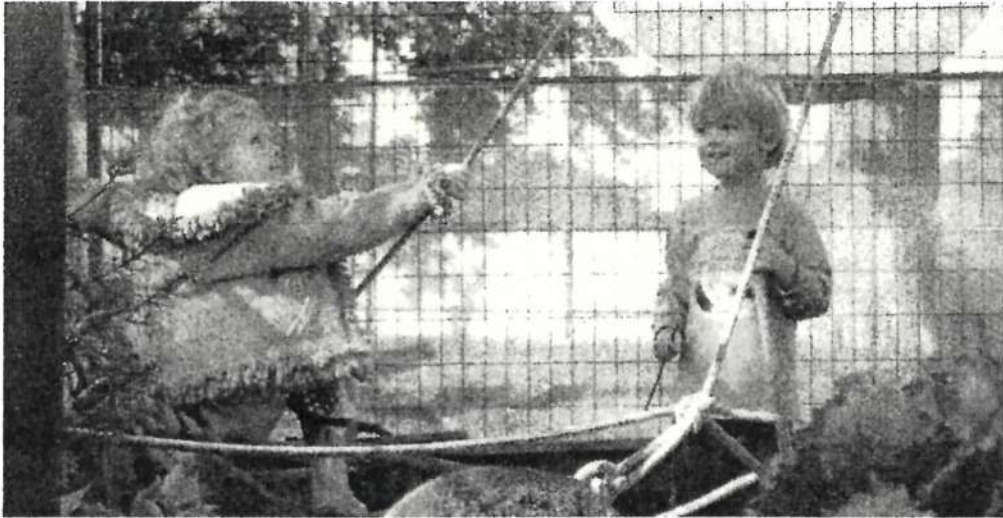


ATTACHMENT D



To: the Mayor and City Council of Victoria,

Re: proposed rezoning application for 350 Sylvia Street
Owners: Sarah Hilliard (ECE) & Jim Rawling

Introduction:

I was the early childhood educator at Lansdowne Preschool (a parent owned non-profit co-op) when it closed last year after more than 60 years. Our site on Ryan Street was sold and redeveloped, and the preschool was unable to find a permanent new home. As a result I'm preparing to open a licensed home-daycare in the house my partner and I have lived in since 1979. A home-based family daycare for 8 children is a permitted use under the current zoning and the VIHA license is in progress.

I believe children need to spend a significant portion of their day outside so that they can know a place: know where to find the hoverfly's nest in the ground next to the lavender, know that when the Bewicks wren cruises by it's almost time to go home, and know where to find the snow peas when it's time for lunch. Children need to spend time outdoors to become familiar with the natural world, and to feel the goodness of rain, the rush of the wind, and the warmth of the winter sun.

Description of Proposal:

We propose a special zone be established that permits a non-allowed use two piece bathroom (toilet and sink) to be added to the existing garage of a conversion rental triplex in James Bay.

Project's Benefits:

A bathroom would facilitate the safe supervision of children who spend significant periods of time outdoors. Having a bathroom that is easily accessible from the garden would dispense with the need to troop 8 kids into the house when only one of them needs to go.

Project Impacts:

While there may be an increase in vehicle traffic at drop-off and pick-up times, there will be no extended requirement for additional parking as there will be no hired staff.

Heritage Status:

The house was built in 1898 and rebuilt in the 1980s; it is not heritage listed or designated, nor will there be any exterior changes.

Infrastructure:

The addition of a two piece bathroom to the garage will not affect the public infrastructure significantly.

Neighbourhood:

Home-based family daycares provide an important service that help maintain neighbourhoods; proximity makes life easier for working families.

Conclusion:

The addition of a bathroom that is easily accessible from the outside would greatly facilitate the flow of the program. It would also offset the cost of having a second caregiver available for bathroom breaks thereby reducing daycare costs for families. I believe providing extended periods of uninterrupted time for children to engage deeply in exploration and play is vital to their learning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Hill and". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.