

Janice Appleby

From: Monica Dhawan
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 4:01 PM
To: Janice Appleby
Subject: FW: THE MARINA NOBODY WANTS
Attachments: 0011155810.PDF

Can you please attach this one as well?

Thanks,
Monica

From: Terry Milne [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 27, 2015 8:44 PM

Subject: THE MARINA NOBODY WANTS

Please find (below) a letter sent to Minister Steve Thomson, and also (attached above) an Open Letter to the Minister in the Sunday Victoria Times Colonist, sponsored by numerous local clubs, organizations and individuals.

Victoria Harbor falls under three levels of government but neither former federal nor provincial authorities held a public meeting to address citizens' concerns. Representations and questions were ignored or given short shrift and it seemed personal connections and paid lobbyists ruled the day. All is described below.

The section of Harbour involved is heavily used by local people, visitors, tourists and many paddle boating individuals and clubs. The area will be swallowed up by a commercial marina with a profit motive, The people who use the water lot and walkway area are virtually all are opposed to this project. For this reason we urge Victoria's Mayor and Council to thoroughly review the latest marina design (which we have heard exceeds boundaries) and to hold a public meeting and hear citizen's concerns before any decisions are made.

PLEASE READ ON.

VICTORIA HARBOUR DEFENCE ALLIANCE (VHDA)

2777 Benson Plc

Honourable Steve

Thomson

Victoria BC. V8N 1S5

**Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources
(FLNR)**

23 November 2015

Dear Minister Thomson,

We are a group of Victoria citizens, including former Victoria Mayor Peter Pollen, deeply concerned over an unfolding travesty, namely the mega-yacht marina in Victoria Harbour promoted by Robert Evans. We know, and you must know, this use of Crown Land is contrary to the wishes and benefit of the many Victorians who use and enjoy the area, and this in turn is contrary to the Crown Land Allocation Principles, of which you are the Steward designated to protect the public interest,

This project is rife with concerns over improper lobbying, and procedures, conflict of interest, lack of transparency, lack of due diligence and public accountability, disregard of riparian rights, and a failure to ensure the public benefit. Victorians have consistently declared overwhelming opposition to the project with a petition containing 7,000 signatures and many protest gatherings by hundreds of citizens and boaters. Despite this FLNR blessed the project, without identifying any meaningful public benefit or calling a meeting to address the many public concerns. When the City held the one and only government sponsored public meeting on the issue FLNR ducked out and assigned its speaking time to the developer to promote the project. Did this equate with public transparency and accountability?

To boating experts the proponent's business plan of selling off long term slip leases to store large luxury yachts in a highly exposed part of the harbour was doomed from the start, It seemed a dubious stab at making a quick profit at the expense of the only dedicated public recreational area in the harbor. FLNR was so advised but ignored our input. Obviously the plan failed and since then FLNR has been quietly rubber stamping a revolving door of lease owners and marina designs. With the latest design FLNR's Project Officer ruled a new application would be required. However after the developer's lawyer-lobbyist, Mr. Bruce Hallsor raised objections evidently, your Chief of Staff intervened and changed your own Project Officers ruling, Perhaps this resulted from Hallsor's erroneous claim that Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps fully endorsed the new marina plan. We question what due diligence was done to assess the proponent's first business plan before leasing away the public water lot, and ask whether FLNR is about to support a similar circumstance.

Since FLNR may have breached many of the Crown Land Allocation Principles under which it is supposed to operate an investigation by the Provincial Ombudsperson has been initiated. However as the developer has abandoned the original marina plan there is an opportunity to review the whole project. Victoria has a very small and busy harbour. It is packed with shipping activity and infrastructure, and is one of the busiest water airports in the world. There is no room for a Stanley Park here, only one small area left, one place reserved for people and non-powered boaters to enjoy the quiet ambiance of the North Shore of the harbour. Is this to be lost to an unneeded development in which an actual public benefit has

still to be identified? Design dithering by the developer has provided one last chance to return the North Shore walk ways, shoreline and water reserve to the people of Victoria, where they rightfully belong. Minister, we strongly urge you to do so.

**Terrence Milne
Secretary VHDA**

**Peter Pollen
President VHDA**