

Dec 22, 08



Superintendent,  
Navigable Waters Protection Program,  
Transport Canada,  
800 Burrard St. Suite 620,  
Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2J8

Dear Sir or Madam:

**Re: Canada Gazette Notice, Nov. 29th, 2008: Community Marine Concepts LP IP Deposit No. FB2229908**

The proposed Port Victoria International Marina and Yacht Club will have detrimental effects on our business as it will take away an important part of the navigable waters that our students, customers and club members use year round in transiting along the north side of Victoria's Inner Harbour, these paddles use this route to paddle to the open waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and return. The proposed marina will also adversely affect our recreational and eco-tourism business. Visitors and residents alike who pay for our rentals to do self-guided tours or participate in our interpretive tours will be pushed away from viewing the natural and urban shoreline of the Songhees.

I own and operate Ocean River Sports, a major outdoor store and eco-tourism operator that has served Victoria for over 27 years. We are located on the Victoria upper harbour in downtown Victoria. As well as running our outdoors store, we guide kayak tours, teach kayaking and rent kayaks at our docks. The Ocean River Paddling Club and the Victoria Youth Paddling Club also launch from our docks for recreational and competitive paddling. With more than 150 members, they paddle performance canoes and kayaks ranging from solo outrigger and surf ski to 48-foot-long outrigger canoes crewed by six paddlers.

We employ over 20 people and put thousands of locals and tourists on the water each year. Our Victoria harbour is a special place that offers an interesting and safe venue for our paddlers and although we know progress will change the face of the harbour, change should not create a dangerous nor restricting environment.

We have read and agree with the well researched and critical letters recently written by Victoria Canoe, Jodie Watson of Gorge Waterway Initiative and Kayak Club and South Island Sea Kayak Association. We have also support the very well written report by the respected marine biologist, Brian Emmett, Former Chair of the Victoria Environment and Shoreline.

It is our opinion that Transport Canada should not permit the Victoria International Marina to develop to the extent shown on their location plan. It will reduce the amount of harbour space that we currently share with small and large motorized vessels, planes and ferries, creating a dangerous situation.

Yours Truly,

Brian Henry  
Ocean River Sports

cc: Jim Naylor, Regional Manager, NWPP Pacific Region  
David Osbaldeston, Manager, NWPP, Ottawa  
Dr. Keith Martin M.P.  
Denise Savoie M.P.  
Hon John Baird, P.C. M.P. Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities  
Mayor Dean Fortin and Counselors, City of Victoria  
Don Prittie, Chairman of Greater Victoria Harbour Authority