

From: nancy lane macgregor **Subject:** Urban Forest

Date: October 24, 2017 at 11:25:33 AM PDT

To: mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca

-Dear Mayor and Council,

There are 51 trees on the 1201 Fort St. property. 28 will be “removed” in order to build a 6 story and 4 story condominium and 10 townhouses with underground parking for 117 cars. Most trees are on the Fort St. end of the property, which has never been built on before.

Trees remaining will be unlikely to survive the construction process of blasting glacial rock, and building to the critical root zones of those that remain on the edge. This land is on a Heritage Corridor. Without a second glance, the usual jargon of city planning can be applied to this property

I invite you to think differently. Imagine walking through this forest as many hundreds have done since the 1940's. What is to be gained by destroying this forest, our heritage, and the health of our community and city? Condominiums will not house the 55 % who desperately hold on to their rental housing costing well over 30% of incomes, or others searching for a place to live.

Abstract development is reproducing it's usual plan, to build as high and as wide on each property, selling before it begins construction to wealthy customers, and thus acquiring the next property. This is not a downtown lot with a one story run down building waiting for renewal. This is a property with a history back to pre- confederation in a residential area.

With some vision you might imagine a centre at the Pentrelew end of the property. A place for acknowledging the past and a way to the future. Reconciliation is a gift that comes with knowing the history of a place. Knowing that 150 years ago in May 1868 the City of Victoria was chosen as the capital of British Columbia. Knowing that the residents of this place,

Attorney Generals A.E. Alston and Justice H. P.P. Crease wrote the laws for how we would proceed. Knowing that during their time The Indian Act unfolded, the Potlatch was banned, the Reserve system began and Residential Schools separated children from families.

Isn't it time to stop the move up Fort St of bigger and more expensive housing and think about what could be accomplished here? We could learn from the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations that business can be done differently, with respect, sharing and caring for the environment. I urge you to slow this process, and consider a better solution for this land's use then the proposal before you.

Sincerely,
Nancy Macgregor