



P.O. Box 3336, Vancouver, BC, V6B 3Y3, (604) 254-9411

Mayor Larry Campbell and Council
City of Vancouver
453 W. 12th Ave
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

June 16, 2005

Dear Mayor Campbell and Council:

Re: Celtic Shipyards

On behalf of the Board and members of Heritage Vancouver I wish to advise you of our deep concern regarding the possible redevelopment of the historic Celtic Shipyards for proposed residential use.

Heritage Vancouver considers the Celtic Shipyards to be an important and unique component of the city's rapidly disappearing industrial heritage. The Celtic Shipyards, used by the B.C. Forestry Service, represents an especially important aspect of this heritage because of the marine and forestry associations of the site – associations for which Vancouver is historically and intrinsically linked. As the shipyards were used by the Forestry Service to build and repair their boats, the site has played a major role in the development of the province.

The buildings at the site are unique in character and construction; their massive timber construction a rapidly disappearing link with our industrial resourced-based history. Dating from the late 1940's through the 1960's are notable for their solid construction and excellent condition. The site is valuable, not only for its individual structures, but as an intact example of a working industrial operation. The site also retains a massive crane which remains in working order and adds greatly to the authenticity of the shipyards.

Heritage Vancouver believes that the historic resources of our city must reflect diversity in type and periods of time and we therefore advocated the retention of this site as an excellent representation of Vancouver's industrial and shipbuilding heritage. Somehow this site was omitted from the current Heritage Register. The proposed VHR update is an excellent opportunity to evaluate the site for addition to the revamped Register.

So little of Vancouver's industrial heritage has survived; retention of this iconic landmark would be a great achievement in reversing this very troubling pattern of heritage loss.

Sincerely,

Donald Luxton, President

Cc Gerry McGeough, Senior Heritage Planner
Richard Keate, Chair, Vancouver Heritage Commission