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The Editor,
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9726 First Street
Sidney, B.C. V8L 3C9

Re: proposed redevelopment of Sidney Post Office

I was stunned to read of the proposed redevelopment of the historic Sidney Post Office (Page 10, February 10, 1999 issue). From the illustration provided, it is very difficult to locate the heritage building amidst the additions.

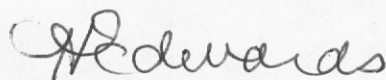
I found the placement of this article directly opposite "Take a stroll through historic Sidney" (page 11) to be ironic. On one hand, citizens are extolled to view the heritage assets of Sidney, while on the other, obliteration of the character of a designated heritage structure is being proposed. The character of a historic building is more than a "heritage aspect" and must be protected. What is the purpose of municipal designation if the property is not truly protected from unsympathetic remuddling?

I also fail to see the relevance of a mention of the Eaton's centre in downtown Victoria. This development was responsible for the destruction of ten listed heritage buildings in the downtown core, and certainly cannot be an example of good stewardship.

I truly fear for the future of the few remaining heritage assets of the once picturesque Town of Sidney. In an area which advertises itself as "Sidney by the Sea", bringing to mind images of a seaside resort, a massive development on the main street would seem to be totally out of character.

Surely a use more in keeping with the historic flavour of the building could be found. Recent announcements about special millennium funding lead me to hope that perhaps saner minds will prevail and a community use could be found for the Post Office which will maintain its integrity and importance to the community.

Yours truly,


Helen Edwards