

2423 Beacon Ave

## CAPITAL REGION

# Sidney's post office may house stores

**By Susan Chung**  
Times Colonist staff

Victoria businessman Bruce McLay is poised to buy the old Sidney post office, the red-brick landmark on the town's main street.

McLay, who won an award recently for restoring The Latch Country Inn, has a contract to buy the heritage building below the list price of \$900,000, said realtor Peter Margetts of Diversified Properties. The price won't be made public until the deal closes.

Canada Post put the building up for sale this year after moving a couple of blocks west on Beacon Avenue.

McLay is still deciding what he wants to do with the 62-year-old building at 2423 Beacon Ave.

"I have to sit back, analyse and think," said the heritage-minded developer. "I'll wait until something clicks."

But retail stores will be a likely component of the 8,000 square feet of space on two floors and in the basement.

The Sidney and North Saanich Community Arts Council wanted Ottawa to donate the building for a public art gallery. McLay is not ruling out room for the group.

McLay has built a number of condominium projects in Victoria including Polo Pacific, the Landmark and Chelsea Green. The Victoria man was also behind the renovation of the Roots clothing store and the building housing the new Starbucks coffee shop, both on Government Street.



JOHN MCKAY/TIMES COLONIST

**New future awaits old post office.**