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Historic building should be saved

In the rush to condemn the hasty and grandiose "Vision for Belleville," one building has got completely lost. The proposal calls for the "disappearance" of one of the most historic structures in the area, the Stores building on the wharf to the east of the Belleville Terminal, erected by John Raymond in 1912.

Although the building has been diminished in recent years with stucco and faux half-timbering, a simple cleanup would reveal a significant two-storey brick buildving with arched windows and a corbelled chimney. The area should continue to be known, as it was a century ago, as Raymond Wharf. And the building could easily play a useful role in future harbour development, while representing the last of the many industrial buildings that were erected to handle the passenger ships of the past.

Let's use it, not abuse it! Nick Russell, president, Hallmark Society. Victoria.