



■ RIFFINGTON: fit for a rock star . . . or an embassy

\$1.7-million mansion ready for new owner

Homeless rock stars and embassies, look no further.

An Uplands estate which was visited by British royalty and served as a U.S. consul's residence during the Second World War is for sale.

The asking price for Riffington, the 74-year-old waterfront mansion at 3175 Beach Dr., is \$1.7 million.

"It would make a great embassy, or home for a rock star," said Don Tregear of Royal Lepage Real Estate Services Ltd.

The mansion was the home of shipbuilder Hubert Wallace of Burrard Yarrows Corp., who died last July.

Tregear said the six-bedroom Tudor revival-style house with salt-water pool and three-bedroom cottage has so far been advertised only locally. But the property will soon be listed in the company's offices across Canada and the U.S. and with contact agents abroad, including the U.K. and Hong Kong.

Response has been from the curious, speculators and a few serious people, according to Tregear.

Princess Margaret is said to have dipped in the pool, and the Duke of Kent was a guest when Riffington was used by the U.S. consulate between 1928 and 1942.

Wallace bought the 1.37-hectare property follow-

ing the Second World War, restoring some parts to modern standards in keeping with the original architecture.

In 1972, when a tour of Riffington was organized by the Greater Victoria Art Gallery, the house was described as having a library that was once a billiard room, a French-style reception room and a domed, gold-leaf entrance centred with stained glass skylight.

Wallace brought a dining-room chandelier from London and floral paintings above the sideboard from one of the Dunsmuir homes.

The lower half of the house and porte cochere were built from Haddington Island granite, the same as used in the legislature, while the upper storey-and-a-half is half-timbered and roofed with Italian tile slates.

Design was by Philip Jullien, a Vancouver architect, on behalf of Andrew Wright, a principal in the Foncier group which created Uplands.

The house has more than 929 square metres on three levels of living area, a two-storey entry hall, 10 fireplaces, dressing rooms, en suite baths, three enclosed verandahs and balconies.

There is a beach cabana, changing rooms, a greenhouse, Japanese gardens and three-car garage.