



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission
DATE: 2012-DEC-17
RE: Demolition of Colliery Dam and Spillway

We are writing to express our concerns about the proposed demolition of the Colliery Dam and Spillway. There are only two properties on the Nanaimo and Federal Heritage Registers that are directly linked to Nanaimo's coal mining history. These include the Dam and Spillway and the Mine Rescue Station on Farquhar Street. The latter is privately owned and the City cannot guarantee its future. The dam and spillway, on the other hand, are municipally owned and provide the City with a singular opportunity to demonstrate heritage stewardship and leadership.

As a heritage commission, it is our duty to defend and protect the resources on the City's heritage register and to provide information and advice to Council on all heritage issues. We take this duty seriously and assume that our input is both welcomed and incorporated into the decision-making process. In this case, our input was not even solicited.

We fully understand that the dam and spillway present seismic and flooding issues that the City must address. We believe that an engineered solution can be found that resolves these issues without sacrificing the dam and spillway. We ask that you direct Staff to investigate other options as soon as possible.

Heritage buildings and sites are not renewable resources. Installing plaques in their place or displaying bits and pieces of them in other locations are not acceptable alternatives. Our heritage resources are finite and vulnerable. Ultimately, it is up to you to protect them.

Sincerely,

D. Brennan, Chair
Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission

pc A. Kenning, City Manager
 D. Holmes, General Manager, Corporate Services
 I. Howat, Director, Strategic Relationships
 T. Swabey, General Manager, Community Safety & Development
 A. Tucker, Director of Planning
 C. Jackson, Manager, Community Planning
 T. Hickey, General Manager, Community Services
 R. Harding, Director, Parks, Recreation & Culture