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Voice of the people

Sun. Sep 27 - 4:46 AM

Spare the vista

I strongly support the appeal by the "Coalition to Save the View (of the Harbour) from Citadel Hill" ("Group fights for view," The Sunday Herald, Sept. 20). I think that views open not just our eyes, but also our minds. They make us feel good. Views like this vista of the harbour are part of what makes Halifax a city worth living in.

The view from the Citadel Hill has been threatened many times in the past and I hope that the premier and the mayor will combine to cut down this 14- to 18-storey view-buster of a World Trade Centre to a size that enhances the character of the city rather than degrading it.

Mike Eaton, Cole Harbour

Displace the view

So The Coalition to Save the View from Citadel Hill doesn't like the twin towers of the proposed new World Trade and Convention Centre on Argyle Street blocking the view of the harbour from Citadel Hill.

I sympathize with the coalition and its partner, the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, but at the same time, I accept that the prosperity of Halifax depends on the continuing growth of its commercial core.

And as the Coalition and Heritage Trust must surely know, the economics of downtown land development dictate that growth can only be upwards. So instead of trying to stop the building of towers in the city and complaining about the loss of view planes from Citadel Hill, the Coalition should be fighting for the provision of public viewing galleries around the top floor of office towers, or even roof gardens atop them, from which the city, its harbour and the Citadel can be viewed.

And to get to those galleries, visitors should be given the chance to walk along streets without vehicles. The Coalition and the Heritage Trust should accept development and demand a new heritage for our children.

Terry Simms, Halifax

No to monster towers

Re: "Group fights for view" (Sept. 20). Thank you for this informative article. It looks like the chickens of HRMbyDesign are coming home to roost already.

The Citadel and George's Island are integral parts of the historic Halifax defence complex and the sight lines between them should never be interrupted. Tourists do not come here to see glass and steel buildings, but rather how we have respected, treasured and preserved our built heritage and cultural symbols, views and vistas. That's called responsible stewardship.

Any politician who scoffs at this does so at his electoral peril. Rodney MacDonald learned this very quickly and others may have the same fate waiting for them. A convention centre of from two to four storeys, yes, but I hope that these monster towers never rise.

Anthony Edwards, Bedford

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