

## **Birth Right or Berth Right?**

Down by Cobourg's West Pier  
the benches face out toward the lighthouse  
across the open water  
– the open water slated to be sacrificed  
in the name of commerce.

The revenue of additional boat slips  
appear to take precedence  
over the last undeveloped sanctuary  
within our harbour walls.

And the view that has been a part  
of our town's charm for generations  
will fall prey to the almighty dollar.

The weight of this decision  
comes at the cost  
of a lost inheritance  
preserved and passed down  
over the years  
only to be squandered  
on the Marina's bottom line.

Is this to be the fate  
of the West Basin?  
Are we to surrender  
our birth right  
to the berth right  
of transient ships in the night?

If our silence is perceived  
as implied approval  
then let us all speak out  
before the final decision has been made,  
for this is not progress.  
This is a tragedy.

Doug Langille  
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