

# Kart track killed

## Directors' decision called a blow against kids, families

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CITIZEN STAFF

The Cowichan Valley Regional District applied the brakes Wednesday to kart racing in Youbou.

Directors rejected the Capital City Kart Club's application for a temporary commercial use permit, effectively ending racing at the site.

"I'm extremely disappointed," said club vice-president Roger Walker. "I was in total disbelief and disgust when I heard it. I thought we'd been good corporate citizens and neighbours to the people of Youbou.

"Our kids are heartbroken. They've lost a whole year of racing."

The directors' decision is in particular a blow against area teens, he said. "They don't care about our kids. They don't pay taxes so they don't care about them."

Club treasurer Ruth Hawkes said the directors don't care about families. "This is a family sport that just got shut down," she said. "I don't think directors understand or care what they're doing... I think this is really terrible and wrong."

Directors Joe Allan, Rick Spencer, Mike Tansley and Rene Beaudin tried to give the club two more years on the former TimberWest mill property in Youbou but were defeated.

"This is really, really disgusting," Allan said Friday. "We went through the whole process because the area director (Brooke Hodson) wanted us to and then it seemed like nobody listened."



**Director Mike Tansley says the decision is 'unbelievable.'**

# Kart club will keep looking for a site

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Earlier this year, the club asked the board to renew its temporary use permit so the club could operate while it looked for a new track. The club had planned to relocate to the outdoor recreation park and was without an alternative location when Cowichan Tribes purchased the property.

Hodson opposed the application, saying the original permit was awarded without proper public process.

Mill Bay-Malahat Director Mike Walker said he could support a one-year application but not two. Roger Walker said the club tried to apply for a one-year permit but was told it couldn't do it because of provincial regulations.

"We should at least give the go-kart people an opportunity

to finish the 2004 season," said Spencer. "Give them to the end of the 2004 season to find a new home."

Cowichan Bay Director Mike Tansley said turning down the application sends a message to young people that there's no place for them. "We're ready to condemn teens when there is vandalism but we need to support alternative activities for them," he said. "I find it unbelievable that we won't grant

these young people the right to race their go-karts."

"We'll keep looking until we find something," said club president Dorothy Alexander, but, even if another site is found right away, it will take at least a year and possibly two to have the track operational.

Roger Walker said it's not likely to be in the regional district. "If I have my way, I won't be dealing with the CVRD again."