

BY JEN MACPHERSON

What we as a family have been trying to do is show our kids a better way to be in life — as responsible individuals.

The Capital City Kart Club was our venue, just like any other sport or club some of you may belong to.

The club has been barred from using the old sawmill site in Youbou. How would you feel if “your” venue was shut down, be it baseball, hockey, soccer, basketball, lacrosse, or car racing at the local track?

As a parent and newer club member this past year, no amount of words can express my

thanks for what the Capital City Kart Club has done for every family and individual involved in our club in commitment, camaraderie, self-confidence, driving skills and dreams of future endeavours.

Some have moved forward, racing elsewhere off the Island. Some were looking forward to the future, like my oldest son — this past year he was awarded rookie of the year 2003. It was his moment.

The old Youbou mill site was more than just a track. It was our field of dreams — it was a hopeful future and time and money well-invested for all involved.

It wasn't all just about the kids either, some

of us were spending quality time with our families, creating memories, building great skills and friendships.

That cannot be taken away from us, as disappointing as this decision is.

As for the noise? Jet skis and boats make noise, as do chain saws, motorbikes, ATVs, vehicle traffic and cheers at baseball games around the area.

But have you ever heard the noise from youngsters with “nothing better to do?” Have you heard the noise they make?

No, maybe not. But it's there, it's unspoken and it leaves a mark. Be it vandalism, break-ins, drinking and drugs, parties, fights and

assaults — it all begins somewhere, parents.

I don't care from what social background you come from — if you have become a parent, you are now “responsible” for another human being's life one way or another. So when decisions like this are put into effect, you have to wonder what the effect is on the youngsters.

Our club has no track, but more to the point, our families and young ones have to halt the commitment we made building skills and self-confidence among our club's youngsters.

So now what? Such a shame.

Jen MacPherson of Cobble Hill is a member of the Capital City Kart Club.