

## Why not have go-karts in your backyards?

Editor,

There has been much publicity recently about the go-kart racing at the old mill site in Youbou.

Much of the letter writing was done by members of the Kart Club or supporters. There has been a deliberate attempt made by some of the people to deflect the issue. Youbou has been labelled as not being supportive of young people and families. We are portrayed as being backward looking and now we are even accused of not encouraging "economic development." The CVRD board is being accused of being manipulating, unfair, etc.

There is only one overriding issue in this conflict and that is the noise the go-karts create. Noise has always been the central issue.

I have attended one race and two training sessions at the mill site. Up to now I had nothing but respect for the people at these events. They obviously cared about their youngsters and they were very friendly and willing to talk about their karts, the racing, etc. I was left with a good impression.

However, the noise was considerable. It does not help that the mill property is right at the water's edge. We all know how noise travels on water.

I do understand why the kart club members are so determined to fight the CVRD decision. They have nowhere else to go. Nobody wants a noisy race track in their neighbourhood. It is just that simple.

That is one of the reasons why some CVRD directors and mayors of surrounding towns are fighting hard in the background to get the CVRD to reconsider its decision. None of them wants to face a possible application by the kart club for a race track in their area.

With the way the kart club is fighting this battle, the strong tactics they use, I think it will make it even more difficult in the future for the club to find a suitable property. Director Joe Allan of Area F appears to be one of the organizers of the reconsidering campaign. He is also a friend of motor sports and I wonder if he could be of assistance to the kart club. There is a large piece of property in his Area F that is zoned for industrial use, is currently unused and is owned by TimberWest. Has he even made an attempt to call TimberWest to find out if there is the possibility of a temporary use permit? I doubt it, after all: not in my backyard.

I think the people of Youbou are getting fed up with this bickering and letter writing by people from outside our area. There was a structured process in dealing with this application. The Area I Advisory Planning Commission recommended unanimously to decline the application. The CVRD board declined and that is where it should stay. If people from outside our area want to help the kart club then they should look in their own backyard.

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