

## Go-karters disgusted with CVRD's decision

Editor,

We are bitterly disappointed with the CVRD's failure to allow the Capital City Kart Club to race a shortened season at the Youbou millsite. We do not feel that the CVRD dealt with the club fairly. First of all they said the process in respect to our original permit was "flawed" and that all would be well if we reapplied for the permit, which we did, in good faith. Then they said noise was the issue. The CVRD did not allow us to prove how much noise we do or do not make. They have not proved to us that we DO make too much noise. The CVRD already failed us by not securing the Outdoor Rec Park land. Now they have failed us again while we struggle to find a permanent home and keep our club viable while we pursue this endeavour. The CVRD did not once in the two seasons we raced contact us about noise issues. Director Hodson did not contact us, nor did any citizens of Youbou. Director Hodson said we are not looking for land for a track. We find this offensive in the extreme, as we have been looking since we were let down by the CVRD in reference to the Outdoor Rec Park. We have tried our best to keep everyone happy, addressing every issue real or imagined, that has been presented to us.

Why did the CVRD not approach us with noise concerns, if there were any, so we could address the problem? Why was Director Hodson quoted in the Cowichan Valley citizen (Wednesday, March 17, 2004) as saying it appeared that all issues had been addressed? Why would they not allow us one year's racing, albeit a shortened one, when they knew we had no where else on Vancouver Island to race? Why did the CVRD not take into account the letters of support written by Youbou residents? Do those people's opinions not count? How can they be so mean-spirited as to do kids out of their hobby, one that teaches them many important life-long skills? Does the CVRD not care that these kids now have nowhere on Vancouver Island to pursue their sport of choice? (This, in the year that the National Karting Championships are being held in BC.) Does the CVRD have any idea at all about how disappointed these kids are? Would the CVRD attempt to shut down a playing field, swimming pool or hockey arena? After all, these too are for family sports. How can we hold in any regard adults whose egos, selfishness and desire to play "politics", employing a murky and ever-changing "process" outweighs their sense of honour, fair play and ethics?

There is comment in the local papers in reference to lack of activities for youth, and yet the CVRD seems to take perverse delight in shooting down venues which could offer very positive activities for local youth, families, and in fact people of all ages. Surely venues which offer to help to teach driving skills should be encouraged, not discouraged, given the sickeningly frequent fatal accidents involving young people on our roads. We have lost all respect for local governance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruth & Gerry Hawkes

Marty Venoit

Vicki & Roger Walker

Sandra & Phil Pidcock

Members,

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Ted Stevens,

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