

Dear Editor:

I am a 16 year old attending Frances Kelsey Secondary School, and am highly involved in the go-kart club that has been permanently shut down at the Youbou mill site by the Cowichan Valley Regional District.

Now I've been through this once before already in my karting life, when the Regional District of Nanaimo had us kicked out of our supposed "permanent" facility we had built at the Mountaineer race facilities. Back then I was only 11 and couldn't comprehend why anyone would want us gone. How could my little club,

killing himself and perhaps others? Nothing the government does to license restrictions can make this fact disappear. Being in the demographic that does seem to show up a lot in these accidents, I will be the first to tell you that yes, I am highly competitive in everything I do. One thing separates me from my peers in that aspect, though, and that is that I realize that racing is not to be done on the streets but at a sanctioned event of some sort.

How could the CVRD condemn a safe environment for people to get their urges for competitiveness and speed out?

whose only purpose was to have a controlled, fun, exciting racing environment, be bothering enough people to be kicked out?

Every single year I've been involved in this sport, more than half of my life, there has been some sort of ridiculous government intervention. In Youbou we have done what has been asked of us, we have adapted the concerns of the people into our set of rules.

For a second I want you to just stop. How often do we hear about a young teenager, just having gotten his license and a 'quick' car, trying to race it like it's a highly tuned machine and

I'd like to ask where people think Michael Schumacher or Jacques Villeneuve would be if their local government decided to abolish their track because a few stubborn neighbours thought that they were "an annoyance"?

There are role models within the club that the young members look up to but now they have no one to look to for answers.

Perhaps I'm just angry I can't get out for another season this year, and maybe not even next year, but if I can be heard on any level or make any impact on the situation, then I'm trying right now.

Torrie Venoit, Shawnigan Lake