

It's no wonder the young are not interested in politics

One doesn't have to look any further than the recent CVRD decision that killed go-kart racing at Youbou to understand why young people have no interest in politics.

To a mature political observer, the vote was inexplicable.



View from the right

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To a young person who finds the fate of his or her avocation in the hands of a group of strange politicians, the outcome must have been devastating and unfathomable.

How in God's name can that younger crowd who make up the go-kart racing scene now see any relevance or credibility in politics?

First they have permission to race at Youbou for a period of time, with enough certainty that their club invests tens of thousands of dollars in facilities to accommodate safe and fulfilling racing.

Then they get word from some obscure bureaucrat at the CVRD that somehow all the rules had not been properly followed and they don't really have permission after all.

What followed must have been a bewildering round of frenzied lobbying trying to recapture what they thought they already had.

All these young people and their parents, as well as the more mature racers, earnestly petitioned for support within a system that most CVRD directors appeared to not understand.

All these kids knew for sure was that their fate was in the hands of a bunch of politicians who held life and death power over their preferred recreation. They put their faith in a process they didn't understand because that is what good Canadians are supposed to do.

And, what happens?

There is a screw-up in a complicated series of negative motions at a CVRD board meeting and go-kart racing gets killed in Youbou, just like that!

This is the second time this has happened to these particular racers. They already had one racetrack ripped out from under them when another regional district board — the Regional District of Nanaimo — closed the old Cassidy track.

What does this teach these kids (and their parents) about politics? Mostly that it is an aimless, uncaring and out-of-touch weird world that has no empathy for theirs.

No wonder the younger generation has no interest in politics. It's perfectly understandable because there is little evidence that our ruling political class has any interest in the needs and recreation expressions of young people.

That same younger crowd put a lot of faith in the last year's efforts to create an outdoor recreation park.

Politicians in both Duncan and North Cowichan, who appeared to find it more than a little beneath themselves to be associated with anyone with grease under their fingernails and smelling of gasoline, dashed those hopes through benign neglect and inaction.

The final nail was driven when politically correct First Nations issues won the day.

If I were a young person who has a passion for motor sports, and I had been following all the rules over the last few years, only to be repeatedly kicked in the butt by a bunch of disinterested politicians, I think I would be very angry.

And, I would wonder why anyone would ever spend any time in politics.

Got a tip or comment? Email me at phrusnowy@telus.net
