

Once again, CVRD lets motorsport community down

Dear Editor,

The motorsport community has once again received the message their needs are being ignored. The message sent by the CVRD is one that, regardless of the support within the town of Yubou, their director and a handful of his supporters can destroy the heart and soul of a group of "very nice people". That is how area Director Brooke Hodson referred to us at the CVRD meeting of May 12. He also said we are a family sport, though he has never come to an event. The Capital City Kart Club was well aware of Mr. Hodson's stand and we were trying desperately to find a new location. Unfortunately, the club had faith in the CVRD's proposed Outdoor Recreation Park. We all know what happened there.

The club asked for an extension allowing it the opportunity to continue for a short period while it looked for, purchased and developed a new location. To do this we need to generate income, keep our members active and retain their faith this can and will happen. It's no secret why they are starting to lose faith.

CCKC operated the site at Yubou for two years, gained a reputation as one of the best in Western Canada and had the highest fan base at last year's regionals. This was all paid for by the participants, without asking for financial support from any level of government and little sponsorship from the community.

The Cowichan Valley desperately needs a place for all outdoor recreation.

We are not going to go away. There is a location in the Valley for us. We are an hour between each ferry and have plenty of businesses who welcome participants. We have an excellent hospital, capable of handling anything the first aid people feel necessary. That's why we are working so hard for this venue.

We all see people driving off-road vehicles on the highways and side streets looking for somewhere to ride. Any



ROGER
WALKER

day in Yubou you will hear and see them riding the hog fuel piles, climbing the hills, with no first aid, no insurance, no rules and surely disturbing wildlife. Yet we — in the middle of a parking lot, on industrial property, paying rent to the owners — were a problem. No wonder we are confused.

Motor sports may not be your love but it is ours. We pay taxes, live, work and support this community and have earned the right to "play in our own backyard". We will have to find a new slogan, however.

We are very grateful to the directors who recognize the benefits and support our efforts to provide a safe, fun environment for all to enjoy. We are very confused by those who offered support and voted against. The logic that if a few don't enjoy something then no one else can, has to end.

We read stories in local papers about our kids needing something to do in the Valley. We know what they won't be doing, legally that is.

Leaving the regional district meeting May 26 young children were laughed at, taunted and honked at by the Yubou resident who bothered to show up. My regret is the directors were not able to see the look on their faces. Yes, some of these kids were from out of town. Many were local. All were proud to promote Yubou and their sport.

I am overwhelmed each time we are shot down, by how many new people come forward to offer encouragement. I ask where they live and offer suggestions as to who does and does not support us. Let's hope we don't have to wait until the next election to show our displeasure at the polls, while supporting those who do recognize the benefits.

When I elect someone I don't expect them to vote "no" just because their friend on council doesn't like something.

— Roger Walker
Duncan