

Kart racing is more than fun for kids

While I would really like to rant about losing our kart racing track in Youbou, I would instead like to offer a little more insight into the sport.

These "little go-karts" are purpose-built racing machines, they are not toys. They cost between \$5,000 and \$15,000 new, and they can only be run on a proper race track. Youbou is currently the only kart track on Vancouver Island.

There has been much emphasis placed on the kids in karting, and it is true that most of the drivers in "big league" motor-sports today started in go-karts.

But many, if not most, of these young racers are well-funded by their families, and can afford to travel off of the Island to race. In my time in the sport I have seen several of "our kids" move on to full-size cars.

At age 52, I represent the other demographic group in karting. Most of the drivers in the Capital City Kart Club are adults.

Motor racing is an expensive hobby. I race in the slowest (read cheapest) class of kart.

A weekend at the local track probably costs me between \$100 and \$150. Add to that the cost to travel off the Island, lodgings, meals etc. and the weekend budget is now \$400 plus ... and I can no longer afford to play. It's sad to have my kart sitting here doing nothing, while the year wastes away at the hands of the blundering Cowichan Valley Regional District directors.

Steve Richardson,
Honeymoon Bay.