

Bulkley Valley Child Development Centre

# BLUE JEAN BALL

January 28th, 2012

Channah All



15th Year - Week 2

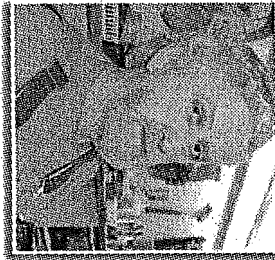
Smithers, B.C.

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

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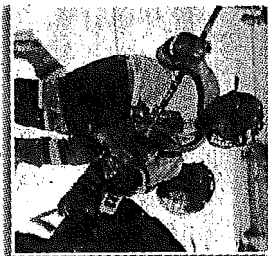
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# INTERIOR NEWS



**DON GILLIS**  
Don Gillis lives by the motto of life long learning.

OUR TOWN/A5



**INITIATION**  
Young players participate in an initiation tournament.

SPORTS/A13

# Hunters take aim at RAMP process

*This was a letter sent to the RAMP committee by the Rod and Gun Club*

The information available regarding the R.A.M.P. process was presented at the regular club meeting of the Bulkley Valley Rod and Gun Club on Nov. 3, 2011. After a lengthy discussion our club has decided not to participate. These are several of the reasons why.

1. Timing of the meetings. If this process truly wanted our input the meetings would not be happening during hunting season. Some hunters are unavailable because they are away hunting in remote areas, while others may be busy tending to their harvested game.

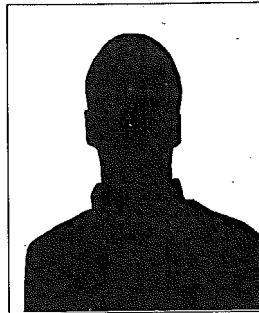
2. The make-up of the R.A.M.P. Board. It is very apparent that there is not a fair balance of motorized vs.

non-motorized/anti-use (NM/AU) participants. Several NM/AU members have lived in the Bulkley Valley for less than 10 years. We feel they don't know the people that live here well enough to be making any decisions for either side. Motorized and non-motorized users that have lived in the valley for decades have been getting along just fine. We are the people who have made this valley what it is today.

3. With the Board's make-up, there will never be consensus, leaving the Chair with the power to decide when a topic has been discussed enough. The resulting skewed numbers will be recorded then sent to the Community Resources Board (CRB) as a recommendation.

4. The CRB does not have any hunting representatives on it, there-

fore it is very unbalanced with respect to motorized vs. non-motorized/anti-use reps. Recommendations made by this group will clearly mislead Victoria regarding the true



**GUEST VIEW**  
**Larry Hartwell**

composition of recreationalists in this area. As well, the CRB has members with vested interests and personal agendas that want this process to work as they please. Ben Heemskerck works for the ministry

in charge of backcountry trails and his title is "Chair, BVCRB Recreation Subcommittee". We perceive that to be a clear conflict of interest.

5. The CRB originated to keep the bureaucracy accountable in following and implementing the Land and Resource Management Plan, a plan developed by the community. Given its current composition, this will be unlikely. Far too many people on the board are bureaucrats, or contract their services to the government. We feel that decisions are influenced with job security in mind.

6. The non-motorized/anti-use sector is narrowing the board's direction. We, the motorized users, do not have an agenda to limit access to any user group unlike the NM/AU sector. As one member of

the R.A.M.P. committee stated, "non-motorized users don't always think sharing works". There is an apparent lack of tolerance for motorized users.

7. We are concerned about discussions wanting to re-open parts of the R.A.M.P. process completed in 1997. The non-motorized sector claims that certain decisions do not work for them. When areas were discussed and final decisions made, concessions were made by both user groups, give and take until everyone is "okay" with the final decision. You should not re-open decisions just because one sector is unhappy. We've seen this tactic in the past. Certain sectors are happy with a little bit at a time, but are not happy until they have it all. We are not prepared to play this game.

*See RAMP on p. A7*

## For the Birds is on A17 this week

# No need to further limit motorized groups

*RAMP from p. A6*

8. We feel as hunters that we have a minimal impact on the Bulkley Timber Supply Area. We are not prepared to sit at any table that will limit our access to any hunting area. Hunting season takes place during the spring for bears, then again for several species in late summer and fall for three-and-a-half months. Hunting is strictly regulated by the hunting regulations. Hunting is

a time-honoured Canadian tradition and we feel that our impact is not negative. Further restricting us will have a negative impact on our experience.

9. We also feel that bureaucrats with anti-hunting sympathies use this process to legitimize and legalize "non-motorized" and "no hunting" signs. These signs have started showing up in places where they have no business being. Ob-

viously deals have been made between some bureaucrats and the non-motorized sector behind closed doors.

As stated at the R.A.M.P. meeting on Nov. 3, 2011, "the Bulkley Valley Rod and Gun Club has been representing local hunters and anglers for 75 years". Our club's motto is "Protect to Enjoy". The motorized sector does not favor this R.A.M.P. agenda. Its proponents

are the non-motorized/anti-use sector and the bureaucrats that support them. This is not proper.

The non-motorized/anti-use sector has full use of the T.S.A. without restrictions put on them by the motorized sector. We do not feel the need to further limit any motorized groups, nor are we prepared to trade of any areas that may impact another hunter or angler. The traditions of this

valley have served the majority well over the last century. Excessive catering to the whims of recent arrivals with foreign agendas is a disservice to those who built this valley with everyone's interests at heart.

It seems quite apparent that the status quo works for us and most of the voting public.

*Larry Hartwell is the president of the Rod and Gun Club*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR