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From: gail wilson

Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 3:57 PM

To: Inquiries <Inquiries@rdn.bc.ca>

Subject: Attn: Claire Thorpe

I am forwarding this letter as a letter of support to ban camping in the 707 park.

I agree fully with the points the Gabriola Fire Department has listed below as reasons why NOT to allow such camping.

We do not have the resources to manage problems arising from camping at this location.

Please amend the bylaw 1801 to disallow camping of any kind in the 707.

Gail Wilson

Copied:

Gabriola Volunteer Fire Department calls for letters of support from the community!

Hello Gabriola, the GVFD is asking for letters of support to ban camping in the 707 park.

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While we sympathize with the plight of the homeless, we have thought long and hard about this issue and we keep coming to the same conclusion, that camping in the 707 could have disastrous affects for our community.

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The 707 is an extremely large park with already limited and difficult access for our firefighting crews and equipment.

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The thick underbrush and slash piles alone are an extreme fire hazard in normal circumstances, let alone with the added risk of campers being neglectful.

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In the late 90's there was a fire in the 707 that engulfed five acres of land. It took the fire department over 18 hours to put it out with no outside help from forestry.

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Due to the extremely poor cell coverage in the 707 we often have a difficult time locating people in a emergency.

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Being an island Gabriola has no mutual aid agreements so in most emergencies we are on our own. Forestry will come when they can but their resources and ability to respond is also limited.

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We are working hard with forestry to keep access to the 707 open but at this time the park is still not safe for any type of camping due to the potential of wildfire.

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We are asking for your support by writing a letter to the Region District of Nanaimo requesting the 707 be except from their Bylaw 1801 which allows people to camp in selected parks.

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If you would like to send a letter in support of this please email Claire Thorpe at inquiries@rdn.bc.ca .