

## Editor's Note

Today, August 7th, the Regional District of East Kootenay board of directors will vote on whether to ask the province to designate Jumbo Glacier Resort a mountain resort municipality. The motion was put forward by Director David Wilks, Mayor of Sparwood. If passed, it would mean the regional district is not responsible for Jumbo's rezoning process should the province grant the resort its Master Development Agreement. A three-person council would be appointed by the province.

# 'Enviro-radicals' disrupt democracy

## Dear Editor:

The directors of the Regional District of East Kootenay and the Ministers of the B.C. Liberal Government, newly elected, do indeed have an obligation to secure the social and economic sustainability for the region and the province as a whole.

The idea that Director Wilks' proposal (to let Jumbo Glacier Resort area become a resort municipality) is somehow undemocratic is preposterous. Director Wilks has been democratically elected, and together with the other elected regional directors, is expected to look after the economic sustainability for the region.

The whole idea of due process seems disrespected by the anti-Jumbo league. This is what is dangerous to a democracy. Due process and democratic institutions are what keep our country civilized.

I have grown increasingly alarmed at the tactics of many of the so-called enviros in our

region who have seen fit to actually destroy a public presentation in Kaslo about a proposed hydro project. When the project was presented in Invermere, three times various "enviros" tried to rudely cat-call down the presentation, and three times I had to stand up and loudly declare to these people that I would actually like to hear the presentation which they had no right to interrupt. Definitely, I felt threatened by their hateful looks and ranting voices. These are the elements that spell the end of democracy and define mob mentality. This is nothing but brute force trying to destroy a public hearing.

Enviro-radicalism has no room in a peaceful community. A healthy family respects differing points of view. It's the same with a healthy community. I find many, if not most, of the anti-Jumbos very radical, carrying around lots of hate and anger, which is a threat to us all. One cannot have a peaceful discussion with these people without them jumping down your throat.

It is time for our community to stand up for respecting our democratic institutions and processes. I'm sick and tired of the radicals creating a 'walking on eggshells' community around here. This is what bullies do. It's not Jumbo Glacier Resort that is 'breaking up families' in this community, it is bullyism.

Jumbo Glacier Resort has already declared environmentalism the victor by the 200 environmental agreements they have made with our government and they have been most patient over the course of 20 years of due process. The project promises to create 800 or more jobs for our region. It will put the area on the international map. It'll make better use of the expanded Cranbrook airport. It will diversify and enhance the economy of our region. It's exactly what we need here.

**Mary Ann Rombach**  
Windermere