

Schulte, Taylor CITZ:EX

From: Valdes Garcia, Monica ENV:EX
Sent: August 7, 2020 12:46 PM
To: Meding, Craig ENV:EX
Subject: draft letter
Attachments: Draft refusal.docx

Hi Craig

Here is the draft letter for the Toy Run organizer. Thank you for helping me out with the review.

Cheers

Monica

Monica Valdes Garcia

Arrowsmith Area Supervisor BC Parks

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy - West Coast Region

1240 Rath Road, Parksville BC V9P 2E2

Phone: (250) 947-2600 – Cell: (250) 927-6974

Fax: (250) 954-4610

Monica.ValdesGarcia@gov.bc.ca

www.bcparks.ca



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Gerard Janssen
s.22

Dear Gerard Janssen

Re: Annual Port Alberni Toy Run – Little Qualicum Falls provincial Park

The Port Alberni Toy Run event has greatly grown in popularity and size since its beginnings in 1985. For several years, BC Parks agreed to grant authorization for the gathering of participants first at MacMillan Provincial Park (Cathedral Grove) and later on at Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park.

Despite the social benefits of the fundraising, the event is not necessary to preserve or maintain the recreational values of the park. The activities observed overtime conflict with the management and purpose of the park; the sheer number of participants has overgrown the capacity of the parking lot, and visitors have had their access to the park obstructed and discouraged while the event has been in place.

Furthermore, the current COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions are making us re-evaluate the way we conduct operations and issue Park Use Permits.

Therefore, I am advising you that BC Parks will not be granting any further permission to use Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park as a starting point for the Port Alberni Toy Run event.

BC Parks appreciate your efforts organizing this annual event and the benefits it has provided to the community of Port Alberni and the regional district. I am sure other venues will be more suitable for future gatherings. I wish you all the best in your endeavours.

Regards,

MVG

Schulte, Taylor CITZ:EX

From: Valdes Garcia, Monica ENV:EX
Sent: August 11, 2020 12:26 PM
To: Rundel, Brodie ENV:EX; Haime, Kristina ENV:EX
Cc: Meding, Craig ENV:EX; Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX
Subject: Toy Run 2020

Just FYI – an article from the Toy Run Facebook page describing this year’s event and cancelling mass gathering at LQF for 2020

<https://www.albernavalleynews.com/news/port-albernis-annual-toy-run-switches-up-over-covid-19/>

cheers

Monica

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Schulte, Taylor CITZ:EX

From: Valdes Garcia, Monica ENV:EX
Sent: August 11, 2020 12:35 PM
To: Meding, Craig ENV:EX
Subject: RE: draft letter

it looks great – just one thing: I wrote “provincial” in lower case in the Re: line – it should be in capital 😊

From: Meding, Craig ENV:EX <Craig.Meding@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 11, 2020 12:28 PM
To: Valdes Garcia, Monica ENV:EX <Monica.ValdesGarcia@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: draft letter

Hi Monica,

Revised draft for your review attached.

Craig

From: Valdes Garcia, Monica ENV:EX <Monica.ValdesGarcia@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 7, 2020 12:46 PM
To: Meding, Craig ENV:EX <Craig.Meding@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: draft letter

Hi Craig

Here is the draft letter for the Toy Run organizer. Thank you for helping me out with the review.

Cheers

Monica

Monica Valdes Garcia

Arrowsmith Area Supervisor BC Parks

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Gerard Janssen
s.22

Dear Gerard Janssen

Re: Annual Port Alberni Toy Run – Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park

This letter is to advise that BC Parks will no longer be granting permission to use Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park as the starting point for the Port Alberni Toy Run event. While BC Parks supports and recognizes the valuable fundraising of the Port Alberni Toy Run, Little Qualicum Falls Park is no longer an appropriate venue for the event.

The Port Alberni Toy Run event has grown greatly in popularity and size since its beginnings. For several years, BC Parks has granted authorization for the gathering of participants, first at MacMillan Provincial Park (Cathedral Grove) and more recently at Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park. Despite the social benefits of the fundraising, the Toy Run is not necessary to preserve or maintain the recreational values of the park.

Activities observed at Little Qualicum Falls Park during the most recent Toy Run events conflict with the management and purpose of the park. The sheer number of participants has overgrown the capacity of the parking lot, and visitors have had their access to the park obstructed and discouraged while the event has been in place. Due to noncompliance with park regulations, insufficient access for emergency vehicles or for park evacuation, and restriction of public access to the park, the event can no longer be authorized.

Again, BC Parks appreciates your efforts and commitment in organizing this annual event, and the benefits it has provided to the community of Port Alberni and the regional district. I encourage you to find a more suitable location for future gatherings and associated activities and wish you all the best in your endeavours.

Regards,

MVG

Schulte, Taylor CITZ:EX

From: Suchanec, Sherry ENV:EX
Sent: August 12, 2020 10:53 AM
To: s.22
Cc: Valdes Garcia, Monica ENV:EX; Meding, Craig ENV:EX
Subject: Annual Port Alberni Toy Run - Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park
Attachments: 20200812 Janssen Little Qualicum Falls.pdf

Good morning,

On behalf of Monica Valdes Garcia, Area Supervisor for BC Parks West Coast Region with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, please see the attached letter regarding the Annual Port Alberni Toy Run at Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park.

Regards,

Sherry Suchanec
Administrative Clerk
BC Parks • West Coast Region
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
1240 Rath Rd. • Parksville BC V9P 2E2
(p)236 936-2118 • (f)250 954-4610 (e) sherry.suchanec@gov.bc.ca



BC Parks

August 12, 2020

File: 98700-20/Little Qualicum Falls

Gerard Janssen
s.22

Via Email: s.22

Dear Gerard Janssen:

Annual Port Alberni Toy Run – Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park

This letter is to advise that BC Parks will no longer be granting permission to use Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park as the starting point for the Port Alberni Toy Run. While BC Parks supports and recognizes the valuable fundraising this initiative has generated, Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park is no longer an appropriate venue for the event.

The Port Alberni Toy Run has grown greatly in popularity and size since its beginnings in 1985. For several years, BC Parks has granted authorization for the gathering of participants, first at MacMillan Provincial Park (Cathedral Grove) and more recently at Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park. Despite the social benefits of the fundraising, the Toy Run is not necessary to preserve or maintain the recreational values of the park.

Activities observed at Little Qualicum Falls Park during the most recent Toy Run events conflict with the management and purpose of the park. The sheer number of participants has overgrown the capacity of the parking lot, and visitors have had their access to the park obstructed and discouraged while the event has been in place. Due to noncompliance with park regulations, insufficient access for emergency vehicles or for park evacuation, and restriction of public access to the park, the event can no longer be authorized.

Again, BC Parks appreciates your efforts and commitment in organizing this annual event, and the benefits it has provided to the community of Port Alberni and the regional district. I wish you all the best in your endeavours and encourage you to find a more suitable location for future gatherings and associated activities.

Yours truly,

Monica Valdes Garcia
Arrowsmith Area Supervisor

cc: Craig Meding, Acting PPA Section Head, BC Parks, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Schulte, Taylor CITZ:EX

From: Valdes Garcia, Monica ENV:EX
Sent: September 24, 2020 10:17 AM
To: Rundel, Brodie ENV:EX; Haime, Kristina ENV:EX
Cc: Meding, Craig ENV:EX; Porsborg, Thomas ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Toy Run 2020 - Incident at Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park

FYI – it seems Santa was there anyway – as a “park guest” – regardless of the letter telling them not to use the Park for the event.

At this point, I think is no use to go backwards and forwards with emails, and I don’t think a meeting between them and the PO will solve anything. If they want to appeal, we can answer then. For next year, we need to make sure there are no gatherings for that purpose – I can see they are trying to be sneaky about it. s.13; s.15
s.13; s.15

Cheers

Monica

From: Gerard Janssen^{s.22}
Sent: September 23, 2020 9:09 PM
To: Valdes Garcia, Monica ENV:EX <Monica.ValdesGarcia@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Toy Run 2020 - Incident at Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Thank you for this information. But as you know there are usually conflicting lines of communication when these issues occur.

I was at the Falls for the first ride. As Santa. I or the Toy Run did not organize this event and if no other riders had shown up I would have gone by myself.

All the riders were there as individuals or you could put it “as park guests”.

We left at 11 AM. thinking that was it and did not want to create the “image” of crowding in the era of Covid. The second group apparently appeared to partake in the usual 12 o’clock start.

As for the Park Operator. He confronted Santa with the remark “Stay away I want 6 ft.” At the time I was on my way to the washroom and he was approaching me.

I replied, ‘just stay by your truck or get into it and all will be well’ At this point he went around the back of his truck, deposited something and a few bikes moved to give him more room to exit.

As we also did with another park guest.

At this point I have to say that rather than doing his “job” as Park Operator and treating “ALL” guests, including the bike folks equally, he chose to treat “US’ differently. I have noticed in the past that despite the fact

we had a permit he was not at all welcoming of our event. The people that work with him had a much better welcoming attitude.

The Port Alberni Toy Run has always been courteous and respectful of our using the park. And we have never had the occasion to be cited for any incidents.

If you wish to arrange a meeting between the operator and myself to discuss how he felt threatened, please let me know. I would be happy to attend.

As for future events at Qualicum Falls Park by the Port Alberni Toy Run. I remind you of our earlier conversation that we plan to appeal your decision of the future use of the park by the Port Alberni Toy Run. Thank you for contacting me and I hope this clarifies the matter.

Gerard "Santa" Janssen

From: [Valdes Garcia, Monica ENV:EX](#)

Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 4:48 PM

To: s.22

Cc: [Meding, Craig ENV:EX](#) ; [Rundel, Brodie ENV:EX](#) ; [XT:Ashdown, Brad ENV:IN](#)

Subject: Toy Run 2020 - Incident at Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park

Good afternoon Gerard

I was glad to see in the news that, despite all the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 regulations, there was a good turnout at the drive-by Port Alberni Toy Run this year. I wanted to make you aware of an incident occurred at Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park this past Saturday, September 19, 2020.

Despite all the notices published on your website, Facebook page and the paper, two large groups of motorcyclists arrived at the Park on Saturday for the event. When the Park Operator notified the first group that the event was not occurring in the Park, he was threatened and verbally harassed. The second group of approximately 60 motorcyclists was turned around by the RCMP, who had arrived on site as a response to the threats received by the Park Operator. Individuals were observed uttering threats, causing a disturbance and participating in illegal mass gatherings. This behaviour is unacceptable and, as you can appreciate, we are concerned about the safety of the Park Operator and our staff.

I understand this was an unfortunate incident the organizers of the event could not anticipate. However, it would be important that future promotions of the Toy Run make clear to participants that the event will not start at Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park anymore. I appreciate your time and I wish you all the best in your endeavours.

Regards,

Monica Valdes Garcia

Arrowsmith Area Supervisor BC Parks

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy - West Coast Region

1240 Rath Road, Parksville BC V9P 2E2

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