

**Subject: [Fwd: Re: Fireworks]**

**Date:** Thu, 06 Nov 2003 12:43:57 -0800

**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

**To:** Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

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**Subject: Re: Fireworks**

**Date:** Thu, 06 Nov 2003 18:05:50 +0000 (GMT)

**From:** Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

**To:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>, Kitty Castle <mcastle@istar.ca>

**CC:** Ernie Crist <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>, FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>, Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>, NVD Council <dnvcouncil@dnv.org>, managecomm@dnv.org

Dear Clr. Crist:

On this issue, Kitty Castle's email notwithstanding, I cast my vote with Brian.

In reading this, you should know where I'm coming from....I detest fireworks/firecrackers except those formal displays....from a great distance. I always have - even as a kid. To tell you the truth, for me even Halloween itself is a chore to be borne rather than enjoyed.

All of that said, Brian's comment is correct. As with most acts of vandalism/hooliganism, fireworks violations almost always occur as a consequence of the fact that existing by-laws/laws are not being properly enforced.....and of the fact that, once caught, the vandals receive only a slap on the wrist.

In support of the position that Brian and I have taken, we only need to look at Richmond's "brass-knuckle" attack of an innocent family passing by. That was not an innocent Halloween prank; it was assault pure and simple. Likewise, law-breakers terrorizing Ms. Castle's neighbourhood are not pranksters, they are vandals.

The bottom line is that we have too few police and a lax justice system. Taken in combination, those facts are a recipe for anarchy. The solution, however, is not to deprive starry-eyed youngsters a couple of hours of fun. Rather, it is to bite the bullet and hire more police to be 'on the beat' and enforcing the laws, and for our justice system to be required to uphold the charges as and when they are placed.

Lastly, in order for rules to be acceptable and respected by our citizens, they must be seen to be fair. They were not seen to be reasonable and fair to law-abiding citizens when at the turn of the century, Vancouver Constable Anne Drennan stated, "Don't even think of coming downtown [to celebrate]." Likewise, I believe citizens will feel a complete ban on fireworks/firecrackers is an overkill solution.

It will be very interesting to see how the community responds....and to see whether I am completely out of step on the issue.

Cheers,  
Liz

**Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>** wrote:

Hi Kitty - I respect your opinion on "banning" fireworks, but you know that it will not solve the problem of lawless youths creating mischief on Halloween. Most of the fireworks that teens fire off cannot be legally purchased anywhere in Canada, yet they have easy access to them. Far more people enjoy safe Halloween fireworks displays than those who are bent on creating a "nightmare" as you experienced. If we ban the sale of safe (Canadian approved) fireworks then only the majority who obey the law will cease the activity. What a shame.

Sincerely,  
-Brian

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