

**Subject: Re: Fireworks**

**Date:** Sun, 07 Nov 2004 19:30:57 -0800

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

**To:** Ernie Crist <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>, katherine.whittred.mla@leg.bc.ca

**CC:** D Cathcart <d-cathcart@shaw.ca>, Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, fonvca@fonvca.org, ralph.sultan.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Councillor Crist,

Your response to Ms. Cathcart on the firework's issue is exactly right. I'd like to add a few additional points.

Those calling for a ban on fireworks will accomplish only one thing: to deny the safe, fun use of Halloween fireworks for families across the province. Vandalism, arson, and the prevalent use illegal firecrackers, bombs, and molotov cocktails (like those tossed onto the Upper Level's Hwy. in West Van) will continued unabated on Halloween.

Very dangerous and totally illegal firecrackers and fireworks are commonly smuggled across the border after being purchased on Washington State Indian Reserves. My nephew in grade 8 at Handsworth Secondary informs me that illegal firecrackers can be easily purchased from other kids. A friend of my nephew's proved it by buying two large packs totaling 150 individual "Mighty Mites" for \$6.

In contrast, on Halloween night after trick-or-treating was over, neighbours on three sides of my family's house put on wonderful backyard fireworks displays for their children. I also purchased legal fireworks (with a required permit) and put on a small display for my nephews on my own property. This sort of simple Halloween magic that many families enjoy once-a-year occurs across the North Shore, the Lower Mainland, and the province. Why would we allow the few vandals and arsonists to ruin this harmless celebration?

There are some people who do not have any interest in fireworks and therefore want to ban others from enjoying it. How sad. Yes, fireworks tend to frighten some dogs, but those dogs are in no danger if contained indoors or within a properly fenced yard.

As for being kept awake at night, I live in the Edgemont Village area and I've never been awakened by fireworks. For that to occur, the fireworks would pretty well have to be set off in one's own yard (or right next door).

Halloween vandalism, arson, and general mayhem is not unique to B.C. nor is the root cause of this behavior the sale of safe, Canadian approved fireworks. Indeed, safe Halloween fireworks purchased by responsible adults with a permit might well reduce the demand of the dangerous illegal items that find their way over the border and into the hands of children.

Sincerely,  
Brian Platts  
3187 Beverley Crescent  
North Vancouver, B.C.  
V7R 2W4  
Ph. 604-985-5104  
Fax: 604-988-5594

Ernie Crist wrote:

Dear Mr Cathcart:

In the District of North Vancouver the use of fireworks is prohibited unless it falls within the strict rules of the Bylaw. The extensive illegal use of fireworks by juveniles who are causing the problem you are describing, is possible because of the lack of sufficient police presence and all the additional regulations by the Province will not change this situation unless it is accompanied by addition funding for additional police and also more potent penalties for the culprits than the law allows at present.

We have, however, done our best to address the problem, at least in the District, by having a far greater per capita police presence than most if not all other municipalities in the province. We have also addressed the problem by extended funding for fireworks conducted by volunteers under the control of our Fire Department.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

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**From:** D Cathcart [<mailto:d-cathcart@shaw.ca>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 07, 2004 2:57 PM  
**To:** Mayor and Council - DNV  
**Subject:** Fw: Fireworks

We ask that you do whatever you can do as a council to address the problem of fireworks.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [D Cathcart](#)  
**To:** [katherine.whittred.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:katherine.whittred.mla@leg.bc.ca)  
**Cc:** [ra.ph.sultan.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:ra.ph.sultan.mla@leg.bc.ca)  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 07, 2004 2:53 PM  
**Subject:** Fireworks

Dear Ms. Whittred,

I was pleased to see your note in the North Shore news asking for input on fireworks. Since I live next to your district I am also copying my MLA.

YES my husband and I think you should enact a province-wide ban on fireworks. Whatever local restrictions are in place are not working and the problems are of serious concern.

In our case we have a dog that trembles and refuses to go out even to pee at night once fireworks start...we have been drugging and consoling her for over a week now and are still getting firecrackers going off.

We have noticed others have lost pets because they were frightened (there is a notice up for one such poor creature at Mosquito Creek this week).

We have been kept awake by the noise late at night on Halloween and several other nights.

We have seen fireworks going off over our garage and wondered about the possibility of fire...which the Burnaby incident showed was a legitimate concern.

A construction crew across the street seems to be having a contest to scare each other with multiple firecrackers and ignore requests to obey the regulations and stop.

The existing by-laws are not enforced, and may be unenforceable.....so we would like to see a total ban on the sale or possession of firecrackers and all types of fireworks. At the very least ban the sale (with very heavy fines for ignoring the rules) or possession of firecrackers and only allow the purchase of fireworks to those who already hold a certificate from the fire department.

The present system in the district of banning firecrackers and allowing only those with permits to set off fireworks is obviously not working it creates contempt for the law.

I thank you for taking this up and ask my MLA Mr Sultan to join in supporting whatever efforts can be made to address this problem.

Regards,  
David and Darlene Cathcart  
3472 Emerald Drive  
North Vancouver V7R 3B7