

**Subject: FW: Seylynn Concern**

**Date:** Mon, 27 Jun 2005 08:10:06 -0700

**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**To:** <fonvca@fonvca.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James\_Ridge@dnv.org>

THIS MESSAGE IS PASSED ON TO YOU FOR INFORMATION BY COURTESY OF COUNCILLOR ERNIE CRIST.

NOT ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY AND NOT ANY NUMBER OF PROGRAMS AND STAFF CAN SUBSTITUTE DEDICATION, COMMITMENT AND PRIDE IN DOING THE JOB WE GET PAID TO DO. THIS ALSO APPLIES TO OUR YOUTH AND SOCIAL WORKERS. Ernie Crist

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

From: JIMMY CRAIG [[mailto:jim\\_craig@shaw.ca](mailto:jim_craig@shaw.ca)]

Sent: Sunday, June 26, 2005 11:21 PM

To: Jim Cuthbert; Maureen McKeon Holmes; Richard Walton; Alan Nixon;

Lisa Muri; Ernie Crist

Subject: Seylynn Concern

Dear Councillors

I am a concerned youth living in Vancouver. This past Saturday I was at the Seylynn rec centre. It is my belief that every second, Saturday night, there is some sort of youth rock concert at Seylynn Park and rec centre. What I saw going on around the facility was absolutely appalling.

The Seylynn concerts on Saturdays have attracted youth from all over the lower mainland. The intention of having a youth concert hall should be praised. However, this youth hangout has gone out of control. The music aspect of this concert hall is now completely secondary for most of the youth going. The main purpose is now to reap chaos at the forested park beside Seylynn. In the short period of time, I witnessed rampant use of many forms of drugs. And, unlike many other youth hangouts, where only a few youth use drugs, at this facility the overwhelming majority of people are using narcotics.

What disturbed me the most was the amount of young youth aged 12 - 14 experimenting with drugs at this park. What truly sparked my concern was witnessing a girl no older than 14 asking another youth if he had had heroin to sell. Heroin, cocaine, shrooms, ecstasy, pot, alcohol, Ritalin and Tylenol 3 are all common drugs being used in this park during the Seylynn Concert's.

There is, in my opinion, very little being done by concert organizers ensuring the safety of the youth attending the event. I overheard one girl talking about how her friend was slipped GHD (date rape drug) in her alcohol by an older male youth.

Drug use is not my only concern. The forest has been littered with broken glass, beer cans, general garbage, as well as graffiti. This is a public park that should be enjoyed by all. The remnants left behind by youth make the park unsafe for others. Not to mention there is considerable environmental damage especially to the creeks and forest in the Seylynn rec centre area.

I am desperately asking you to do something about the problems with the Seylynn rec centre concert gatherings. I have first hand experience with how drugs effect youth. My younger step brother has had serious trouble with drugs over the past two years. It has caused tremendous pressure in our family, and he is doing miserably in school as a result of his choices.

I am hoping you consider shutting down the youth concert gatherings, as the drug problem has only worsened over time, despite efforts made by

concerts organizers. Many youth from the lower mainland gather at Seylynn, and in my opinion, they consider the massing of youth as a safe environment to start using all sorts of drugs. The ability for youth to hide in the forest as well as under the various bridges in the park is a problem.


I don't mean to sound repetitive, but, this is a very serious problem. Please view this matter seriously and take decisive action in stopping the unsafe, drug infested gatherings at the Seylynn rec centre and neighbouring park.

Yours truly,

Jimmy Craig  
Vancouver District Student Council Executive Vice President

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