
From: cityclerk
Subject: Letter of support for added development at the Otway Nordic Centre

From: Eric Karjaluo to Redacted
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 11:21 AM
To: cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>
Subject: Letter of support for added development at the Otway Nordic Centre

Hi Mayor and Council,

My name is Eric Karjaluo and I live at Red 3439 Terra Vita Place, Vancouver, BC, V5K 5H7. I understand that that information will be published to the online council meeting agenda.

I'm not a member of the Caledonia Nordics Ski Club, but I once was. I don't currently live in Prince George. That said, I visit family in the city every year. Otway is a big draw during those visits—for nordic skiing in the winter, and mountain biking in the summer.

Most times my wife, sons, and I visit. That said, more recently I've added trips just so I could ski at Otway with my dad. Each time we visit we buy day passes at Otway, as well as gas, groceries, and books from local merchants.

I can't stress enough what a valuable attraction Otway is to people like me. Unlike our trails in Vancouver, Otway is quiet, the conditions are good, and the volunteer-run nature of the operation is truly special.

As my wife and I near retirement, Prince George is one of the areas we consider moving to—in large part because of the facilities at Otway. (I occasionally check local real estate listings to see if there are adjacent properties available for sale, where I could be close to Otway and hop right on the tracks.)

I understand that some Miworth residents are concerned about added development at Otway. In my opinion their concerns are likely unwarranted.

Nordic skiing is a relatively quiet sport with a small footprint. Similarly, the nordic skiing community is generally respectful and courteous. It's incredibly rare to see any garbage or reckless behaviour on nordic ski trails.

Admittedly, this is just one person's opinion, but I believe that any additions made to Otway are a win for those in Prince George.

Miworth residents in particular will benefit from added access to world-class trails, and potentially see their property values increase given their proximity to this facility.

All the best!

Eric

—
Eric Karjaluo

Redacted