

**Subject: FW: Mountain Biking- June 25th North Shore News Article**

**Date:** Thu, 26 Jun 2003 18:05:48 -0700

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

**To:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <cagebc@yahoo.com>

Subject: RE: Mountain Biking- June 25th North Shore News Article

Dear Mr..

That I am not a mountain biker and or that I am older is not the issue neither am I a golfer for that matter or a soccer player yet I am a strong supporter of all these sports for both young and old.

The nature and the expected dramatic growth of this sport make this area unsuitable. The problems will overwhelm us within a short time. It is with this in mind that I have proposed a solution which is Doable, economical , and practical. There are large areas in the vicinity of the North Shore mountains presently belonging to the GVRD and they are NOT in the Watershed as Mayor Bell suggested. They should be opened up and possibly leased to a private entrepreneur who could built a road and create a large open recreation area. This sport has regional, national and international implications. It will literally draw hundreds of thousands of visitors. These people will require large tracts of lands and the freedom to move about without impacting residential areas as will be the case on Fromme Mountain even under the best of circumstances.

I am the only member of Council who has provided a visionary solution. The Mountain bikers should jump at the opportunity and support this idea. The Council meeting where this was discussed will be repeated this coming Saturday at 9 pm on Channel 4. You may wish to watch it. Unfortunately I did not have an opportunity for rebuttal when the Mayor raised the red herring of the Watershed.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

Dear Mr. Crist,

I read the above article with some interest. A number of your comments were quoted in the article. The following except caught my attention: "Crist also stated that Lynn Valley biking site options will always be limited, expensive, and full of difficulties.

"This is the wrong place. It's like putting a square peg into a round hole. It doesn't work," he said. "

Hopefully the above comment represents something taken out of context - as I have often respected the position you have taken on various matters.

I am a native North Vancouverite - born in Lions Gate and have lived most of my 41 years in the District. Over the years I have resisted moving to a more convenient location due to my love of mountains and the recreational possibilities that they offer. I grew-up hiking, running and biking the trails in our community. I think community leaders, such as yourself, have to accept that many people value the North Shore due to the recreational aspects that it offers. Given that mountain biking is a relatively new - but wildly popular - sport, the infrastructure needed to support it has not had time to grow. To suggest that it's the "wrong place", totally ignores a demand that you may not be a part of - but is important to many of your constituents. A plan needs to be put in place that addresses the reality that its here to stay - including ideas like creating a parking lot close to the water tank above the gate on Mountain Highway. I choose to live on the North Shore because I love to bike. I know many others that share the same opinion. I think you may be surprised if this issue was put before the public. My 9 year old son bikes with me and most of his classmates share an interest in mountain biking - classmates whose parents

are also taxpaying residents of North Vancouver District.


Based on my recollection, I believe you were one of the supporters of building the Northlands golf course. To me this was a totally inappropriate use of land as there was a perfectly good golf course 500 meters nearby. However, I accepted that there were a number of people who wanted a new course - and eventually the infrastructure was built - at tax-payer expense - to accommodate this use of the land. Due to the simple fact that your age demographic has no interest in mountain biking doesn't legitimize the view that the problem should go away as this is an inappropriate place to practice the sport of mountain biking. One could have made an equally fatuous argument a number of years ago that a golf course should be built on GVRD lands. Further, to artificially restrict parking, as has been done at Riverside, Upper Mountain Highway etc is not going to make this issue go away, nor will it satisfy a larger group who wants continued access to trails.

I urge you to consider creative problem solving as opposed to outright dismissal of a sport due to some emerging problems. Ideas such as partnerships with the GVRD, private property owners, BC Parks should be considered. Allowing bikers the chance to pay for such parking may defer some of the expenses. In the long-run its probably got a much better chance breaking even than the golf course.

Regards,

.....

---

 <a href="#">winmail.dat</a>	<b>Name:</b> winmail.dat <b>Type:</b> application/ms-tnef <b>Encoding:</b> base64
---	---