

**Subject: [Fwd: Is Anybody Out There Listening??]**

**Date:** Wed, 05 May 2004 14:44:05 -0700

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

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

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**Subject: Is Anybody Out There Listening??**

**Date:** Wed, 05 May 2004 11:01:15 -0700

**From:** M E Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>

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

**CC:** Councillor Ernie Crist <ecrist@dnv.org>, Liz James <Cagebc@yahoo.com>, Maureen Bragg <m.bragg@shaw.ca>

To Whom it May Concern:

A couple days ago, I had spotted several children about 10 years of age come out of Mountain View Park, on expensive bikes, with those awful helmets that motocross motorized bikers wear. Right away, I knew that this was some kind of class, with an adult or two, not far behind. Sure enough, after five children came out, one adult came out on mountain bike and gear (he looked like he was in his 20's). They proceeded to ride across the street, and one child decided to ride right up onto my lawn and over the middle of it without any concern from the "adult". Of course I went out and hollered at the the kid and adult "in charge" to keep their bikes off my lawn and other neighbours' lawns. The fact that the lot of them were riding on the sidewalk and not the road, at this point, I'm sure my concerns were ignored. By the way, it was raining at the time.

This kind of stuff will continue, as there is no enforcement of keeping private commercial ventures out of Mountain View, like promised, and I do not believe that these people had a "special permit", either. Also, there is no buffer zone between the park and the residential homes here. Why do they feel they can cross the road to ride on sidewalks and all over residents' lawns?? As long as we keep giving away our parks and natural places to the mountain bikers, while they continue to abuse the use of both public and private property, bad mouth people verbally and on the NSMB.com BB, etc. etc., DNV is looking more like the fools everytime itcaters to the whims of these MTBers.

With regards to the children, I can only say that where there is a big "rat", little "(b)rats" will follow. I do believe that the large majority of the children in these MTB "classes" do not have parents who mountain bike. How many of these parents really know where their children are riding, and what they are riding on? I bet a lot of these parents are about as clueless as the general non-mountain biking public about what is up there in our forests. The majority of these structures and trails for mountain biking are downright ugly, and do not add anything to benefit the forest, nor the natural scenery people have come up for originally. It is a blight on people's sensibilities, and cuts an ugly scar in our forests. There are some signs of "clear-cutting" in order to accomodate these structures. Perhaps we should take those parents up to see where their children will ride eventually, show them injury statistics, etc., and fine them for the damage their children cause to the flora and fauna as they ride on and off trail. After all, many DNV environmental protection bylaws are being broken by mountain bikers everyday, yet getting away with it. There's the rub!

Why are there less hikers coming to hike on Fromme? Let me think real hard. Perhaps it is the real fear of being hit or sideswiped by 50 lb bikes, and their riders in full body armour and helmets. We should feel safer walking down the middle of Marine Drive during rush hour! Meanwhile, the plans for Mountain View Park with regards to mountain biking should be scrapped due to the general public's ignorance as to what the reality of mountain biking really is about, thus bad decisions made. Once again, the proposed trail(s) for mountain biking do not belong in this park, nor are they welcomed by the "knowledgable" public. By leaving the park a natural area for quiet pursuits also protects the future sustainability of this neighbourhood, the park and pond itself (including the resident "species at risk" that resides there). As long as the mountain biker folk keep getting everything they want, they will not change their behaviour one bit.

So the riding on lawns continues; the riding in rain and mud continues; the building of illegal structures and trails continues; the badmouthing continues; the illegal parking , dropping off and picking up of mountain bikers continues in the RPO zone in front of Mountain View Park, on a regular basis. How do we stop this? Easy--we STOP rewarding them for bad behaviour and practices by restricting them access to certain areas. One place to begin is to restrict them from MountainView Park, where there is no good reason for them to be in there at all, except for the fact that they WANT it , just like they want ALL of Fromme, Seymour and Cypress. They also WANT access to all our public and private places. Give these people an inch, and they will take a mile. There is no appeasing them, as we can see by their bullying and derogatory statements, etc, made toward those in opposition to anything mountain bikers want. And we should begin by rewarding them Mountain View Park for them to rip up?? (as we already know mountain bikers do not stay on trails, nor off of private property). The sooner we understand this, the sooner we will get a handle on this wayward sport, and begin to control it. Enough is enough! Is there anybody out there listening??

M E Craver  
North Vancouver, BC