

**Subject: FW: Mountain biking**

**Date:** Thu, 25 Mar 2004 19:54:29 -0800

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

**To:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>

**CC:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>

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

From: Ernie Crist

Sent: March 25, 2004 7:18 PM

To: 'Edwards, Ronald AG:EX'

Subject: RE: Mountain biking

Dear Mr Edwards:

There is no need to get into a huff about Mountain Biking on the North Shore. No one has ever suggested that we ban it. What we did say and what I specifically suggested is that we find a more suitable place complete with parking and other facilities to accommodate this sport. And the best area to my way of thinking is in electoral area A. I am happy to say that the GVRD has agreed to look into this. This sport will grow by leaps and bounds and we in the District could not possible accommodate it by ourselves. This sport in close proximity to residential areas is a no winner. We can do much better. I wish you would tell that to your friends including those living on the North Shore.

Yours truly

Ernie Crist.

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

From: Edwards, Ronald AG:EX [<mailto:Ronald.Edwards@gems7.gov.bc.ca>]

Sent: March 25, 2004 4:44 PM

To: Mayor Bell; Ernie Crist; Janice Harris; Maureen McKeon Holmes; 'Imuri@dnv.org'; Alan Nixon; Richard Walton

Cc: Edwards, Ronald AG:EX

Subject: Mountain biking

It is rare for me to do such a thing but I am so motivated by the misguided position of Counsellor Crist as I feel comment is necessary. By way of background I am a 39 year old lawyer who practises as a Crown Counsel in Vancouver. I am not currently a resident of North Vancouver but will likely be buying a house there in the next few years. Not surprisingly I am a mountain biker as well as a hiker and skier. I probably spend at least 80 % of my recreational time on the North Shore. Getting to the point I have been ridden my bike on probably every appropriate trail on the Shore. I have come across innumerable hikers during these rides and I have never had a confrontation of any sort. I often ride alone but as well do ride with a group of friends and we are courteous in all ways. This has been my actual experience for the last 7 years. I say actual as it appears to me that any evidence brought forward by Mr Crist seems to be anecdotal at best. Now with all human interactions there is likely to be some conflict. There is always a minority in any group, be it bikers, hikers or residents that fail to live by societal norms. But from my actual experience the conflict level is negligible. One must also be mindful that interaction between bikers and hikers is limited because many trails created for biking are not attractive to hikers so the likelihood of meeting is actually low. Now if you are not swayed by my actual experience, and that of 7 of my friends all of whom live in North Vancouver, consider my next point. Perhaps its monetary aspect is more compelling. I spend at least \$15,000 per year in North Vancouver. That includes purchases at bike stores as well as restaurants, gas stations and clothing stores etc. Not insignificant I would say especially when you consider the net effect of all Bikers. Clearly hundreds of jobs are created by bikers and the bike industry in North Vancouver. Again if the above arguments are not compelling consider the positive societal aspect. This only comes to mind by virtue of an experience I had on


the trails 3 weeks ago. My friends and I were riding and came across the trail builders. They were 2 boys aged around 16. We chatted with them for a while and learned that they had spent approximately 1 day a weekend for the last 18 months working on the trail to create an exciting and environmentally sustainable experience. I have been thinking about that commitment and realized how many young people actually do take to the trails on organized trail maintenance days and give of themselves. Those are the type of citizens I want. Not to mention the hundred of kids and young adults who have taken to the sport who may otherwise be idle and at loose ends. I have also seen many parents and their children out enjoying the trails together.

As I mentioned there is always the potential for conflict and if problems arise they must be addressed. Compromise is a matter of fact. But to legislate biking out of North Vancouver....well I suppose we could smash the cotton gins to.

Sincerely

Ronald M. Edwards

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