

Subject: [Fwd: Re: An Open Letter to Eric Pettit]
From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>
Date: Thu, 12 Jan 2006 19:35:14 -0800
To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

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

Subject: Re: An Open Letter to Eric Pettit
Date: Thu, 12 Jan 2006 19:31:34 -0800
From: M E Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>
To: Eric Pettit <eric@openspacearchitecture.com>
CC: Council@dnv.org, James_Ridge@dnv.org, fonvca@fonvca.org,
Graham_Knell@dnv.org, Sharon Bader <bader@alumni.sfu.ca>
References: <20060112233209.KQCP23096.priv-edtnes57.telusplanet.net@mike>

Dear Eric:

Apologies somewhat accepted. A few things to correct and clarify from your note below. Anytime you bring in my name, etc. into this website, the reason is very clear it is not to "immortalize" the struggle between the different groups. Also, I said *eco-vandalism*, not "terrorism". There is a big difference between the two. I do not condone either. The Lower Griffen trail *does* impact the pond, especially during the rainy season (mountain biking during this time in inclement weather exacerbates the siltage problems in the pond). Activities in the upland area do affect the wetland area below. Everything is interconnected to work well together. If so much modification of drainage, rocking in areas, etc. is needed to "carry" the mountain biking sport in our forests and parks, is it really the right place to ride? Perhaps these trails should be "retired" instead?

Yes, off-leash dogs are a problem with everyone who allows them the run of the forest. I am not a fan of that, either. What of the mountain bikers who like to bring their dogs along with them? These dogs travel off leash and go farther into the woods than regular hikers and dog walkers do. Perhaps dogs should be banned from running in the woods with mountain bikers? All dogs should be on leash? I agree. My dog is always on leash, except in our own backyard. I also clean up after my pet. Do the mountain bikers do likewise while exercising their dogs from the back of a bike? I didn't think so.

What of mountain bikers who like to ride at night with bright halogen headlamps -- in groups -- with their dogs? There are a few who regularly floodlight my home ablaze in these lights, along with my next door neighbour's home -- and a group of at least a dozen, on occasion. It can be disturbing. This cannot be good for the nocturnal wildlife,

who freeze when "caught like deer" in the headlamps. It will not be good for the soon to be breeding amphibians (between late February to late April). **How can we best address and solve this ongoing problem?**

Lastly, I did not advocate the gravel pathway through the park, nor did I advocate the present format of fence structures in the park. The original plan was to have an partially elevated boardwalk through the park--- that plan fell through (I guess it was too expensive). For the record: I have always advocated for conservation and protection of the pond and park and for ecologically sound, defined and signed hiking trails through the park, with the pond fenced in parts to keep dogs out. *Never did I advocate for the park to become a mountain bike thoroughway, Eric.* Had the mountain biking community left this unique and dedicated park alone Fromme, the gravel road would not have been built to accommodate your bicycles in the first place.

Is there a solution? Could this park *not* be used by mountain bikers during the rainy season from November to April? (also includes the migration and breeding season of several amphibians, including the "species at risk" Red-legged frog). Could night riding be discontinued in this park and environs, also? These few things could help Mountain View Park, if it cannot be *closed completely* to mountain biking. **Can there ever be a compromise between two opposing groups?** This is a solution that could most likely work for both sides, in a monitored experiment -- since the rest of Fromme is now open to mountain biking. **Seasonal riding through Mountain View Park, I believe, is a fair compromise that would address many of the ongoing problems within the park and pond.**

Remember, Mountain View Park is the only DNV designated park (1999) for protection, in the Fromme Alpine area. It is also the only "alpine" park within the DNV boundary of Upper Lynn Valley neighbourhood -- where the DNV OCP has determined Mountain View Park to be a "future neighbourhood park" (according to DNV "Park Search" records to this very day!). What is mountain biking doing in a unique wetland park and pond designated for protection (to be a "future neighbourhood park"), in the first place? Can anyone answer that one for me? Thank you.

--Monica Craver--

Eric Pettit wrote:

Dear Monica. (and everyone she included)

I'm sorry you have taken offence to this thread.
<http://bb.nsmc.com/showthread.php?t=7104>

I can not be responsible for the posts that are added, and apologize for posting the name "Cravers Corners".

No disrespect was intended, and it was more of an attempt to immortalize the current struggle between the riders and the anti-biking groups.

As for starting this thread and wanting to name the trail. I am well within my rights. I have been working very hard, and under the approval of the District to re-build this old hiking/biking trail and I am very proud of the progress.

Currently the trail is referred to as "The Switchbacks on Lower Griffen". The "Griffen Trail" is a very long and old trail on Fromme that starts at the first switchback of the access road, So I just wanted to give this steep and difficult section a name that made it stand out as its own trail, and not just a small part of the Griffen trail.

My purpose for re-naming it (or actually giving it a name) was not to taunt you.

I really do not understand your problem with my work or this trail or as you call it Eco-Terrorism.

The trail in question is almost 1/2 KM away from MVP, and the work I am doing is meant to restore the hillside.

I have been very careful to protect the stream that runs adjacent to the trail, and the work I am doing has no impact on MVP or the pond.

When I adopted the Switchbacks 2 years ago, the hillside was so badly eroded that no vegetation was growing on it. Over this time, I have been re-directing & controlling the water that seeps from this hillside, rocking in the trail to make it more stable, reducing the width of the single-track to reduce its foot-print, and re-planted a number of small saplings and ferns onto the barren slope. (plants that were about to roll down the hill due to the erosion below them). This spring, the District is going to supply me with a number of indigenous plants from their nursery to be planted along the sides of the trail to help re-stabilize the slope. As well, I hiking along the new Gravel path in MVP to get to the switchbacks, and since I am in there I do routine maintenance to this path. (this includes re-building / re-enforcing the log boarder to prevent bikes / hikers from entering the sensitive forest floor in MVP, raking the gravel to infill low spots that are prone to ponding, picking up garbage left by the dog walkers, and picking up and moving dead fall which is blown onto the path quite often.) If it were not for me hiking up to the switchbacks once a week, the park and path would not be as well maintained as it is.

As for the bikes that use this trail, they pass thru MVP park on the defined trail constructed by the district to protect the pond, and they do less damage than the dog walkers who let their animals run freely through the woods.

I invite all of the individuals who Monica has included in the e-mail to view the tread on NSMB.com and judge for yourselves if it is tasteless. I also invite you all to walk this trail to see the work I have done. I will post a comment on the tread letting others know that Monica has contacted me and that the posts about her and Ernie are not appreciated.

I invite you all to review this thread as well,

<http://bb.nsmb.com/showthread.php?t=70887>, it is about Ernie's accident, and is full of best wishes for his recovery.

Monica is fighting with a group of individuals (Mountain Bikers) who don't want to fight.

As for naming the trail. I don't see anything wrong with calling it "Red Legged Frog" I think a name like that actually helps riders to remember to be sensitive towards the environment and MVP.

Monica, you got your gravel path in MVP, and your signs about the frogs and the sensitive ecosystem. You got the fences built in the forest. So please stop fighting us

Eric Pettit

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From: M E Craver [<mailto:mecraver@shaw.ca>]

Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2006 1:42 PM

To: Eric Pettit

Cc: Mayor and Council - DNV; James Ridge; FONVCA (E-mail)

Subject: An Open Letter to Eric Pettit

Dear Mr. Pettit (also known as mountain biker, "King of E-Ville" on NSMB.com bb) and others who have joined the following "thread":

[North Shore Mountain Biking Forums](#) :: [Trail News/Maintenance](#) :: **Name the switchbacks**

It is a shame that there is so much immaturity among mountain biking adults that they can not just leave well enough alone. Are things so boring in life you have to just call the dogs out again? Has having Fromme/Mountain View Park approved for mountain biking by DNV Council taken the fun out of riding and building there? It seems so by the tone of the recent thread on the nsmb bb:

<http://bb.nsmb.com/showthread.php?t=7104>

What am I supposed to think when I see suggestions for names of switchbacks above Mountain View Park and pond as feeble attempts at taunts towards Mr. Crist, myself, and the "species at risk"--Red Legged Frog? You may think it is hilarious, or perhaps even take it seriously?, as you choose names for mountain bike trails that are detrimental to the future survival of the park and pond. As you all already know, I take environmental conservation seriously. Threats to the viability of the North Shore forests' biodiversity and ecology in the form of future development and "extreme" recreational overuse is not a joke, boys and girls.

I do not want to know the reasons for this latest thread, but it clearly shows that environmental "sensitivity training" is sorely needed. But anyone who believes this is possible with mountain bikers, such as you and others, is sorely in need of an education themselves. Grow up, people! Leave the Cravers, Ernie Crist and the Red-Legged Frog out of your immature "name the switchback" games. I (we) do not wish to be associated with your eco-vandalism of our natural parks and forests in any shape or form. I hope you can respect my request in a mature way. Thank you.

--Monica Craver--

