

Subject: [Fwd: North Shore Trail Access]

Date: Mon, 14 Feb 2005 17:03:55 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: North Shore Trail Access

Date: Tue, 15 Feb 2005 08:56:00 +0800 (WST)

From: andrewdambrosio@swiftdsl.com.au

To: dnvCouncil@dnv.org, fonvca@fonvca.org, jcuthbert@dnv.org, mmckeonholmes@dnv.org, rwalton@dnv.org, anixon@dnv.org, jharris@dnv.org, lmuri@dnv.org, ecrist@dnv.org, editor@nsnews.com, sunletters@png.canwest.com, provletters@png.canwest.com

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my views on the proposed closure of the mountain bike trails on Mt Fromme.

My name is Andrew Dambrosio, I'm a 28 year old software engineer from Melbourne, Australia. I have been an avid mountain biker for over 15 years and one of my goals in life is to ride the North Shore of Vancouver. In particular, Fromme, the birthplace of free riding. The issue of closing down trails on the North Shore has created a lot of attention in the mountain bike community, not only in Australia, but around the world.

At present, I'm in the process of organising a trip to Vancouver in August. These plans may be put on hold, or cancelled if mountain biking is no longer allowed on the North Shore. Mountain biking is a growing sport, and more and more riders travel to the North Shore of Vancouver every year. Take away the trails and you take away the tourists, which takes away the money to local businesses. These trail closures will not just impact the riders, they will impact the wider community.

Governments build playgrounds for kids to play, parks for families, sporting complexes for mainstream sports. However, sports such as mountain biking receive nothing. With nowhere to ride, it is only logical that the riders will have to build their own trails. This is what has happened on the North Shore. The trails are regularly maintained by the riders and donations from the riders help support the maintenance and construction of the trails. In 1997, the North Shore Mountain Bike Association was formed. This non-profit organisation has been looking after the trails all over the North Shore since.

Mountain biking should not be seen as a sport containing people who have no respect for the environment. This is quite the opposite. We love the outdoors, love the forests and the smell of the air, they are beautiful places to spend the day. Mountain bikers are various ages, from young children to people as old as 70! They are not just a bunch of 'airhead' teenagers looking to intimidate people.

One of the issues is parking. The construction of parking lots will cost money, money that can be recouped over time but charging cars to park in these parking lots. I was in Vancouver August last year, and I vaguely remember a parking lot for the Capilano suspension bridge. If a suspension bridge can warrant a parking lot, I can't see why some of the best mountain bike trails in the world can't receive a parking lot.

I honestly hope that a compromise can be reached and the legendary bike trails of the North Shore can be kept open for generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Andrew Dambrosio
Melbourne, Australia

