

Subject: RE: Mountain Biking in the North Shore

Date: Sat, 19 Feb 2005 22:30:47 -0800

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: "Garrett Gosselin" <garrett_gosselin@hotmail.com>, "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James_Ridge@dnv.org>, "Susan Rogers" <Susan_Rogers@dnv.org>, "Richard Boulton" <Richard_Boulton@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>, <cmpayne@telus.net>, <sinclair_jordan@hotmail.com>, <billstowell@shaw.ca>, <herbh@sfu.ca>, <sk8erdude_13@hotmail.com>, <jwlorenz@shaw.ca>, <staceyg@telus.net>, <chrisz17@telus.net>, <jgoretzky@hotmail.com>, <gavo@telus.net>, "Dave Perfit" <dperfit@telus.net>, <BLevy@mjhha.org>, <rgreen@dgbk.com>, <davetomczyk@shaw.ca>, <pmtdotcom@yahoo.com>, <wiregagged2004@hotmail.com>, <andrewdambrosio@swiftdsl.com.au>, <henczel@yahoo.com>, <marcsawa@telus.net>, <ludi55@shaw.ca>, <peter@northshorebillet.com>, <gary.moninna@telus.net>, <gorio@pacificcoast.net>, <drewhills@msn.com>

Dear Mr. Gosselin:

The issue and the controversy surrounding "Mountain Biking" is not about biking on hard surfaces, mountainous or otherwise, but biking on soft forested ground especially slopes. One is allowed throughout the world and the other is not since it is destructive to the environment. Indeed off road Biking is prohibited in most parts of the world altogether or severely restricted. The detrimental impact of off road biking is especially severe when the forested terrain is steep and subject to heavy precipitation as is the case on the North Shore Mountains.

Unfortunately, the North Shore Mountain Bikers Association (NSMBA) is unwilling to concede this point. What is even more unfortunate is that members of District Council, who have jurisdiction over this area, have actually encouraged this activity regardless of the consequences.

The NSMBA supported the incumbent Mayor during the last Mayoralty election. She was quoted as owing her election to the NSMBA. District Council spent considerable funds on Mount Fromme to accommodate the Bikers. Terms of reference of the "Strategic Study", that Council enter into negotiations with the GVRD and the Provincial Government who between them own large tracts of land where Biking might be accommodated were never adequately addressed. The exercise has to be repeated but even now attempts are being made to stall.

The NSMBA insists on using the forested slopes of Mount Fromme for their activities. At the same time, the present District Council believes that they can make political hay by acquiescing. This is the crux of the issue and is the reason for the confrontations between environmentalists, their organizations, including wild life spokespersons, and the adjacent residents who are adversely impacted.

Tim Condon a Wildlife Management consultant and co chair of the Black Bear Network in his submission stated that it is well documented that Mount Fromme is under severe environmental threat and with an increasing negative impact as the many recreationist activities escalate in considerable numbers. It would appear he stated that Mountain Bikers, erosion, off-leash dogs, and the removal of forest detritus pose the biggest concern and these activities should be closely monitored and restricted, closed or stopped.

I have offered a workable solution. The GVRD, the provincial government and the private sector may well be able to accommodate this sport on their land. They own large tracts in the vicinity of the North Shore. In conjunction with the private sector they may well be able to accommodate this extreme sport on their lands including providing the necessary access, controls and policing to insure protection of the environment. The District has neither the resources nor the space to do so. Fromme Mountain is certainly not suitable for unrestricted Mountain Biking. Particularly on the soft and unprotected forested slopes and is banned in the rest of the world.

Ernie Crist, Councillor,

District of North Vancouver.

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

From: Garrett Gosselin [mailto:garrett_gosselin@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 18, 2005 7:58 PM
To: Ernie Crist; Mayor Harris; Maureen McKeon Holmes; Lisa Muri; Alan Nixon; Richard Walton; Jim Cuthbert
Subject: Mountain Biking in the North Shore

Good Evening Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing to express my concern over the future of the mountain biking trails on the North Shore. I caught the tail end of a news clip this evening and heard that there are councillors in North Van that don't seem to appreciate the mountain biking and the trails that are in North Van.


I think you should do some research to see just how special these trails are for thousands and thousands of people in BC, Canada, and the rest of the world. I think that you should do more research in how mountain biking does not have to be destructive to the environment and how with very minimal effort mountain can co-exist with nature. I think that you should be encouraging people to get out and get some exercise. I don't think you realize just how lucky we are in Canada and especially on the west coast, these are world class trails that are right in our backyards. How could you seriously be against them? I could go on and on but you've probably heard all the arguments before, so I just want to let my opinion be heard and that is that I think these trails are good and should be preserved forever.

Thanks for listening to my opinion.

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