

Subject: RE: Recreation on Mount Fromme

Date: Tue, 8 Mar 2005 19:30:30 -0800

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

To: <milnep@uoguelph.ca>, "Mayor Harris" <Janice_Harris@dnv.org>, <nmckeonholmes@dnv.org>, "Lisa Muri" <lisa_muri@dnv.org>, "Alan Nixon" <Alan_Nixon@dnv.org>, "Richard Walton" <richard_walton@dnv.org>, <jcnthbert@dnv.org>, <sunletters@png.canwest.com>, <provletters@png.canwest.com>, <editor@nsnews.com>

CC: <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James_Ridge@dnv.org>, "Susan Rogers" <Susan_Rogers@dnv.org>, "Richard Boulton" <Richard_Boulton@dnv.org>

Dear Mr. Milne:

Thank you for your civilised email response. The issue is rather complex and for a whole number of reasons last but not least is that Mountain Biking is a growing and specialised sport which requires a specialised and appropriately large area. I simply do not believe that Mount Fromme is suitable in the long run, however attractive it is to mountain biking activists at present.

In light of this, I have proposed that we engage in a strategic study and that we involve not only the District of North Vancouver but also the Provincial government as well as the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD). They have large land holdings in the vicinity. If mountain bikers can go to Whistler BC than they can easily go to other areas that are much closer to the District than is Whistler by way of example.

The bottom line is that the District does not have the resources to accommodate this sport on the expected scale. Even now we have been asked to build a parking lot for one million dollars which is money we do not have. This is quite apart that it would have to be built in a forested area adjacent to residential areas.

I am convinced that a solution can be found if all jurisdiction including the private sector are asked to work together. Unfortunately the NSMBA insists on pursuing the Mount Fromme option regardless of the consequences while I see this is a no win situation. It is like forcing a square peg into a round hole.

However, a truly strategic and comprehensive study by all jurisdictions including the NSMBA would in my opinion quite easily come up with a solution.

For a more detailed understanding of my position on this matter you may wish to access
WWW NSNEWS Feb.23,2005, Letter on Mountain Biking, Councillor, Ernie Crist.

Thank you again for your responsible and reasonable approach to this issue.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

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

From: milnep@uoguelph.ca [<mailto:milnep@uoguelph.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2005 6:45 PM
To: Mayor Harris; Ernie Crist; nmckeonholmes@dnv.org; Lisa Muri; Alan Nixon; Richard Walton; jcnthbert@dnv.org; sunletters@png.canwest.com; provletters@png.canwest.com; editor@nsnews.com
Subject: Recreation on Mount Fromme

This email is being written because I have recently become aware of the civic struggle over recreation on Mount Fromme. With over 15 years experience in the bicycle industry, and five years of mountain bike


racing, I can confidently say that I have ridden my fair share of trails throughout Canada. The most exciting trails, and more importantly the best designed, implemented and maintained trails, are in the North Vancouver area. Coming from the relatively relief deprived province of Ontario, I have visited North Vancouver many times with my trusty mountain bike; thousands of men and women do each year. Each individual visit pumps hundreds of dollars into your local economy. Furthermore, I and millions like me, open mountain bike magazines each month, eager to read the international coverage of what the leading edge of the mountain bike world is doing in North Vancouver. We save our money and plan for that next trip to a mountain bike mecca. If you asked off road cyclists, you would likely find the top three dream vacation spots to be North Vancouver, Moab (Utah), and Whistler...or we could find a new destination if you don't wish to be on that list. From what I have read, it seems that the main argument from Councilor Crist relates to the ecological impact of mountain biking on the wet slopes of Mount Fromme. His Ph.D source of "scientific evidence" is from a psychologist who is definitely NOT considered an expert in the field of environmental impact assessment. That being said, anyone who has been to those trails, and has a hint of engineering knowledge, knows that the builders have made every effort to elevate the trail over wet areas, or avoid them all together. Furthermore, those builders are setting the international "Gold" standard of trail construction; just ask the folks at IMBA. For example, there were trails here in Guelph that required monthly maintenance, and had significant environmental impact. We implemented North Vancouver trail-building techniques and solved the problems we were having with the erosion of topsoil.

If you take one thing from this letter, let it be the following:
To close Mount Fromme to mountain bikers would be first and foremost unjust, but also a huge blow to the local tourism sector. I hope that everyone involved in the decision process will take it very seriously.

Lastly, I don't think it was Mount Fromme, but I'd like to note that your recent land slide took place on an urbanized slope and not one of the many off road trail networks on the surrounding mountain slopes. I understand that subdivisions create more local tax income than mountain bike trails, but maybe you should focus your ecological/environmental concerns on building codes and deforestation instead.

Sincerely,
Peter Milne

~Youth Events Coordinator~
GORBA (Guelph Offroad Bicycle Association) ~BAH Geography candidate~
~Researching Human Impact on the Environment~ University of Guelph

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