

Subject: [Fwd: [Fwd: THE North Shore News article!]]

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From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: [Fwd: THE North Shore News article!]

Date: Mon, 14 Mar 2005 10:30:11 -0800

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

To: Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, Mayor Harris <Janice_Harris@dnv.org>, Councillor Alan Nixon <anixon@dnv.org>, Councillor Ernie Crist <ecrist@dnv.org>, Councillor Jim Cuthbert <cuthberj@dnv.org>, Councillor Lisa Muri <lmuri@dnv.org>, Councillor Maureen McKeon Holmes <mmckeonholmes@dnv.org>, Councillor Richard Walton <rwalton@dnv.org>

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Dear Mayor and Council: In case you missed the following North Shore News column by Trevor Lautens, I forward it onto you. I feel that he captured the "soul" of mountain bikers well. It is interesting that the mountain bike forums on NSMB.com did not "tear apart" this article, like many opposing views in the past. In fact, the forums on this one article has been so eerily silent --you could hear a pin drop! Perhaps it is because it is true? You cannot argue against the truth. Read it carefully.

Will Mayor and Council take heed of California's warning about mountain bikes in wilderness areas, natural parks, etc.? Or will DNV learn the hard way from trial and error? Does DNV really want to encourage any "off-road recreational vehicle" use in to our natural forests and parks? It will not stop at mountain bikes. A bike is a "vehicle", no matter what IMBA/NSMBA tries to tell you. To believe anything else, is naivety. Yes, the forest is for all people to enjoy, but unrestricted use of the forest is asking for trouble. Let the people enjoy the forests on foot, and give mountain biking to the private recreational resorts like Cypress to run. Mind you, even a well-known black bear expert in Whistler said that the mountain bike park, there, was the worst thing to happen to the black bears at Whistler.

Wheeled vehicles belong on the road or paved areas, not the forest floor. Venues like the outdoor "Gleneagles Adventure Park" in West Vancouver, and the indoor "Woodyard"(soon relocating to the North Shore?) work well for this mountain biking sport. The mountain bikers already have a place to ride in GVRD/LSCR's natural forest, next door to Fromme. Not a wise solution, but it is a place to ride. What about a place in Inter-River Park (based on the Gleneagles model) -- it is feasible!

With population growth on the North Shore, and climate change, we need to look at curbing development of our "greenbelt" forest lands on the North Shore, in order to leave a living legacy for the next generation to appreciate. This goes both for creeping housing developments, and carrying extreme recreational sports needing special amenities, costing much money, and the loss of more natural forest land. There are already many recreational amenities across the North Shore -- Cypress, Grouse, LSCR, Mount Seymour, etc. Some have already opened their doors to mountain biking. Isn't that enough? Please ban mountain bikes from Fromme on April 11th. Thank you.

Monica Craver

PS. I forward a reply from a wise Californian friend, also:

I have just returned from a three day conference with the Back County Horsemen of Calif.'s annual meeting. There were literally hundreds of people at this conference. In their executive session they voted unanimously against allowing mountain bikes in the Wilderness. They know first hand what the bikes and bikers do.

It may take Vancouver awhile to recognize the destruction that will happen in your forests. As I said, they are their own worst enemy and the truth will reveal itself about this.

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The North Shore News Article:

Crist moving over mountains

Trevor Lautens

Contributing Writer

NORTH Vancouver District Coun. Ernie Crist would win an Academy Award for Best Burr Under Many Saddles, if there were one.

But give him credit for tireless industry and for generating a cornucopia of e-mails.

Current crusade: Protecting Fromme Mountain's delicate trails from those mustered under the flag of the North Shore Mountain Bikers Association and their like the world over. Crist, the most vocal champion of preserving the mountain, is drawing a lot of fuming e-mails.

Example, original spelling: "we still getta ride our bikes. and you getta eat cold kraft dinner and cry that us youngins are having fun. suck on that."

But not all reach such heights of intellectualism. More civil, from Queenstown, New Zealand: "The preservation of mountain biking on Mount Fromme will be bitterly defended by many including myself."

>From a cycle shop in Cochrane, Alta.: The town of Canmore made restrictions that just sent mountain biking underground, so to speak, to distant trails - where accidents increased. The informant writes: "The mountain bike community is not going to be gone overnight, the multi-million dollar industry isn't going to just disappear." (A Crist critic claims the North Shore cycling industry is worth \$30-million a year.)

The writer ends on a New Age tone: "It's a way of life, not an activity. . . . I know it has helped me out of many situations in regards to life choices." Yeah?

Crist retorts that many are drawn to North Vancouver precisely because other places including Europe won't have them: "Biking on forested mountain slopes, especially in areas of heavy rainfall, is not tolerated in any environmentally conscious society. To allow it here constitutes a form of barbarism."

He has allies. One writes: "California has been through all this and knows how to deal with these folk."

An Oakland resident sent a copy of San Francisco's stringent law, adding: "As a lover of the outdoors and wilderness, I am writing to recommend you do whatever you can to blunt the mountain biking onslaught into your outdoor areas."

The American Hiking Society, writes the chairman of the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, Sierra Club, used to support mountain biking. No more.

A Burbank resident who confesses to having once been an off-road fan scorches the mountain bikers: "They tear up the land, the flora, and scare away the fauna. The mountain bikers that I have had personal contact with are not interested in following marked trails or trail etiquette. I have found them to be rude and display a perverse attitude that they own the land."

Hmmm. Sounds like Whistler's Sea-to-Sky speednuts on two wheels.

The hot issue is back before North Vancouver District's alpine strategic study group on April 11.

Never flinching from a war on two fronts, Crist is also hammering at an old grievance: "(the district), despite now having the second highest taxes in the region, continues to subsidize the City of North Vancouver through our recreation agreement. They are building the highrises while we are providing the playing fields. Nobody dares say anything for fear of upsetting the status quo."

A recent critic who addressed him as "Mr. Christ" may have slipped into unconscious reverence.

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