

**Subject:** [Fwd: Final Comments re: Our Trail Day]

**Date:** Sun, 06 Mar 2005 14:51:10 -0800

**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

**To:** Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

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**Subject:** Final Comments re: Our Trail Day

**Date:** Thu, 03 Mar 2005 16:19:02 -0800

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

**To:** Cam McRae <cam@nsmb.com>

**CC:** Rob Newell <newsroom@northshoreoutlook.com>, fonvca@fonvca.org, James Ridge <James\_Ridge@dnv.org>, Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, editor@nsnews.com

Nice try, Cam. It believe it is time to "tone it down". I have been "up there" to see the structures and myriad of trails cut into the forest for the sole purpose of riding. Ask Andy, DNV's parks ranger, who took me up there. Any citizen can ask to see what is up there. That is what democracy is all about. The average non- mountain biking citizen could gain a lot of info about mountain biking by reading your fine NSMB.com website, and the multitude of these sites on the internet. They have the free choice to agree or disagree with you and others. I happen to disagree. That is my free choice.

We both can back up our arguments with "scientific reports". We are both vocal about what we believe to be the truth. We can also go on and on with this, ad infinitum. Instead of helping either of our arguments, we will just begin to annoy rather than educate those we wish to reach. I have said all I can say on this subject over the past few years. In the end, DNV Mayor and Council will be making the final decisions for Fromme and other areas of DNV with regards to whether mountain bikes, or other wheeled off-road recreational vehicles should be allowed in our natural forests. It will be determined if the cost is feasible. That will be the bottom line. Thank you.

--Monica Craver--

Cam McRae wrote:

Dear Ms Craver,

You own three SUVs? Well how nice for you. Or perhaps it's just one. Either way it blows holes in any suggestion that your primary concerns are for the environment and the impact you have on the world.

Misinformation seems to be your specialty.

Once again you state insupportable positions that are simply untrue. Riding four seasons on Fromme has been sustainable for years now and will continue to be sustainable in the future. In fact as the existing, established trails are improved they are actually becoming more sustainable over time. Your thesis is full of holes from the outset. Trails like Seventh Secret, which has been on the mountain for more than 20 years, has never been in better condition. If your statement had any truth to it a trail that had been ridden for so long in all types of weather would surely be impassable. At last year's North Shore Mountain Bike Festival and Conference (sponsored by the North Shore Credit Union) land managers from all over the world came to see the incredible trail building on Mt. Fromme and they left convinced that mountain biking could indeed be a sustainable activity given the correct construction techniques. Another sign that we are in fact good stewards of the land.

Alas you would know nothing of this because you have never stepped foot off the Baden Powell. Which begs the question; how can you purport to know anything of the effect of mountain bike trails if you have never laid eyes on them? Like Councillor Crist you state opinions without any basis in fact which is why we shall never agree on anything.

I on the other hand am in favour of fact and truth.

Sincerely,  
Cam McRae

On 3-Mar-05, at 2:10 PM, M E Craver wrote:

Dear Mr. McRae: Let me clarify! We do not own two SUV's (Sports Utility Vehicles). I will say, however, I am with you 100% when it comes to mountain biking seasonally on the Cypress Mountain Resort. This is what works! I am glad we are finally seeing eye to eye. Whistler's seasonal bike park works well, also. Riding Fromme area four seasons a year, day and night, is not environmentally, nor ecologically sound, no matter how well you build your trails. LSCR/GVRD seems to have no problem with mountain bikers riding their land, and it is a multi-jurisdictional decision. I hear the Woodyard wants to relocate to the North Shore. I have no problem with that either. I am willing to compromise in some areas, even though I do feel strongly against any type of off-road recreational vehicles in or natural forests. We have to consider the mammals and other wildlife which require space to exist. Many have been displaced and disturbed by so much mountain biking traffic. Meanwhile, you also have Mrytle, Gleneagles, and soon Inter-River Bike/Dirt jump parks. There is also an indoor bike park in Abbotsford. It is not like you have no places to ride, legally. Are you willing to give anything back? ie. Fromme? Mountain View Park? British Properties area? etc.

Guess what? We do own a mountain bike!-- but it is only ridden on the paved roadways, here. Perhaps this is the SUV you have seen? -- it is a two-wheeled "Jeep Comanche TSi", complete with Monroe shocks. Like most four-wheeled SUV's, this baby has not seen the inside of the forest, or used off-road. We are proud of that fact. It makes for a smooth ride.

The Baden Powell Centennial Trail was built as a hiking trail by Scouts and Guides of Canada. I have not cut any new trails, and basically hiked this trail. I may have wandered unknowingly onto another unauthorized trail, but have never purposely gone and cut a new trail, myself. I have helped Mr. Graham Knell with restoration planting in Mountain View Park --(one of those days being during last year's NSMBA Trail Days in Mountain View Park). I continued to look after the plantings until I got hit from behind by a mountain biker coming through the park. I had a bruised arm for a week, and the person never stopped to see if I was alright. I will continue to be a steward of this park, as long as it is still safe for me to walk in there. I stay out of Mountain View on weekends as there is too much bike traffic. Thank you.

--Monica Craver--

Cam McRae wrote:

Dear Ms Craver,

The only 'authorized' trail on the North Shore is the Baden Powell. That means that all existing hiking trails (aside from the Baden Powell) as well as mountain bike trails that have been there for 20 years are equally legal or illegal depending upon your perspective. Your omission of this point undermines your credibility. It also means that if you hike off the Baden Powell your activities are just as 'illegal' as ours.

As far as being an easy target I would suggest that it is the disinformation you send publicly to council and fonvca.org that has mountain bikers notice you. You suggest that our motives for maintaining the Baden Powell trail are disingenuous and that we act only out of self-interest. This is terribly insulting and an absolute fabrication. We have no desire to ride the Baden Powell trail when there are much better trails for our needs close by. How can you be surprised by our reaction when you make statements such as these? It seems it is you who owes mountain bikers an apology.

I cannot take responsibility for the statements made about you on our bulletin board, just as someone who builds a wall cannot be responsible for what is written on it, but I would question what brings you there. Are you a secret rider after all or are you searching for information to further your slanderous campaign against us? That said I have never advocated unpleasantness and I regret if you have been subjected to this via email. Considering the emails I have been cc'ed on that have been sent to Councillor Crist I would suggest he's becoming more sensitive - they were at worst rather innocuous and often very polite.

You also claim to be environmentally active but your family owns two SUVs while your husband speaks out at council meetings against public transit. You also live in a low-density neighbourhood on the edge of the rainforest. This sort of hypocrisy leads us to believe that you care little for the environment and that your actions are motivated by a personal dislike for people having fun in your area.

Concerning your fear of the weather, a little research would show you that the trail construction techniques we employ (supervised by Graham Knell most recently) allow trails to be ridden in all types of weather with very little adverse impact. These techniques were employed on the Baden Powell section so dig out your boots - thanks to us you are free to hike in any kind of weather. Isn't that nice?

You may be interested to know that West Van Council recently approved the construction of a mountain bike riding area near the

top of Cypress Mountain. It seems the new council has finally seen the positive effect mountain biking can have on the community and are guiding their actions accordingly. On top of this the resort at Cypress will be offering lift-accessed riding for the summer of 2005 - another vote of confidence for those of us who ride non polluting off road bicycles. I would suggest that riding in neither of these areas will be deemed illegal but I'm not certain how they will respond to hiking in the same areas.

I hope that in future you will start to speak the truth and avoid the slanderous campaign of disinformation you have employed thus far.

Please feel free to forward any insulting emails you receive from mountain bikers and I would be happy to respond to the sender and let them know that I abhor this sort of behaviour. There are bad seeds in every community and I would personally like to help educate mountain bikers who are impolite or worse so we can have more harmonious relationships with the community.

Sincerely,  
Cam McRae

On 3-Mar-05, at 10:14 AM, M E Craver wrote:

Dear Mr. McRae: Where do you get off with lying? If I had wanted to do something like that I would have physically removed those NSMBA plates attached to the Lower Griffin Trail structures, and torn down the "plans"(attached to trees) for the modifying of the Lower Griffin, long ago. The temptation has been there. But that is not how I work. Be aware, Mr. McRae, I am not the only resident in this neighbourhood that is pretty upset about the "takeover" of our natural forests by your kind -- but I happen to be the most vocal -- hence, an "easy target" for you and your [www.nsmb.com](http://www.nsmb.com) board. Fair? I do not think so. As far as I know, the neighbourhood got Trail Days "invites" in their mailboxes. I received three, myself. Of course, I declined -- for reasons you are aware of.

It is clear mountain bikers propose to ride on this trail, as I noticed a typical newly built mountain bike ladder bridge leading to a bike trail about half way up that section of the Baden Powell Trail. Frankly, I had not really noticed that trail before, but now that it has been "defined" for mountain bikes, we are sure to see more biking traffic coming through. That is the point I am trying to make to Council. I have encountered numerous mountain bikers on that portion of the trail over the years.

Also, I do not hike that trail during or shortly after rains. But I continue to see many mountain bikers coming out to ride in the park and trails -- rain, shine, snow, and at night (wearing halogen headlamps). It is not I who is being unreasonable, but you, the [nsmb.com](http://www.nsmb.com) and the NSMBA, and other assorted mountain bikers. You do not want to leave Fromme, or any of the other eight areas of the North Shore you now illegally ride on. Perhaps LSCR and portions of Mount Seymour are "legal" now? -- I do not know that for sure.

You and I do know, however, that it is true mountain bike trails have been cut illegally all over Fromme without approval from the DNV, in prior years. So why should we be commending your efforts, now, because you "maintain" these trails with "approval" from DNV? The truth is the bike trails you ride on are still considered "unauthorized" (DNV's terminology. Sounds nicer than "illegal", I guess). Frankly, some of the derogatory things said on your [www.nsmba.com](http://www.nsmba.com) website about those who do not approve mountain biking in forest habitats -- approved by the moderator -- tells the whole story. So please get off your high horse of arrogance, Mr. McRae. From the things I have read on your website bulletin board about myself and Councillor Crist, along the nasty private e-mails that have come our way, it is you who should apologize to DNV and myself. Thank you.

Monica Craver

Cam McRae wrote:

Dear Mayor and Council,

I see recently that you were sent a letter by Ms M. E. Craver, a local resident who opposes mountain biking. In her letter she complains about the work many mountain bikers completed on the Baden Powell Trail between Mountain Highway and Mountain View Park. One would think, seeing as this is her neighbourhood, she would be pleased with this project. Instead, in an effort to further poison council against us, she attacked the work done by 130 volunteers. On top of that she was seen removing notices posted in the neighbourhood informing area residents of the opportunity to come out and help preserve the trail and the

environment surrounding it. These are not in my opinion the actions of a reasonable person.

This section of trail was by all accounts a mess. It had essentially become a creek bed because of poor drainage and virtually no maintenance. It's interesting to note that mountain bikers very rarely use this trail because there are other more suitable routes down the mountain for us. Our desire to maintain and repair this trail was motivated by a desire to be responsible trail users and as a means of showing the Council, residents and other trail users how we care for the forest.

Ms Craver states; " The mountain bikers' political agenda is to ride this because they had a "Trail Days" on it. If the Baden Powell remained a hiker trail, I am sure I would have come out to help keep the natural beauty and definition of the trail." This is untrue. We have no desire to use this section of trail and this was not why the trail day was scheduled. It may be useful for Ms Craver to know that Graham Knell, the Trails and Habitat Coordinator for the District, was on hand during the trail day supervising the construction of the trail. It was not as Ms Craver claims maintained to be " a typical "rock armoured" bike trail. Good trail construction for hikers is very similar to good trail construction for cyclists. If Ms Craver was informed about trail construction she would have known this. While the work was done with hikers in mind it will certainly be more than durable enough to withstand the infrequent bicycle traffic the trail sees.

I continue to be encouraged by Councils efforts to consider these issues carefully and to listen to those who present reasonable arguments on both sides of this debate. The efforts of a few, using fabrication, slander and half truths do nothing to help this process and only encourage division among the residents of North Vancouver. I have quoted Ms Craver's e-mail in entirety below to illustrate this point.

Sincerely,  
Cam McRae  
Editor  
nsmb.com e.magazine

**Dear Mayor and Council: This is the mountain biker agenda I was talking to you about. This stretch of Baden Powell trail from the east side of the gravel service road to Mountain View Park was supposed to be a hikers' only trail. The mountain bikers' political agenda is to ride this because they had a "Trail Days" on it. The new trail looks a bit like a typical "rock armoured" bike trail, if you ask me. Remember, these mountain bike trail and structure builders had no problem building and cutting new trails the past several years all over Fromme – without any DNV approval. This is part of the mountain bike sub-culture. They are only wishing to benefit themselves, and not others. If the Baden Powell remained a hiker trail, I am sure I would have come out to help keep the natural beauty and definition of the trail. I, however, refuse to help any mountain bikers pursue their open agenda. Please do not fall for their ruse, either. Thank you. --Monica Craver-**