

Subject: [Fwd: Open Letter to NV Council and Staff...]

Date: Sun, 06 Feb 2005 20:24:16 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Open Letter to NV Council and Staff...

Date: Fri, 04 Feb 2005 19:07:31 -0800

From: Andrew Spence <andrew@spence.com>

To: ecrist@dnv.org, jcuthbert@dnv.org, mmckeonholmes@dnv.org, rwalton@dnv.org, anixon@dnv.org, jharris@dnv.org, lmuri@dnv.org, dnvcouncil@dnv.org, fonvca@fonvca.org, susan_rogers@dnv.org, richard_boase@dnv.org, "mailto:james_ridge"@dnv.org

District of North Vancouver Council and Staff,

I am writing in response to the issue of mountain biking on the North Shore, and the overall Aplire Rec Study that has been underway for the last 2 years. I am currently a North Vancouver City resident and apartment owner (250 West 1st St. North Vancouver), and before that I lived in the district for about 18 years (much of my life!). I grew up playing, hiking and riding on the North Shore trails. This goes generations back as my Dad and grandfather both learned to ski on the North shore, long before there were any chairlifts.

One of my points of this letter is to express my concerns about the reality and the perception of what is happening with our trails. I speak from my first hand knowledge as a trail runner, hiker and mountain biker on the North Shore trails. I have never once in all my time on the trails had an altercation or dispute with another trails user. I have also witnessed the erosion and trail wear that can occur with increased use of trails, however it is clear in my experience that the best trails (i.e. most well maintained) are either the mountain bike trails (maintained by volunteer labour) or the trails in areas such as the LSCR or Lynn Headwaters (maintained by paid staff). By far the worst trails are the hiking and walking trails, mainly because there are very few organized volunteer efforts to go out and do any maintenance on these trails.

I am also deeply concerned that due public process (i.e. the Alpine Rec Study) is being actively derailed by certain individual parties that seemingly have the ear of council. After attending one of the Apline Rec Study meetings and filling out my comment card (and by the way being very happy with the direction to that point), I was dissappointed to witness last week's council meeting where it seems all the work of the study thusfar has been ignored. It was clear that coucil was unable to recognize that years of work and a large number of resident comments have gotten staff to this point whereby they could make recommendations.

My third point is that it is imperative that council look at the big picture. In the big picture, we as residents have paid for such things as soccer fields, skateboard parks, lacrosse boxes and artificial turf fields. We also support initiatives like the Rec Centre, these are all things that are very beneficial to our health and well being, contributing to making North Shore residents some of the healthiest in Canada. Is it reasonable to say we don't want to support people fiding bikes or running on trails? Onone level It may seem like alot of money to build two parking lots for trail users of Fromme mountain, however in the big picure this is just a small contribution to making the North Shore what it is: an exceptional place to live and play.

So I urge council to be fair, to take into account all opinions and mostly to be logical about their decisions on this matter. I also urge you to listen to the majority. I truly believe that the majority of the residents of the North Shore live here to have close access to the mountains that they can enjoy recreationally. I know for a fact that is why my parents chose to live here, and so far that is why I want to continue to live here.

Sincerely - Andrew Spence