

Subject: [Fwd: Re: FW: Esteemed Councillor Ernie Crist: In Regards to Mountain Biking on Vancouver's "North Shore" Trails]

Date: Tue, 08 Feb 2005 16:12:17 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Re: FW: Esteemed Councillor Ernie Crist: In Regards to Mountain Biking on Vancouver's "North Shore" Trails

Date: Wed, 09 Feb 2005 00:08:29 +0000

From: ioscope@comcast.net

To: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, bplatts@shaw.ca, sunletters@png.canwest.com, provletters@png.canwest.com, editor@nsnews.com, jharris@dnv.org, mmckeonholmes@dnv.org, lmuri@dnv.org, anixon@dnv.org, rwalton@dnv.org, juthbert@dnv.org, fonvca@fonvca.org

Dear Ernie Crist,

My name is Tage Aston Rauen, thank you very much. I understand your concerns about ecological health of the forest, and the implications carried with the erosion caused by mountain biking and stunt building. However, I think you are being rather closed minded. As shown by studies (Available at IMBA.COM) carried at various research universities, the erosion caused by bicycle tires is a fraction of that by hikers, horseback riders, and motorcyclists. On a passage per passage basis, a horse is much more likely to trample bushes, and indubitably will cause more erosion, while being many times more likely to disturb wildlife. Furthermore, a hiker has been found in some studies to cause more erosion than a mountain bike. Hikers were found to cause "no less" erosion than mountain bikers in another independent study. Also, hikers are more disruptive to wildlife, and are more likely to trample plant life. In one study, a motorcycle in a static roll was found to cause less damage

What's more, what environmental price tag does it carry? How about forestry, mining and road construction?? Do those not carry a price tag? How about car traffic, and their SO2 emissions? Do those not carry a price tag? I think that in comparison with bicycle riding, these are all much less environmentally conscious. Mountain bikers tend to appreciate nature's beauty, a positive effect of the recreational activity, as well as increased fitness, and mental stability lended by the flow experience (Cziksentmihalyi). I believe that the mountain bikers increased consciousness of nature is a benefit to natural areas, clearly it is an ecologically sound outdoor sport in comparison with its 4x4, motorcycle, horseback, and even footbound counterparts.

Mountain bike trails are beneficial to Vancouver's city dwellers, mountain bike culture worldwide, and the great outdoors.

----- Original message -----

Dear Tag Aston Rauen:

This is a difficult issue. Mountain Biking in forested areas especially in areas with heavy rainfall as is the case in the North Shore Mountains carries a considerable environmental price tag. In Europe Mountain Biking in forested areas as a result is prohibited.

The matter is under further discussion.

Thank you,

Ernie Crist

From: Mayor Harris

Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2005 11:09 AM

To: ioscope@comcast.net

Cc: Mayor and Council - DNV

Subject: RE: Esteemed Councillor Ernie Crist: In Regards to Mountain Biking on Vancouver's "North Shore" Trails

Thank you for your email regarding Mountain Biking on Vancouver's North Shore Trails. For your information this issue is still in active discussion. I am anticipating that after the workshop the Alpine Strategic Plan will be returned to a Council meeting and a formal decision will be made at that time. Dates of meetings are advertised every Friday in our "District Dialogue" in the North Shore News.

Mayor Janice Harris

From: ioscope@comcast.net [mailto:ioscope@comcast.net]

Sent: Monday, February 07, 2005 11:43 PM

To: Ernie Crist; sunletters@png.canwest.com; provletters@png.canwest.com; editor@nsnews.com; Mayor Harris; Maureen McKeon Holmes; Lisa Muri; Alan Nixon; Richard Walton; Jim Cuthbert; fonvca@fonvca.org

Subject: Esteemed Councillor Ernie Crist: In Regards to Mountain Biking on Vancouver's "North Shore" Trails

Esteemed Councillor Ernie Crist,

Upon reading a portrayal of your views on one of my frequented mountain biking websites, I became upset. While my home country of the US is often overly litigious, I have admired BC for its more relaxed views on what something can be sued for.

As a young mountain biker, 3.88 student as a Junior in high school, and leadership and mentorship participator, I find your views to be inconsiderate. In the US, mountain biking resorts and areas are restricted by USFS laws and the wilderness act. However, the situation in BC has become world-famous. Thousands of the worlds best trails litter the landscape all along the coast, on Vancouver Island, and most of all, in Vancouver BC itself.

I chose BC as my first mountain biking destination. I greatly enjoyed the trails of Fromme and other mountains. As a tourist, mountain biker, and concerned youth I implore you to take a more liberal stance on mountain biking. The North Shore is the best tourist attraction of Vancouver, and encourages use of whistler Mt. Bike Park, a multi-million dollar industry.

Like the towns of Virgin, Moab, Whistler, and multiple summer lift resorts. Vancouver stands to reach financial gain, tourist acclaim, and worldwide respect from mountain bikers by embracing this phenomenon of the "North Shore Trails". As the birthplace of a rapidly growing sport, and multimillion dollar recreation industry, the mountains in Vancouver deserve to be preserved for mountain bikers, and allowed to be utilized with unfettered enthusiasm by local riders, bike shop owners, bicycle lobby groups (voters), and tourists alike.

Tage Aston Rauen
Mountain Biker
ioscope@comcast.net