

Subject: [Fwd: Frogs, Mountain bikes and Nimbys]

Date: Mon, 07 Feb 2005 12:48:07 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Frogs, Mountain bikes and Nimbys

Date: Sun, 06 Feb 2005 23:16:25 -0800

From: Cam McRae <cam@nsmb.com>

To: fonvca@fonvca.org

Dear Mayor and Council,

I realize you are inundated with mail about these issues but I have finally come to the point where I can no longer hold my tongue. While I realize there are many reasonable residents in the Upper Lynn area, these are not the ones who fill your inboxes with propaganda about the evils of mountain bikers and the hardships local residents must endure because of those of us on two wheels.

The letter that put me over the edge is below in bold (and was found on the internet). Ms. Craver, when referring to a letter to the editor of the Sun, fails to realize that rather than being part of the solution, she is a large part of the problem itself. She resides in extremely close proximity to the pond she claims to hold so dear. Her automobiles pollute the area, her driveway reduces the earth's ability to absorb water as does the footprint of her house and the road that is there to service it. The impacts of this residence are certainly far more damaging than the few riders who pass the pond on their way out of the forest each day. And despite what the mainstream media and residents like Ms. Craver have to say about mountain bikers, the vast majority of us care about the environment and are respectful of other trail users. Like any group we have our bad apples but they are a minority.

If Ms. Craver indeed cared about the creatures of the forest would she live in a low density neighbourhood (a wasteful and unsustainable use of land) that is several kilometres from the nearest grocery store necessitating the use of motor vehicle several times a day?

Indeed if Ms. Craver was serious about this cause she would be rallying against the sort of urban planning that allows neighbourhoods like hers to exist. Which leads me to believe that she is simply vindictive in her actions and that her efforts are motivated by a desire to keep Fromme Mountain to herself - as well as a pathological need to complain about something.

Statements made by some members of council lead me to believe many of you have never seen the way mountain bikers care for the land on Fromme and the efforts that are made to mitigate any damage to the surrounding forest. I would be very pleased to lead you on a tour of the trails - even Councillor Crist who seems to be the least informed about us. I believe this will alleviate many of your concerns and give you a greater understanding of the the mountain biking community.

Thank you for your interest in this issue and your continuing efforts to hear all sides of the story.

Cam McRae

Dear Mayor and Council:

The following letter states a good reason not to give away and develop our remaining wetlands for housing or extreme off-road vehicular sports (which require much "development" and modification of the forest). We should become proactive in conserving our remaining temperate rain forest and wetland "greenbelt" across the North Shore, instead. There are many recreational facilities operating above this "green belt" already(Grouse, LSCR, Mount Seymour, Cypress, etc.) They can carry the mountain biking sport seasonally (as should be). We do not have to give it all away. Please reconsider the Alpine Recreational ("Mountain Bike") Strategic Plan. Please work to keep all off-road vehicles out of our fragile forests and wetlands. Thank you. --Monica Craver

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Humans have destroyed land's ability to absorb water

Letter

Friday, January 21, 2005

The Sun's Jan. 20 coverage about flooding lacks important facts. It's not because of nature or rain that we have flooding and mudslides. It's because humans have in the last 200 years cut most of the trees, and put a massive concrete-asphalt carpet, on huge amounts of land. We removed the land's ability to absorb and disperse water. We destroyed hundreds of streams, wetlands, and rivers. We built homes and roads where none should have been constructed. We wrongly blame nature: It's our own choices that create "natural" disasters.

Mary Wilson

Vancouver
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