

**Subject: FW:****Date:** Thu, 10 Feb 2005 11:02:46 -0800**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>**To:** <marcsawa@telus.net>**CC:** <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>, "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James\_Ridge@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "Susan Rogers" <Susan\_Rogers@dnv.org>

Dear Mr. Sawatzky;

I am forwarding a copy of a letter I sent to the press at their invitation re this issue. I am doing so as a matter of courtesy. The "Strategic Study" which you have hailed as "a great asset" was so biased and so narrow as to be useless as a professional document. Where for instance is the reference to discussions, serious discussions that is, with the GVRD as was requested in the terms of reference for this report? If such a report were to be presented to the directors of a private corporation it would surely result in a reprimand of those responsible for its presentation. It is neither strategic nor comprehensive. Even so, it does mention the expenditure of \$ 970.00 for a parking lot and just for starters, which you seem to dismiss as inconsequential more or less relative to the economic benefits. \$ 970.000 and just for starters at a time when we cannot find any money to access the public waterfront or provide sidewalks to improve public safety or sufficient funding to maintain our parks. I also take issue with your contention that there are considerable economic benefits to the community. As to the issue of Mountain Biking, I can only tell you that it is a no win situation and can only bring grief and disappointment in the long run.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist


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 > *The Editor.*  
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 > *Mounting Biking is a rapidly growing international sport. It is a specialised activity and requires a special environment. Allowing Mountain Biking on our local North Shore mountains adjacent to residential areas, without fully understanding it's environmental and financial impact, was a mistake.*  
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 > *So far we have not only upset the Mountain Bikers by demolishing some of their illegally built structures and by putting restrictions on some of their activities, but we have also upset local residents affected by traffic, parking, environmental not to mention fiscal concerns.*  
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 > *A moratorium until we know where Biking on our steep local mountains will lead, is long overdue. Any delay will only lead to more problems. We need a better understanding of what we can expect in terms of environmental impact on our, fragile and rain soaked forest ecology. We need to investigate whether the private sector and/or the GVRD or a combination of both wish to accommodate this sport. We need to decide whether we want to risk any further adverse impact on our trails, what projects we are willing to sacrifice from our limited municipal budget to accommodate this extreme sport and until we have come to an agreement with the Mountain Bikers themselves on accepting responsibility for the damage already caused on the trails so far.*  
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 > *To ask District taxpayers to shoulder the financial burden, which includes building special parking facilities in what is now a forest,*

> additional policing, maintenance of trails and the cost of coping  
> with increased traffic, is too big a responsibility for one  
> municipality. Mountain Bikers of course are quick to point to the  
> economic benefits accruing to the municipality from the biking  
> community, but a closer examination shows different. This, in my  
> opinion is an issue which is regional in nature. It is best addressed  
> by the GVRD on its own substantial lands in conjunction with the  
> private sector.

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> Ernie Crist, Councillor,  
> District of North Vancouver.

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