

Subject: [Fwd: Re: An open letter to Councillor Crist regarding Fromme Trails]

Date: Wed, 09 Feb 2005 15:56:07 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: RE: An open letter to Councillor Crist regarding Fromme Trails

Date: Wed, 09 Feb 2005 15:49:37 -0800

From: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: Frank Wolf <gravywolf@look.ca>, sunletters@png.canwest.com, provletters@png.canwest.com, editor@nsnews.com, Maureen McKeon Holmes <Maureen_McKeonHolmes@dnv.org>, Lisa Muri <lisa_muri@dnv.org>, Alan Nixon <Alan_Nixon@dnv.org>, Richard Walton <richard_walton@dnv.org>, Jim Cuthbert <Jim_Cuthbert@dnv.org>, fonvca@fonvca.org, Mayor Harris <Janice_Harris@dnv.org>

CC: fonvca@fonvca.org, Cagebc@yahoo.com

Dear Frank Wolf:

The issue is far more complex than threatening not to vote for Ernie Crist in the next election because he has raised an environmental and financial warning signal. Also, I have made repeated proposals to address this issue but of course they were ignored. However, the mere fact that the matter is not going away and keeps coming back stronger than previously is confirmation that I was right from the beginning. In the meantime as with most emotional issues people really don't bother with facts. As always I will do what I think is best.

In any case, the item will come back to Council and there will be plenty of opportunity for you as well as the residents who are adversely affected by Mountain Biking to voice their opinion.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

From: Frank Wolf [mailto:gravywolf@look.ca]

Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2005 1:41 PM

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

Subject: An open letter to Councillor Crist regarding Fromme Trails

Councillor Crist,

I'm not sure if you remember me but I was quite involved in getting the movement going ten years ago to save the Mountain Forest area North of Deep Cove from being put on the chopping block according to the OCP at the time. I helped found a group called GUARD that got the ball rolling. You supported the decision to save the area as did all councillors, with the exception of the Mayor- Murray Dykeman. Mayor Dykeman, due to his staunch refusal to abide by the overwhelming wishes of his constituents to preserve the nature and recreation zone, retired in shame shortly thereafter.

The movement for Mountain Forest was started by mountain bikers concerned for their trails and for the environment around those trails. Now we are facing it again and I am shocked -let me say again that I am SHOCKED- that you are leading the charge to ban mountain biking and destroy the trails on Fromme. It is absolutely flabbergasting.

Financially, there are dozens of North Shore businesses dependent on mountain bike money, to the conservative estimate of \$30 million per year. By this fact alone you should encourage and build the sport rather than destroy it. We have a world-class resource here that people come from around the world to participate in. Shutting down mountain biking on Fromme would be like banning skiing at Whistler- it is an absolutely ridiculous notion.

Health-wise, it is a booming sport for our youngsters with mountain bike camps and clubs springing up all over the North Shore. The activity builds healthy heart and lungs, improves balance and coordination, encourages camaraderie and gets kids outdoors where they gain an appreciation for our natural environment. It is a sport equal in importance and participation with soccer, hockey and other such activities and deserves the same support. Children need healthy options that will stay with them for life and mountain biking is an ideal life-long activity given the broad demographic of the sport.

Environmentally, mountain bikers are stewards. We enjoy the experience of being in the natural environment as much as having fun on the trails. Our awareness of the threats to that environment brings about movements like the one that saved Mountain Forest. I'm sure there are more than a few developers eager to see mountain bikers removed from Fromme as our mere existence and use of the trails there gives the area a value beyond paving and building.

As for the trails themselves, they are amazingly well kept up, built with precision to withstand all elements. Despite the recent torrential rains that destroyed man-made homes beside the Seymour River, classic trails on Fromme like Espresso, Seventh Secret, Upper Oil Can, Pipeline, Krikum Krankem and Leopard, showed ABSOLUTELY NO ILL EFFECT from the rains. No landslides, no erosion...nothing. They are built with proper drainage and reinforcement to withstand the forces of nature. Take a walk along these trails and see for yourself. See the amazing work done by the dedicated, passionate people who build these trails because they love mountain biking and love having other people ride and enjoy their trails. Not only that, hikers are welcome on the trails too. Cyclists share the trail with hikers and our code of ethics demand we give them right of way...I run and I hike as well and have never had a bad encounter with cyclists on these multi-use trails. Even the mountain bike trail guides put out for all three North Shore Mountains stress that the trails built by cyclists are for both for hikers and for bikers.

There is little maintenance done by local hiking clubs to the North Shore trails while mountain bike groups and local shops, with little money and thousands of volunteer hours, do an incredible amount of work. Due perhaps to the lack of views in the forests of the North Shore, hikers are in the severe minority when it comes to user groups on Fromme. Go on any weekend and do a random count and you will find a 20 to 1 mountain biker to hiker ratio to be a conservative estimate. Despite this popularity, it is a huge geographic area that doesn't get crowded- there is no such thing as a lift-line up on the trail. There is plenty of room for everyone to spread out and enjoy whatever activity they choose. From extensive personal experience I know that on any given Monday to Friday in the high summer season, you can be almost assured that you will have the mountain to yourself. On weekends there are more

people up there, sure, but unlike Cypress or Seymour, you cannot shuttle by car to the top of the trails. The mandatory ride up the gravel road spreads everyone out even at peak times. People self-regulate, are courteous and it works out great. The paranoid rationale that Fromme is inundated with an out of control numbers of users is put forth by those who rely on heresay rather than fact. Again, go and spend the time to witness what goes on up there for yourself. Fromme is such a draw is because it is THE ideal spot for the activity...the best spot, in fact, on the planet.

Mr. Crist, I have always voted for you since Mountain Forest was saved. Your recent bandstanding of a ban on mountain biking, be it on CBC radio or in the papers, is perplexing at best and seems to serve your ego rather than the community. You had no mandate when you were last elected to carry out this war on a healthy, integral part of the North Shore lifestyle. I've always supported you in the past and have informed the many who come and ask me "Who should I vote for?" to vote for you. It boks like that is about to change. If you don't come to your senses, you can be sure to go the way of Mr. Dykeman come election time.

Sincerely,

Frank Wolf

Lynn Valley, 904-9144