

Subject: [Fwd: Mountain Biking Ban]

Date: Mon, 07 Feb 2005 22:00:34 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Mountain Biking Ban

Date: Mon, 07 Feb 2005 21:45:29 -0800

From: S KARR <kevinkarr@shaw.ca>

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CC: fonvca@fonvca.org, cam@nsmb.com, info@nsmba.bc.ca

I am writing in response to continuing statements by Ernie Crist calling for a ban on mountain biking in <?xml:namespace prefix = st1 ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:smrttags" />North Vancouver.

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I am not sure if Mr. Crist understands who the mountain bikers are that he seeks to ban. I am a mountain biker, trail runner, hiker and walker, and I use many of the same trails for all these purposes at different times. I am a father of three (aged 13, 10 and 8) and I cherish the times I am able to spend on the trails with my children, including mountain biking with my eldest child. We are truly blessed to live in North Vancouver, in a place with such easy access to nature, and surely mountain biking is exactly the type of activity we should be encouraging for all residents of our community.

Our family benefits in many ways by the progressive heritage of recreation in North Vancouver. My children play soccer, softball, baseball and field hockey; take swimming lessons and use the many parks; and the whole family benefits from the use of the excellent community centres. All of these facilities have only been possible due to significant financial investment by the District. Our family does not use skateboard parks or lacrosse boxes, but I absolutely support the decision by the District to provide these facilities for those residents who value them. Given the clear commitment of the North Shore Mountain Biking Association to maintain the trails, and work with Council and Staff to address problems and concerns, it seems to me that this particular recreational pursuit is worthy of careful consideration for further community investment.

If the real issue is parking concerns in Upper Lynn Valley, this issue is not unique to mountain biking. I am sometimes mildly annoyed when visitors fill my street parking during school events, and I sometimes feel mildly guilty when I am forced to park in front of someone else's house, when the parking lots at Deep Cove are full. But these types of user conflicts are hardly un-resolvable.

Another often mentioned objection to mountain biking involves expressing concern for the environment. Not surprisingly, the evidence advanced relating to this concern is very thin indeed. The environmental impact of the general development of land in the District, including the many recreational facilities that my family benefits from (including golf courses, recreation centres and ski hills), have exponentially greater detrimental effects on native plant and animal life, than does mountain biking.

I will continue to monitor the debate by Council on mountain biking issues, as it works to resolve the conflicts in Upper Lynn Valley and act on the Alpine Recreation Strategic Study. Please remember that mountain bikers, far from being some unique special interest group, are the mothers, fathers, children and residents of this community.

Yours truly,

Kevin Karr

Shone Road, North Vancouver