

Subject: [Fwd: North Vancouver Mountain Biking Trails]

Date: Mon, 07 Feb 2005 20:54:10 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: North Vancouver Mountain Biking Trails

Date: Mon, 07 Feb 2005 23:39:23 -0500

From: Stefan Bohdanowicz <Stefan.Bohdanowicz@dhl.com>

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Dear Councillors's, editors and journalist's:
(Please read and provide feedback/reply as you please)

It has been brought to my attention the dire circumstances surrounding the trails of North Vancouver.

Just for the record, I am not a resident of North Vancouver but spend about three day's per week enjoying the world class trails of the "Shore".

I support the local merchant's, be it buying concessions at the local restaurants or spending a significant amount at the local bike shop. I have not majored in economics, but it seems like a straight forward equation: more revenue for the local merchant's will eventuate in greater benefits for the community. I find the ominous idea of trail closure's and user fee's to be very "unfavourable" to the municipalities that wreak benefits from the surrounding businesses associated with regular visits from mountain bikers.

One aspect of this debate I can not wrap my mind around is the so called cost associated with mountain bikers using the trails of North Vancouver: The trails are maintained by volunteers, who dedicate a great amount of time and funds in turning decrepit old growth into trails that can be enjoyed not only by mountain bikers but by everyone in general.

The municipal government allocates millions of dollars annually towards the up keep of public parks, construction of skateboarding parks and other public venues. Not once has the mountain biking community approached the municipality to provide manpower and funding in order to maintain the trail network. Every cent and man hour has been volunteered by people like myself: avid mountain bikers who want the trails to be preserved for future generations of patrons

The trail maintenance done by the volunteer's is of top notch effort. Area's that used to be washed out have been replaced by intricate rock work; puddles that used to make a trail un-usable, have been allocated with sufficient drainage; dilapidated growth has been put to use to make a trail more appealing to hikers and bikers alike.

In order to appreciate the dedication of the hundreds of man hours, one must actually see the work first hand. No amount of words can explain the dedication it took to turn the forest's of North Vancouver into work's of art and personal expression.

By destroying the trails that have been around for over 20 years, not only are you destroying thousands of volunteer man hours but you are also toying with a multi million dollar source of revenue for the district.

The "Shore" is the Mecca for mountain bikers.
The "Shore" has bee featured in thousands of articles, movies and

documentaries.

The "Shore" is a world class destination for mountain bikers from across all continents.

Apart from the expected revenue that the "Shore" brings in, your are also jeopardizing a hobby that thousands of kids, teens and adults have passionately adapted their lifestyles to.

We have been stigmatized by certain journalists and councillors as aggressive, rudimentary frog killers who have no respect for other trailer users.

As the emails keep rolling in, you will see us at face value. We are caring, dedicated and want a permanent solution.

Work with us and it will benefit everyone involved.

Regards,

Stefan Bohdanowicz

Please feel free to contact me at 604-834-0159.