

Subject: [Fwd: Re: Concerning the exchanges between Cam McRae and Ernie Crist]

Date: Fri, 27 May 2005 14:49:38 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Re: Concerning the exchanges between Cam McRae and Ernie Crist

Date: Fri, 27 May 2005 09:00:12 -0700

From: Cam McRae <cam@nsmb.com>

To: jordi viladas <jordi98112@hotmail.com>

CC: fonvca@fonvca.org, Sharon Bader <bader@alumni.sfu.ca>, Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, Senior Management Committee <managecomm@dnv.org>, James Ridge <James_Ridge@dnv.org>, Susan Rogers <Susan_Rogers@dnv.org>

Jordi,

Below you'll find a response from Dave Diplock who is a qualified environmental engineer. He disagrees with Councillor Crist but only because he has knowledge, training and experience with the area in question.

Far from being unsuitable, the slopes of Fromme are as close to ideal for mountain biking as any in the world. Unfortunately individuals without credentials, knowledge or experience wish to misinform the public.

Read below and judge for yourself.

Thanks again for taking an interest in this issue.

Sincerely,
Cam McRae

Lesson 1 - The environment: Your stance on environmental barbarism is without foundation. Your points to this topic brought up to date exemplify your ignorance. In fact primitive recreational trails are best suited on the forested slopes where drainage can occur and our local coarse grained surface geology and biological regeneration capacity only make the setting that much more suitable than the more productive and poorly drained valley bottoms. Comparing the North Shore bio-physical setting to the trail issues of southern California is like trying to fit a square peg in a round hole, if I can borrow an over-used expression. To suggest that mountain biking is banned in similar environs in Europe is a falsity. Enjoy this link to the Globe and Mail article <http://www.ridebig.com/assets/downloads/globe.pdf> which features a half dozen North Shore born mountain bikers on a 10 day tour of the trails of Switzerland. Swiss Tourism PAID the travel expenses for the individuals on this trip because they wanted to leverage our North Shore assets to advertise their trails! Europe has embraced this sport and that is why they not only dominate the World Cup circuit and Olympics but have considerable lower obesity rates than North America.

The best way to preserve the forested mountainside is to run a popular trail through it. This has been done to save the Oak Ridge Moraine north of Toronto and here on the Gulf Islands to name but a few examples. Why do you think developers like BBP in West Vancouver and Parklane in Coquitlam fear trail development? Mountain biking on Fromme arrived ten years too late to prevent the clearcut that is now Michener/Braemar. Right now West Van council is wishing they had a "Ladies Only" or "Upper Oil Can" running down Eagle Ridge to support their tunnel option while Kevin Falcon (who rides Fromme regularly by the way) thanks his lucky stars.

I take personal issue with your abuse of the "environmental stance" to support your political ends on this matter as it desensitizes the public to acting on the real environmental issues of the day and is a disservice to our community. If we can't figure out how to achieve low impact recreational trails on our mountains, God help us with the rest of the challenges facing society!

Dave Diplock
Environmental Engineer

On 26-May-05, at 11:44 PM, Ernie Crist wrote:

Well Jordi, you are absolutely right. On the other hand, you might as well learn the rules of this ugly game early in life. This is not about common sense nor reasoning nor good will. This is about one group of people hell bent on using one unsuitable mountain for biking and the hell with the rest of world or the environment or the affected residents. This why I don't waste my time and come right to the point. I

am sorry if I have disappointed you. You probably deserved better but I have been around for a while and I know the rules of engagement. Also, I do not have the time to go into long winded explanations. The principles are clear. Should mountain biking be tolerated on steep forested, ecologically sensitive slopes or should it be confined to hard surfaced roads and trails steep or otherwise? That is the issue and there is no other issue. The question is, on whose side are you on? Are you with those who are aware as to what is at stake here or are you with the ecology barbarians? It is your world and your environment and someday you may have to explain your stance to your children.

Ernie Crist

-----Original Message-----

From: jordi viladas [<mailto:jordi98112@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2005 10:02 PM
To: Ernie Crist
Subject: RE: Concerning the exchanges between Cam McRae and Ernie Crist

Mr. Crist, I am curious, did you even read my preceding e-mail, because if you did, then I surely must not have made my point correctly, as I never once posed inquery as to what the real issue was.

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>
To: "jordi viladas" <jordi98112@hotmail.com>, <cam@nsmb.com>
Subject: RE: Concerning the exchanges between Cam McRae and Ernie Crist
Date: Wed, 25 May 2005 23:21:02 -0700

Hello Jordi ;

The bottom line is that recreation biking is a sport with a huge growth

potential. It requires thinking first rather than building trails first

and do the thinking after. Some people are hell bent on doing it the other way around. I have been in this business for a long time and I know that it never works. It is my duty to say so. This is what this issue is all about.

Regards,

Ernie Crist

-----Original Message-----

From: jordi viladas [<mailto:jordi98112@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2005 7:00 PM
To: cam@nsmb.com; Ernie Crist
Subject: Concerning the exchanges between Cam McRae and Ernie Crist

Hello to you both,

I would like to start by introducing myself. My name is Jordi Viladas, I am 15 years old and live in Seattle, Washington. I have been mountain

biking for two years, and though I have never been to any "north shore" style trails, I consider myself educated as to their nature. I have been following the exchanges between the both of you on nsmb.com

and I have found a very obvious emerging theme. It seems to me that this has become less of a battle for mountain biking on Mt. Fromme, but

more of a battle between the two of you. While the insults started out subtle and cunning (I am referring to the article "Another Letter From Councilor Crist" http://nsmb.com/shore_news/crist2_05_05.php) it became very obvious that by the end of the article you were only trying to bust each others

chops. While I am not extremely versed in the political situation of the question of mountain bikes on Mt. Fromme, I do have a simple

suggestion.

I suggest that you two cease to e-mail each other with such messages as

the ones in "Another Letter From Councilor Crist". While as I have said, I don't know the political details, I suggest that you compromise on a very small level. Mr. Crist, I acknowledge that mountain bikes may be causing erosion on such slopes as those found on Mt. Fromme, but I must concede, your argument would hold a lot more value if you would accept Mr. McRae's invitation and join him on the Mt. Fromme trails for a civil tour. Also, I think that if you justify banning mountain biking on the slopes

of Mt.

Fromme for "environmental concerns", then the next logical step of progression would be to ban mountain biking on all mountains in British

Colombia, and that as I am sure you know, would not be a battle worth starting. If you have ulterior motives, I suggest you come clean with said arguments, as then you cannot be accused of using environmental concern as a cover up.

Mr. McRae, being a mountain biker myself, I place very much value on our right to ride such trails as Fromme, though I have never been to the north shore myself. I do think however, that your responses to Mr. Crist should be kept more civil, as while you have not yet stooped to strait up name calling (I only read half of the article, so it would not surprise me in the least if that is not the case) it still reflects

poorly on us in the mountain biking community. (Mr. Crist, just because

your insults may be more cleverly worded and subtle makes them no less

mature) I feel that you should keep things civil with Mr. Crist, and only exchange with him on a strictly business level, as your previous exchanges have obviously not dissuaded him from pressing forward to ban

mountain biking on Mt. Fromme.

Let the other have the last word. You are both reflecting poorly on the

parties you represent, and these exchanges you both claim to dislike have turned into nothing more than a baseline rally.

Sincerely,
Jordi Viladas

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