

Subject: [Fwd: Re: Sharon and Cam are hell bent to march on Moscow, but as Field Marshall Montgomery used to say " history lesson number one, don't do it'"]

Date: Tue, 24 May 2005 14:08:40 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: RE: Sharon and Cam are hell bent to march on Moscow, but as Field Marshall Montgomery used to say " history lesson number one, don't do it".

Date: Tue, 24 May 2005 10:47:17 -0700

From: "Diplock, Dave" <DIPLOCD@tc.gc.ca>

To: ernie_crist@dnv.org

CC: fonvca@fonvca.org, Council@dnv.org, James_Ridge@dnv.org, managecomm@dnv.org, bader@alumni.sfu.ca, cam@nsmb.com

Hello Councillor Crist,

Reading your email to FONVCA this morning over breakfast I was shocked at the level to which you continue to stoop. Dripping in political rhetoric worse than my runny eggs, I had to use all of my toast to soak it up in hope of digesting some useful information from your note, but to no surprise I was just rewarded with a bellyache.

No use in teaching an old dog new tricks but here's to "letting it all hang out, so to speak" as you suggest. The first lesson comes from years of experience in the environmental profession. The second and third I learned in kindergarten.

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 to 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 ride's 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!

Lesson 2 - Being nice: Your abuse of the council procedure is not going unnoticed. Your lack of respect for your councillor peers and antics in council chamber is appalling and lacks class. In the Outlook article quoting your intention not to run for office again you were quoted as saying that the district residents just don't care anymore. Well sir, you are a big reason why locals have given up on local politics and why many voters today don't even show up.

It is a pity you chose such a consistent adversarial stance; your point of view on the mountain bike issue does have merit but instead of contributing to solutions your tactic results in polarizing issues to extremes which drives apart the parties who need to work together. Many of the valuable contributors fatigue, become disillusioned and give up and what we're left with are a minority of extreme special interests that in the end tend to all get served a piece of the pie to keep them happy. I'm hoping that staff can look past this, strict to their guns and professional knowledge and deliver an ARSS that is holistic and not tainted by political interference. But due to your constant bully tactics I fear more band-aid solutions and no real long term sustainable vision from which we can backcast a plan of action to get us there.

Lesson 3 - Make friends to get their help: Your insistent call for provincial/regional support to the growth of mountain biking is spot on! Good show! The fact that BC Parks is not doing their share is appalling and the GVRD has the resources to do much more in the LSCR (they fast-tracked a \$1B filtration plant how about a trail). But talk is cheap. How does it help the district to have you antagonize these governments? Why don't you provide some leadership here, politics is supposedly your strength. How about being constructive for once? This community has invested some 25 years in your career, don't you have connections or influence? Can't you pull some strings? While you complain and attack valuable community based associations like the NSMBA, District staff, your "run of the mill politician" peers on council and various other real community leaders have been fostering relationships with our neighbouring jurisdictions to make things happen that can only benefit the District and it's residents.

Regards,

David Diplock
DNV Resident

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

From: [Ernie Crist](mailto:Ernie_Crist)

To: bader@alumni.sfu.ca ; [Mayor and Council - DNV](#) ; [James Ridge](#) ; [Senior Management Committee](#)

Cc: fonvca@fonvca.org

Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2005 11:41 AM

Subject: Sharon and Cam are hell bent to march on Moscow, but as Field Marshall Montgomery used to say " history

lesson number one, don't do it".

Hello Sharon and hello Cam:

I know you do not wish to engage in any exchange with me and neither do I with you for that matter. Indeed, I understand that other than my motion, any email I have sent to you in the past has never been put on your Web site. Are you afraid of letting your friends know what I have to say? After all, I have always printed what you and your friends said in full. What do you say to that, Sharon and Cam?

However, for the record, allow me to make a few points, a few parting shots if you like - let it all hang out, so to speak.

My position has been clear from the beginning. I have never been against biking on Mountains or anywhere else except on forested, steep and sensitive slopes, especially on Mount Fromme. It just isn't right with the environment and all that. I believe biking is a great and wholesome sport. Believe it or not, I have been biking all my life, albeit not on forested and rain drenched slopes. Environmental barbarism just is not my bag albeit I can understand why stunt biking is appealing to people who are still in the growing stage.

As to the points in your recent email to Council and your NSMBA friends allow me to clarify

1) I have never said that I am almost sure I will not run for re-election. What I have said is I will NOT run for re-election. What other people, including one Don Bell said, is hardly credible. You might have gathered that, unlike the deficient edition of standard politicians, I mean what I say and say what I mean. This is just by the bye of course.

2) As for your contention that there is a contradiction between my motion, asking to finally produce the long promised Alpine Strategic Study, without basing it on the assumption that to accommodate Mountain Biking should be solely a District responsibility, is fully in line with the spirit and the wording of the motion. Far from being contradictory, it is complimentary and logical. That one rude and noisy Councillor was incapable of completing a sentence in the motion she was reading from is of little consequence.

3) As for your take that I was "defeated"? Are you sure you are familiar with the rules of engagement? In politics appearances can be deceptive. The first essential qualities of leadership are principles, common sense and vision. What I said is practical and will stand the test of time. When you acknowledged that the NSMBA had to stop building any additional trails on Mount Fromme (why not, if it is such a great idea) it is not you who won. You may wish to brush up on "Sun -Tzu" or the "Seven Samurai's" the movie that is. Maybe it will widen your understanding. The public has now become aware of this issue - a victory for you?. Why do you think in Europe and to an increasing degree in the rest of the environmentally conscious world, though clamouring for tourists, this sport is severely restricted? From now on, Mount Fromme and the NSMBA will be watched closely.

As the contradictions of forcing stunt biking on Mount Fromme become sharper, it will become a growing headache for you - the District too. It may take a while because, when it comes to environmental awareness, the District is not too quick, but in politics things can change rather quickly. That run of the mill politicians are now supporting this concept is not necessarily a blessing. I would never go into the jungle with any of them. Doing things right and doing them right the first time, rather than based on expediency, is the only real McCoy.

4) The fact that you continue to vilify me is not a victory for you either but an indication of weakness. As I see it, you are biking up the wrong tree and the District Councillors will abandon you just as soon as you become a political liability.

In conclusion, and for the record, stunt biking on the slopes of Mount Fromme is not going to last very long, as you will find out. In my opinion, it would be have been better to look beyond the end of your short NSMBA nose and go for a bigger prize.

Ernie Crist

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