

**Subject:** [Fwd: Inquiry into Mounting MTB'er Injury Toll]  
**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>  
**Date:** Thu, 05 Oct 2006 13:25:09 -0700  
**To:** Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

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**Subject:** Inquiry into Mounting MTB'er Injury Toll  
**From:** M E Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>  
**Date:** Thu, 05 Oct 2006 12:00:01 -0700  
**To:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

I couldn't have said it any better. This is about Scotland, but the North Shore Rescue's "History/Today/Stats" (on the North Shore), that follow, are interesting. --Monica Craver--

Date: Wed, 04 Oct 2006 17:13:40 -0700  
From:  
Subject: Inquiry Into Mounting Injury Toll

>...Scotland has become one of the world's top mountain biking  
>destinations and it is estimated that tens of thousands take part in  
>the sport every week.  
>But the Forestry Commission has ordered an inquiry after the upsurge  
>in accidents at its Scottish properties. At the same time, doctors  
>in Fort William, where the mountain bike World Cup will be held  
>later this month, are carrying out an investigation into the rise in injuries...

**This article:**

<http://news.scotsman.com/scotland.cfm?id=684892006>

F L replied:

While the reported rise in injuries resulting from the practice of hurtling out of control on unstable, two-wheeled vehicles over steep, irregular terrain, without the benefit of seat belts, air bags, or other common-sense safeguards may seem alarming, no inquiry into the matter is needed. An understanding of why mountain bicyclists are injured upon crashing themselves into trees and rocks requires no university degree in astrophysics.

The root cause of the matter is actually one of a biological nature. To those with a level of intelligence above that of a garden slug it is perfectly clear that this phenomenon is the result of what Charles Darwin's theory of evolution refers to as a process of "natural selection." As a species, mountain-bikers are ill-equipped for survival and are desperate in the extreme to get themselves out of the gene pool. Responsible government agencies should work in concert with nature to support them in their worthy endeavor.

<note the final comment by FL, which can also **be applied to the North Shore Alpine area**>  
**It is imperative that Scotland's Forestry Commission conserve precious financial resources and direct them toward the health and well-being of Scotland's forests.**

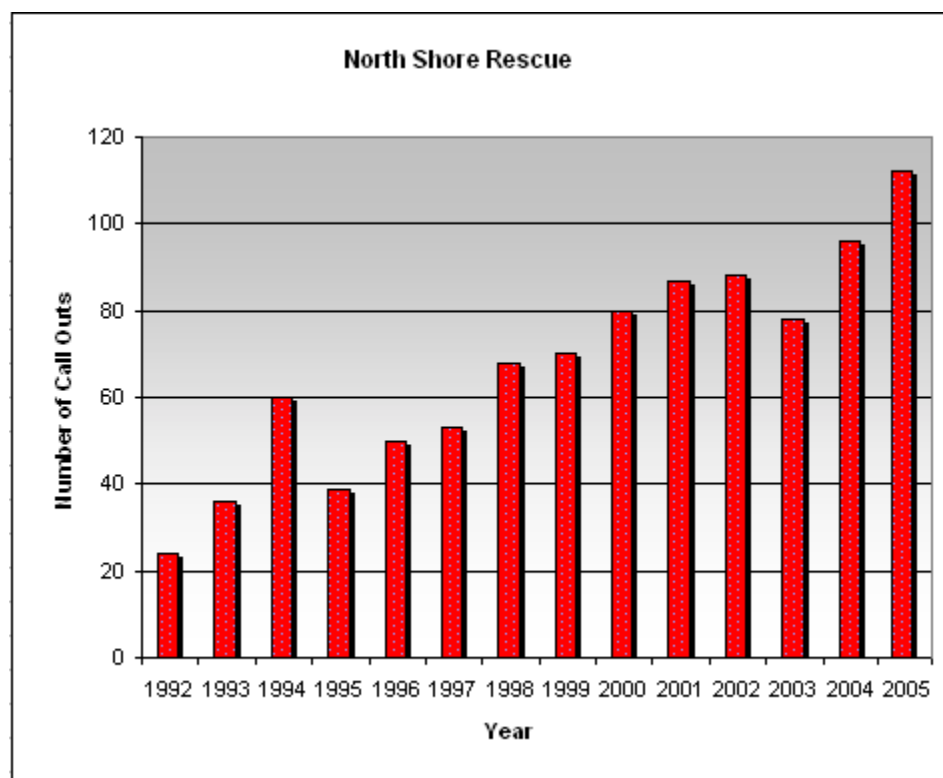
F. L.  
USA

<http://www.northshorerescue.com/history.html>

...This current focus on team operations has been enhanced by several recent initiatives.NSR has led the way in this province for SAR teams in the development and implementation of Helicopter Flight Rescue System (HFRS), where specially trained members are slung underneath a helicopter by lengths of over 200 feet to access technical terrain in order to quickly evacuate stranded and or injured hikers, climbers, skiers snowboarders, snowshoers **and as of recent mountain bikers**.NSR runs a summer Mountaineering School in partnership with Canada West Mountain School and will have a similar school for winter mountaineering and avalanche training starting in 2005. NSR has acquired All Terrain Vehicle and snow mobile capability in order to address increased call volume in specific response areas that require this type of transport. NSR has developed a comprehensive communication system capability utilizing 5 strategically located VHF radio repeater sites.This is vital due to the mountainous terrain on the North Shore, expanded hiking areas that have opened up **and with the meteoric rise in mountain biking and the accidents that come with this extreme sport.**

NSR with the assistance of private and municipal support has produced it own topographic maps for the North Shore that are specific for our team operations. **They are currently being updated to address the major development of mountain biking trails across the North Shore.** NSR is working closely with the North Shore Mountain Bike Association on this update and on safety initiatives...

The following chart breaks down number of callouts for the years 1992 through 2005. (Note that in 2003 we had a forest fire hazard closure for a month during August/September)



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