

Subject: [Fwd: Rumours go on...and on!]
From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>
Date: Sun, 08 Oct 2006 20:02:37 -0700
To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Rumours go on...and on!
From: M E Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>
Date: Sun, 08 Oct 2006 18:41:53 -0700
To: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

I have had to comment on the following as it has been long time coming.

A friend from the USA sent me this partial comment by a local mountain biker. He or she may recognize him/herself, taking on an alias from a well-known World Cup soccer player from Italy. But if mountain bikers wish to use myself and my family in order to prop up the advocacy of mountain biking, they are barking up the wrong tree. Let us get our facts straight once and for all. Thank you.

--Monica Craver--

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From: "Roberto Baggio" <baggio94@telus.net>
Newsgroups: alt.mountain-bike,rec.bicycles.soc,rec.backcountry,ca.environment,sci.environment
NNTP-Posting-Date: Sat, 07 Oct 2006 02:23:31 MDT

My comments in asterisks

"...Unfortunately, there is one or two people with a vastly distorted perception that attempt to wreak (sic) havoc from the confines of their personal computer room (you fit into this category). I can give you an example of someone else."

This person, whom I have never met, and surely has not met me, propogates a rumour spread by certain executive of the NSMBA(since 2003) that I would like to clear up once and for all -- on record!

"We have one individual claim that a very small area contained a pond with an endangered species of frog, and that mountain bikers were purposely riding through the pond."

Once upon a time, before "improvements" were made to the pond, there were mountain bikers who would purposely ride onto the sandbar to let their dogs go in for a dip. I also have photos showing bike tracks across the pond bed during the "dry season". One of these bike tracks was recently seen and photographed as recenly as this past summer 2006. And yes, there is an official report done by a local and well-known herpetologist/amphibian expert that proves the existence of the Red-legged frog in this pond

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The mtb'er continues: <in boldprint>

Besides the fact that mountain bikers riding through the pond is not only ludicrous but impossible, the FACT is that the pond is a remnant of a quarry area that was the end of a slough for log chutes.

In other words, the pond was man made during the logging of the nearby mountain.

** Nothing is impossible with mountain bikers because they do what goes against common sense and self-preservation. Is a man-made pond more worthless than a naturally formed one if it has been in place for several years and has become a viable wetland habitat? Or, yet another argument by mountain bikers stating a second growth forest is not worth saving, as it is not old growth (many of these second growth forests will be "old growth" within 25 to 30 years time!). <>

Who gives mountain bike advocates the authority to determine what is of value? The FACT is the mountain bikers knowingly came onto public DNV land to build and ride without authorization or permission, originally. In other words they knew that they were breaking a multitude of environmental protection bylaws. Organizing, and putting PR spin on these same mountain biking activities, today, (now "authorized" by our dazzled authorities), does not make it right, nor environmentally sound.**

Furthermore, there are no endangered species of frogs, and the type of frog that was claimed to have lived in the pond hasn't been proven to live there.

** Anyone who is interested can ask me for a copy of the report that there is indeed proof of the Red-legged frog in our pond and park. The problem with many mountain bikers is they say things they cannot prove, and the average citizen refuses to check out their claims to see if what they say holds water. Most of the time you will find substantial holes in many of their claims and arguments. Many mountain bike trails are not sustainable in our rainforests and need to be repaired every six months to a year.. That is just the tip of the iceberg.**

Further to that, the individual doing all the complaining had a child that would play in the area with friends, taking frogs and tadpoles out of the pond.

**Fourteen frog eggs in a bottle--once -- collected under peer pressure. Mea culpa! In order to teach a lesson to my son, I raised these yet unknown amphibians from egg-stage. All survived to the viable juvenile stage, and were released successfully into the same pond when they reached this stage. I was since encouraged to raise a few more, at a later date, by a Frogwatch BC biologist, for a study, but I told them the dry summers we have had since then would not ensure the same positive results, and therefore declined.

The same "accused" child helped the Scouts plant over 1200 saplings in the park. Most of these were destroyed within a year by mountain bikes and loose dogs in tow. Last year, mountain bikers chose to cut down several young trees in the vicinity of recent structures built in that park (since removed by the DNV) which people can see evidence of today. I also have pictures of those illegal structures built after the park "improvements", including those cut trees.**

And further to that, the individual doing all the complaining lives within 100 yards of the pond, and their family drives two polluting SUVs. Anyone who knows anything about frogs knows that they breath subcutaneously; those SUVs do more harm to any frogs in the pond than any mountain biker riding around the pond.

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**Where did the SUV rumour come from? They must be thinking of one of a few mountain biking

"neighbours" who live 100 *yards* away from the park that own one or two SUV's. We live about 100 *feet* away from the pond! We own a sedan and a station wagon, and have never owned one SUV, never mind two SUV's, unlike many of the mountain bikers I see hauling their bikes on mega 4x4's and SUV's. Many of these SUV's are seen idling in front of the park in question while it's occupants wait to pick up a mountain biker or several from a ride, though.**

Doesn't matter. Our community has been dealing with land use and management for years, and sensible thinking has prevailed.

** Yes, it does matter, "R.Baggio"! Sensible thinking has prevailed? Allowing off road recreation vehicles (otherwise known as ATV's/ORV's -- whether mechanized or motorized) inside our forests is sensible thinking? Or is it just because the mountain bike groups such as the NSMBA have wily PR spin on their questionable activities, and have taken advantage of the general public's apathy (the "out of sight, out of mind" *syndrome* that affects many communities today)

We'll continue to use our resources responsibly, we'll continue to have a society that enjoys the outdoors rather than the local crack houses, and we'll continue to be one of the best places to live in the world; all of this, even after you and I are long gone from this earth.

**Mountain biking inside our natural forests, their trail building techniques, etc. is not using our resources responsibly. Yes, we may continue to be one of the best places to live in the world, but there will be less to enjoy in the way of biodiversity, long term.(I am seeing the sad differences already, the past 15 years I have lived at the edge of our forest). And when you and I are long gone from this earth what kind of legacy will mountain biking have left for our future generations?

When this sport goes the way of the dinosaur, *someday*, there will be a legacy of broken down structures and scattered rungs; spiked trees; galvanized nails, etc. by the thousands laying in the forest floor; brittle PVC pipes (that are used for "drainage purposes" on mountain bike trails) that will litter the forest floor in fragments. And , of course, many loosened large and small rocks "cribbed", with "gold dirt" washed out long ago into our streams and ponds, will leave them very dangerous paths to traverse. <>I still find nail laden boards lying around from taken down structures around the park that have been missed by the authorities. There are not just a dozen or so mountain bike trails, but hundreds, that traverse our forests' terrain across the North Shore Alpine area.

<>How much money will it cost the authorities, in the future, to remove all the broken down, fragmented, "amusement park structures" from the forests on the North Shore? -- and try in vain to restore the area to it's "former glory"? That is the legacy mountain biking will leave behind. Is this really the kind of "legacy" the North Shore wants?*

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