

Subject: [Fwd: Town wants bikes banned from park]
From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>
Date: Tue, 27 Mar 2007 13:26:06 -0700
To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Town wants bikes banned from park
From: Monica Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>
Date: Tue, 27 Mar 2007 12:23:01 -0700
To: fonvca@fonvca.org

Where have we heard all this before? The arrogance of the mountain bike race group president is very obvious. So is the usual mountain bike propaganda. They start by lulling the authorities to their side by "cooperating" with them, whatever that means, in "mountain bike bafflegab"--Monica Craver--

Town wants bikes banned from park

<http://www.canada.com/windsorstar/news/story.html?id=390c0c43-9f2a-4b78-98fd-d3a0ffd5b66c&k=96736>

Roberta Pennington
Windsor Star

Saturday, March 17, 2007

LASALLE. Ontario - Cyclists are destroying LaSalle's Brunet Park, according to the town's parks director, who wants to ban mountain bike racing from the green space.

"They're ruining the forest," said Terry Fink, LaSalle's director of parks and recreation.

"They're ruining the natural environment, they're just destroying it, they're creating new trails, they're digging holes, they're cutting trees, the wild flowers and everything that grows on the forest floor is not growing anymore because it's been all cut up."

Fink will be recommending that council adopt a policy banning mountain bike racing at Brunet Park.

He'd also like to explore the possibility of establishing a mountain bike course as part of the Vollmer Recreation Complex.

In a notice to LaSalle's department of culture and recreation, **one citizen said that mountain bikers destroy the parkland, create a dangerous environment for walkers, prevent "normal people" from using the trails, create obstacles on the trail system, scare off wildlife and "overuse the parks" by inviting non-resident groups of cyclists to attend events at the park.**

The resident, who was not named, also criticizes the riders for being noisy at night, not paying into the tax base and using the parks without permission.

Bill Fenton, the 35-year-old president of the Rocket Mountain Bike Racing club, will make a presentation to LaSalle council March 27 to counter these accusations, some of which he said "are just laughable."

"Like we're destroying the natural environment, which isn't true," Fenton said. "There's absolutely no scientific study to show that."

Fenton said he will give council a dozen studies proving that riding a mountain bike on a trail is no more destructive than walking.

"There's been quite a bit of studies done on the environmental impact of mountain biking and, surprisingly, that and hiking are exactly the same," Fenton said.

Fenton also countered that some of the club's executives live in LaSalle and that hikers are more likely to scare off wildlife than the cyclists by chasing after them.

The Rockets have also taken steps toward addressing what Fenton said were legitimate concerns.

"One of the concerns was that we ride in bad weather, we destroy the trails," Fenton said. "It's absolutely correct. We put out a code of conduct this year that states that we don't ride in bad weather or we don't race in bad weather."

And although the Rockets have been co-operative with the town -- in terms of developing a code of ethics, getting the proper permits for races and working toward resolving the issues raised by residents -- Fink said there is another mountain biking group that isn't as exemplary.

Moreover, as cycling clubs have grown in popularity, so have the frequency of their races and the size of their groups, Fink said.

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