

Subject: [Fwd: Dirt bikes, snowmobiles (What? No mountain bikes?)]
From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>
Date: Sat, 22 Dec 2007 12:13:42 -0800
To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Dirt bikes, snowmobiles (What? No mountain bikes?)
From: Monica Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>
Date: Fri, 21 Dec 2007 16:03:23 -0800
To: fonvca@fonvca.org

The North Shore News article, below, that generated angry letters to the editor about dirt bikes and snowmobiles. But where is the outcry against the "silent" mountain bikes. Mind you, dirt bikes/ snow mobiles are not the only bad guy ripping up "mother nature" for the fun of it. There is clearly a damaging double-standard here. Mountain bikes need to be contained to an area where they can do no more environmental damage to our fragile temperate rain forests. Dave Nerona also advocated electric mountain bikes, a little while ago. He rode one illegally somewhere on the North Shore, and wrote about it in the accommodating North Shore News, extolling its virtues. It is all so sad.

--Monica Craver--

Living it up at home in our own backyards Choosing your own adventure is half the fun

Dave Norona
Special To North Shore News

Sunday, December 16, 2007

Some of the best adventure days I have had are not in some far-off place but rather close to my home in North Vancouver.

You can do anything here and experience many sports in just one day.

Recently, the sun was out in full force making it perfect to head outdoors and enjoy Mother Nature.

On a Thursday morning, I awoke before the sun was up and felt ready to burn off some energy.

The cool mornings are my favourite and the fierce cold cut through my clothing [as I escaped out of my warm garage on my mountain bike.](#)

[It was completely silent outside as most people were still asleep or enjoying their morning coffee as I climbed my](#)



CREDIT: photo submitted

Columnist Dave Norona's friend Brad Dean takes in the scenery situated above the clouds during a recent ski excursion on Brohm Ridge.

[way up to Mount Fromme.](#)

[Hitting the dirt road is always my favorite part of this ride as the city seems to melt away and you're lost in the thick green-moss-filled forest.](#)

[At the top, I lowered my saddle and pushed play on my iPod, which bellowed out the sweet sounds of the Thievery Corporation as I dropped into 7th Secret Trail and Espresso Trail.](#)

[I was in a yoga-like trance as I rode my bike up and over the little hits before being spat out on the pavement](#) for the final long downhill ride back to my garage to the chai latte and rest of the day that were awaiting me.

The following morning I loaded up my brand new 2008 Yamaha YZF250 and headed off to Blue Mountain in Maple Ridge. Once there, I geared up, kick starting my bike to life, and headed off into the trails.

Blue Mountain is one of the toughest areas to ride due to its steep terrain, soggy conditions and trails that are littered with rocks and scraggly roots.

The best part is that you have to concentrate and focus so hard that you get into a state of Zen as you maneuver your bike and body through the trails.

This was my last ride of the season, as I put my bike away once the snow flies, and what a sweet ride it was!

The next morning I awoke early to my cellphone going off. It was my good friend Brad "James" Dean telling me to load up and get up to Squamish for some skiing.

A quick peek out the window revealed that the clouds had rolled in so I was not in a huge hurry. Just out of Squamish, we pulled off the highway, loaded up the snowmobiles with our skis and gear and made our way up Brohm Ridge.

At 5,000 feet we rose above the clouds to experience a blue bird day.

At the top, we shut off our machines and dropped into our secret little north-facing bowl with 15 centimetres of untouched powder.

We yo-yoed all day with no one around and spectacular views in every direction.

It was the ultimate first day as we skied until the sun dropped down below the mountains.

What a week.

Hmmm -- I wonder what tomorrow's adventure will be?

Adventurer Dave Norona hopes all your crazy adventures come through this holiday season. His are supported by Advil, North Shore Ski and Board and Seymour Bean.

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Think a minute about what the "silent" mountain bikes are doing to the natural environment, folks. Dirt bikes/snowmobiles are not the only bad guy, here. Why no outcry about mountain biking from our indignant letter writers?

Think about environment, Dave

North Shore News

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Dear Editor:

It is difficult to look at the news these days, without being reminded of the serious environmental crisis overtaking the world. Wilderness is disappearing, the climate is changing due to excess emissions of CO2, our resources are being depleted, wildlife is being stressed by loss of habitat, etc. etc.

Clearly, we must quickly change our way of living to reverse these destructive trends. Why then, would a responsible lifestyle columnist like Dave Norona, devote his Dec. 16 column, Living It Up at Home in Our Own Backyards to the promotion of snowmobiling and dirt biking?

If you wanted to invent an outdoor activity that inflicts the maximum possible damage to the environment of our region in the shortest time, you could not do better than loading a snowmobile on the heavy pickup truck and hauling it up to Brohm Ridge to spend a day yo-yoing up and down the snow slopes (paraphrased from Norona's own words).

Is Norona paid by snowmobile manufacturers to promote this senseless pastime among the North Shore readers? Are there not a thousand outdoor activities that we can do in our backyard and that are much more respectful of the environment and beneficial to the human body and character than yo-yoing across the backcountry on a smelly, noisy, gas-burning, CO2-emitting machine?

I thought your paper had more good sense than promoting that.

Oldrich Hungr

Professor, Earth and Ocean Sciences, University of British Columbia

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Motor bikes belong on tracks, not in the woods

North Shore News

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Dear Editor:

This is in reply to the Dec. 16 column by Dave Norona with regard to dirt-biking on Blue Mountain.

The appropriate attire for the woods is a pair of moccasins, not a noisy motor bike. You cannot see them, but the forest is home to large, small and tiny animals which would be terrorized by motor bikes.

Vancouver is sophisticated enough to build special trails for motor bikes outside our naturally wooded areas.

Jean Martin-Smith

West Vancouver

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