

Subject: [Fwd: A Message from Erin Brockovich (Yes -- THAT Erin Brockovich)]
From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>
Date: Thu, 11 Oct 2007 15:11:22 -0700
To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: A Message from Erin Brockovich (Yes -- THAT Erin Brockovich)
From: Monica Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>
Date: Thu, 11 Oct 2007 12:29:27 -0700
To: council@dnv.org
CC: fonvca@fonvca.org

Dear Mayor and Council:

This was a message in reply to an e-mail sent to Erin Brockovich, (who I happened to come across on MySpace after watching the famous movie about her, one evening a few weeks ago) --- regarding the mountain biking conundrum (her reply, further down the following article).

I was pleasantly surprised when I found she posted this, as Ms. Brockovich has over 2000 "friends" on MySpace who will have received this in a Bulletin. This is the real McCoy.

I strongly believe in Margaret Mead's quote:

"Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Erin Brockovich is one of those thoughtful, committed citizens.

October 10, 2007
Cause For Alarm

You know the old test for mine safety--sending a canary down into the tunnels. If the canary died, the air wasn't safe. The canary is just one indicator that people have observed to check the habitability of the environment.

So in the old days, we watched the canaries. Now we watch the mussels.

I'm not talking about Hollywood muscles like those of the esteemed governor of California. I'm talking about the 300 different species of prolific little freshwater bivalves that live in lakes and streams all over the USA. At least, not too long ago, they were prolific. And delicious. Maybe they're still delicious, but there aren't as many of them.

Not any more.

35 of 300 known species of native mussels are extinct.

Mussels, like frogs, are indicators of environmental health, because of where they are located on the food chain, and because they are sensitive to environmental contamination. Mussels are particularly susceptible to ammonia, copper and especially to pesticide runoff. Any presence of these items will reduce or eliminate the mussel population. And think of all of the other animals who feed on the mussels. That forces out not just the mussel population, but those animals higher on the food chain. As far as those higher animals go, they either they find an alternate food source or they die out.

Like mussels, animals which are sensitive to the environment are environmental indicators, barometers if you will, of the ecological health of a particular ecosystem. You do have to look closely at what is going on; some species which have disappeared are local populations of established species which exist elsewhere which may have lost their environment through development. Some species have been supplanted in their natural environment by the establishment of some other non-native (foreign) species. But most of them were lost because they are sensitive to the presence of ammonia and copper in their watery habitat.

It is not merely mussels which are endangered.

You know, there's a saying, "Frogs have it easy. They eat what bugs them."

It's just a saying. Frogs are also on the serious hit list. I know about dying frogs; they were dying in Hinkley, sensitive to the Chromium 6 there. Frogs are in trouble, but not just in Hinkley, and not just from Chromium 6.

Across the country, frog populations are becoming deformed. Scientists have been arguing about more than one hypothesis for this odd development: whether the deformities result from a parasite "TREMATODE" which burrows into frogs when they are tadpoles and corrupts development; or if the cause is a pesticide called METHOPRENE.

Methoprene is a biopesticide which prevent insect larvae from developing. It mimics a hormone that tells frogs where their limbs should grow. (It's a serious enough issue that the EPA's literature on this chemical is continually being overhauled because they

too are very nervous about the science behind it.)
Frogs are also sensitive to environmental changes;
and--like I saw in Hinkley--when they go wrong, they
indicate something bigger. So if you're somewhere,
particularly near farmland, and you see a bunch of
frogs with extra legs, they either have the Trematode
parasite--or they've been exposed to Methoprene.

**Actually, I'm going to talk about one more kind of
habitat endangerment. Up to now I've been talking
about chemicals and metals that intrude into an
ecosystem. But people intrude too. Physically.
Specifically, I am mentioning this because of an email
I received from a reader who is fighting to save
Mountain View Park from Mountain Bikes and two
wheelers.**

**I'm talking about physical intrusion. We're talking
about riding two/three/four wheelers in a protected
green area. Tire tracks are not green, people. Do
you really think that lobbying to keep a bike path is
protecting the sensitive ecosystem?**

NOT.

**Four wheeling sounds like fun...but it tears up the
land. Even mountain bikes. Tires cause all kinds of
erosion, and habitat destruction. Why should tires be
allowed in this park area where within a couple of
miles there is private property dedicated exclusively
to bikers? If you've already bought your vehicle of
choice and paid for the gas, and/or schlepped it to
the park, or if you've already carted your bike to the
area, why not pay a couple dollars to ride it in an
area dedicated to riders--instead of tearing up our
frail parklands? After all, we humans are only there
to enjoy nature. But nature itself is struggling to
survive.**

**Between dwindling undeveloped areas (let's face it,
nothing is untouched), chemicals poisoning our
forests, and outdoor adventurers who probably don't
even realize they're doing harm, how much chance for
survival do our indigenous species have? Isn't it up
to us to better their odds of survival?**

http://www.myspace.com/erin_brockovich

**I did receive another response from a person who hid behind an alias, regarding my recent Vancouver Sun
Editorial:**

"GET A LIFE.

YOU RAIL ABOUT MTB'ers destroying the forest. grab a clue, your own, house and vehicle that you drive cause

*more environmental damage that one ride down fromme ever could.
you are nothing but a crackpot all the free riders LAUGH at."*

(and let's not get into more of these intelligent arguments FOR mountain biking that comes out of the NSMB.com website.)

It is in the hands of Mayor and Council, in the near future, to make wise and fair decisions for our District forests' future. I hope serious conservation of it will be a big part of the equation. I hope my advocacy for sincere protection for Mountain View Park and environs (and perhaps Fromme, itself?) will not just become another "lost cause".

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,
--Monica Craver--
North Vancouver, BC.

A Message from Erin Brockovich (Yes -- THAT Erin Brockovich).eml

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