

**Subject:** Fwd: Too much NEW Trail Building by the NSMBA...

**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

**Date:** 11/05/2013 2:52 PM

**To:** Corrie Kost <corrie@kost.ca>

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** Too much NEW Trail Building by the NSMBA...

**Date:** Sat, 11 May 2013 13:55:52 -0700

**From:** Monica Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>

**To:** DNV Mayor and Council <council@dnv.org>

**CC:** <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Dear Mayor and Council:

**How many NEW Trails: reroutes, bypasses, realignment, etc. are the NSMBA TAP and "Shore Corps" planning to build this year?**

Are all their bike/multi-use trails so badly eroded and damaged that they can no longer "maintain or repair" what they already have? And WHY is DNV allowing these ecologically damaging activities to continue unabated, and unsupervised? It seems like any Tom, Dick or Harriet can walk into the woods with a wheelbarrow, buckets, shovels, rakes/hoes, chainsaws, etc. to do whatever they wish inside our public forests and parks. And DNV is encouraging it!

They dig and cut new trails on almost a daily basis, somewhere on the North Shore. This year alone, (on Mt. Fromme) we have seen a new trail bypass/reroute cut off Bobsled Trail! We have seen a portion of the Baden Powell Trail turned into a speedway for mountain bikers; another new reroute on Espresso Trail; of course more digging and new building and reroutes in the Mountain View Park lowland and upland areas, etc.

Most of the damage we see is occurring off-trail (out of sight). Where does all that dirt come from, we should wonder? Where do all the rocks come from? Wheelbarrows and buckets full of "gold dirt" and rocks pack the NEW cut trails.

Tonnes of this dirt is needed, during a years digging, alone... The finished trail looks "great" (to the gullible and naïve eye.) New trail cutting and all that incessant and consumptive off-trail digging is damaging many trees/root structures, vegetation, depleting critical soil substrate/topsoil, and overall habitat to many small wildlife, including disturbance of salamanders, as seen by how many mountain bike trail builders seem to be photographed holding these disturbed amphibians in their hands.

This is prime breeding season for amphibians, so any alteration to wetlands or streams, particularly instream works or activities affecting flows, water levels, sedimentation, or habitat disturbance within the water or surrounding riparian zone can impact eggs, larvae,

or breeding adults. All this "trail" soil eventually washes into our fish-bearing streams and amphibian breeding ponds, etc. Mountain biking is very unsustainable, as it erodes the ground the tires rip and shred on. Rock armouring and "gold dirt" packing isn't going to change that fact. The fact the same steep trails are being worked on (rerouted, bypassed and realigned) almost endlessly is a sure sign of mountain bikers' unsustainable activities on our forest slopes.

DNV is purposely ignoring many environmental infractions by the NSMBA and their corporate supporters, being done over and over again, as DNV "fiddles". We're in the midst of breeding/rearing season for wildlife, and there are obvious violations happening under our federal Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA) and the BC Wildlife Act. DNV should already be aware of this.

But from what I see, these violations are being scoffed at by several parties involved in this incessant and consumptive NEW trail building going on within Mt. Fromme, Mtn View Park environs and Seymour. More of this cavalier anti-environmental behaviour is occurring outside of DNV's jurisdiction. Such scofflaws! DNV may talk the "environmental" talk, but they sure do not walk the walk! In fact, DNV is not even trying to manage the forests, as they have allowed the foxes to guard the chicken coop. The situation we have today, can only be called a slow-motion "sanctioned" clear-cut. (By time many figure out what is happening, it will be too late. In fact, I believe it is too late.)

Thank you for the wonderful "nature-deficit" legacy you are leaving us on the North Shore, DNV Mayor and Council, by your continued silence on these issues We do not need a parking lot on Mt. Fromme to accommodate more scofflaw bikers, nor do we another fire road cut through the heart of Mt. Fromme. "Build it and they WILL come".

Many will get the forests they deserve! What do their poor children and grandchildren end up with...? Tough luck, kids! *"It was never about you -- only about us...BUT, now you get to pick up and pay royally for the mess we've left behind..."*

**At least my children (and grandchildren) will know I tried to make a difference.** But I now fear anything less than a complete ban on mountain biking inside our forests will be too little, too late. It is shocking to see how much damage the mountain bikers, their corporate adopters, etc. have done to our forests in such a short time with their incessant and consumptive riding and trail building activities. More shocking is the fact they do know the damage they do, but their addiction to the mountain bike "lifestyle/cult" is much greater, so they continue to ride and dig, ride and dig, etc.

*Such sad, sad little people...riding and digging four seasons a year; rain, shine, sleet or snow; day and at night...If only this "non-motorized" off-road wheeled wreckreation did not place such a heavy toll on our natural places and parks. If only... < sigh > When will DNV listen? All the evidence is in plain sight.*

--Monica Craver--  
North Vancouver, V7K 2R3

\*\*\*\*\*

As of March 2013, in a mountain biking article...

**"While road biking and commuting are strong in Montreal, mountain biking is still banned on all public spaces and parks."**

~Montreal's 30-year-old regulations banning biking in municipal parks (*Bravo!*)

ie.

[http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?\\_pageid=175,1722397&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?_pageid=175,1722397&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)

## **Mountain biking is harmful to the natural environment in nature parks**

\*\*Mountain bikes exert an enormous amount of pressure on the natural environment and contribute to its destruction. Leaving the trails creates ridges, destroys vegetation and leads to erosion and soil compression.\*\*

**Observe the signs along official pathways to conserve the natural environment and to enhance the pleasure of strollers!**