

Subject: [Fwd: Re: Mountain Bike Race on April 25 on Lower Fromme Road.]

Date: Wed, 21 Apr 2004 15:02:53 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Re: Mountain Bike Race on April 25 on Lower Fromme Road.

Date: Wed, 21 Apr 2004 19:28:42 +0100 (BST)

From: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

To: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, Cagebc@yahoo.com, m.bragg@shaw.ca

CC: Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, Senior Management Committee <managecomm@dnv.org>

21 April 2004

Dear Clr. Crist:

Further to your Press Release, I have read several news items which told readers of three recent incidents which involved rather complex rescue of mountain bikers injured on local trails. There may have been more. How long will it be before a biker sues the District for some real or imagined deficit on a District-sanctioned trail?

Representatives who, over the past year or so, have lobbied Council for unfettered mountain-bike access to North Shore mountains, made much of the benefits offered by the sport. Nothing I heard made any mention of the costs of associated accidents and injury.

Now, one could shrug and tell the injured mountain-biker to live with the consequences; one could, that is, were it not for all the other factors. Now we have North Shore Rescue, Emergency Fire Services personnel and all of our fiscally- and services-challenged healthcare systems involved.

It is not that long ago that the District authorized Chief Calder to implement a formalized patrol system in Lynn Canyon Park, in an attempt to save the foolhardy from breaking their - often inebriated - necks. So, to the skiers being rescued from out-of-bounds extreme behaviour, the Lynn Canyon Patrol, and 'accidents' caused by street-racers, we must now add the costs of mountain-bikers to be hauled off the mountains. Is it any wonder there are not enough hospital beds?

If bikers are to be allowed free access to our local mountains - while other municipalities seem to have had no trouble restricting access - then I suggest North Shore Councils should lobby the Province to treat cyclists of any type who are over the age of 16 as 'vehicle owners' who are required to carry an annual vehicle licence, and to purchase ICBC insurance. In that way, those who are participating in the more extreme aspects of cycling could be required to pay a premium appropriate to the level of risk.

I have long thought that, if cyclists are to be given dedicated lanes and other such taxpayer-supported benefits, then the least we should expect is that they be required to obey traffic laws, or pay the fines. The above-noted suggestions re mountain-biking are merely an extension of that philosophy.

Sincerely,
Liz James

Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org> wrote:

PRESS RELEASE - Mountain Biking Event - Ernie Crist

In a recent staff report for Council's "information" a member of the District's middle management team "informed" Council of a Mountain Biking event taking place on April 24, at Lower Fromme Mountain and that the event is being sponsored by the North Shore Mountain Bike Association (NSMBA) and Dizzy Cycles in North Vancouver.

In the summary report it states that, the event will take place in the morning of Saturday, April 24. It further states that this was done in consultation with DNV staff, Grouse Mountain, the NSMBA and the GVRD. Fromme Mountain is in the District of North Vancouver.

The information that staff had agreed to such an event was made by Susan Rogers, Section Manager - Parks Planning, a middle management position in the District.

In prior years such decisions were brought to the attention of District Council via an agenda item but it appears now that District Council has! been eliminated from any decision making process. The issue is the more important since Mountain Biking has become an increasingly controversial issue in the community.

All municipalities which I contacted informed me that applications for such events in their respective communities would be dealt with as part of their respective public council agenda. At one time this was also the case in the District of North Vancouver. Indeed, to the best of my knowledge there is no record that a change from the previous policy was ever brought before District Council for approval.

Ernie Crist,

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