

**Subject:** [Fwd: [Fwd: This is the attitude of MTB'ers that should not be catered to!]]

**Date:** Tue, 06 Jul 2004 15:58:32 -0700

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

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

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**Subject:** [Fwd: This is the attitude of MTB'ers that should not be catered to!]

**Date:** Tue, 06 Jul 2004 15:53:56 -0700

**From:** M E Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>

**To:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

**CC:** Liz James <Cagebc@yahoo.com>

For your info and files. MC

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

**Subject:** This is the attitude of MTB'ers that should not be catered to!

**Date:** Tue, 06 Jul 2004 11:08:56 -0700

**From:** M E Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>

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

**CC:** James Ridge <James\_Ridge@dnv.org>

Dear Mayor, Council, and DNV Staff:

I have taken a look at the NS World Mountain Festival and Conference agenda, and found one presenter's title rather telling of the typical mountain biking mentality. It almost sounds like intimidation tactics. This presenter also presents his "manifesto" two times over two days, under "The Environmental Sustainability Factor" and "The Economic Sustainability Factor". The title? -- "Community Planning for Bicycles: Build it and they will come OR...Don't build it and THEY will - in places you would not believe" The presenter is Harley Parson of the South Western Idaho Mountain Bike Association (SWIMBA). Very much like saying something to the effect of, "if you do not let us into where we want to go, we will go in and build secret trails, anyway, and there is nothing you can do to stop us". The mountain biking folk are walking all over DNV's doormat, and wiping their feet on it. I'm taken aback that such speakers are allowed to speak, not only once, but two times at this conference, in order to get their "in-your-face" point across.

There is one fellow, who has recieved death threats from mountain bikers in his hometown, and wished to present his scientific paper regarding the negative environmental impacts of mountain biking by speaker phone instead of personal appearance. This bike conference refused him, thus we are sure to hear only a biased view of mountain bike impacts, as to not offend the "gods of mountain biking". The impact of this conference will be like most newspaper articles on mountain biking as of late. Mostly "positives" and very little "negatives". The negative impacts will be whitewashed, and will not be heard above the din of "extolling" this devastating sport, negatively impacting our environment, our communities "in the front lines", and the negative social and economic impacts with regards to injuries, and other "costs" that far outweigh any "benefits" that this sport may bring.

If anything, the proliferation of "extreme sports" is pointing to social and psychological issues -- a cry for something "real". Like searchers, people turn to pushing themselves to the limits in order to "feel alive". Anything goes, and the fabric which holds society together with, has been ripped. Who goes to church, synagogue, or temple anymore? Anything goes, and saying "no" may hurt ones' self-esteem. I could go on and on. Mountain biking is like a religion, a drug, etc. Just read the websites and bulletin boards about mountain biking from around the world, especially NSMB.com (North Shore's own). So do we continue to let it rule over us or do we begin to contain and control it? Look out, these folk can get nasty and turn on you! Is this why our natural places and parks are being given away to such an aggressive

sport, against any grain of common sense or care for those communities in mountain biking's front lines?

We have to face this sport head on, whether we like it or not, in order to keep our communities and neighbourhood's livable. So far I have not seen anything substantial. Giving away Mountain View Park was one of the worst decisions --putting the cart in front of the horse ! The Alpine Plan is showing that what was done in Mountain View Park, was totally unnecessary, in light of the recent findings. I can only think of one thing that pushed the Mountain View project to to go ahead -- the Mountain Bike Conference in August 2004!

Monica Craver