

**Subject: Re: FW: Forest Impact by Mountain Biking**

**Date:** Wed, 31 Mar 2004 19:34:40 +0100 (BST)

**From:** Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

**To:** Ernie Crist <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>, James Ridge CAO <james\_ridge@dnv.org>

**CC:** fonvca@fonvca.org, bplatts@shaw.ca, kost@triumf.ca, allandorr@shaw.ca, Cathy Adams <cathyadams@canada.com>, Eric Andersen <eric\_g\_andersen@hotmail.com>, Maureen Bragg <m.bragg@shaw.ca>, Pat Higgs <patroberta@telus.net>, Bill Tracey <wrtracey@telus.net>

31 March 2004

Dear Clr. Crist:

It is regrettable in the extreme that Mr. Cook's report and more of the same type of material could not have been made available to Mayor and Council before you and Mrs. C. were subjected to threats, derision and innuendo.

One supposes that, had this professional assessment been tabled, Council might have come to a more thoughtful decision on your motion. In fact, I believe there should be a good deal more of the science provided. In that regard, where was SPEC; where was the Suzuki Foundation and where was Sierra Legal Defense? Why could Staff not have obtained summaries of relevant discussion in other GVRD municipalities? This issue should not just be about Fromme; it has at least as much relevance right across the Lower Mainland.

I believe members of Council - and, in particular, Mayor Bell as chair - were remiss in allowing mountain-bike presenters to persist with their accusations that you were trying to "ban" a healthy sport.

I contend that anyone who actually read what you wrote would have recognized that what you actually were after amounted to a moratorium on the use of Fromme - and harrassment of the neighbourhoods - until GVRD was given a chance to identify more suitable areas for the sport.

Unfortunately, once the fire was lit, council discussion did little more than throw gasoline on the fire.

Let us hope that, with information like this beginning to come forward, epithets and rhetoric will die down and some useful decisions will, eventually, be made. It goes without saying that, along with your "Share the Dream" material, this and future councils must have in 'front of mind' the legacy we wish to pass on to future generations; no part of that legacy is more important than a gift of an unspoiled environment. Without that, no community can ever really complete the dream.

On a general note, I am hoping Mr. Ridge will be able to put his authority as CAO to good use and, perhaps, take over the reins of Council or public hearing discussions, when he sees them becoming less than helpful - to use the gentlest of interpretations. A neutral, knowledgeable and reasoned voice can often bring down the temperature and gain a positive result from unproductive discussion.

In closing, I now believe even more strongly that it is extremely important to reach an optimum resolution on the mountain-bike issue. The reason? On BCTV at 6, news anchor Tony Parson happily presented a 'good-news' piece about two entrepreneurs who were showing off their latest invention: an all-terrain vehicle they've named Street Legal. Apparently, the vehicle is just that, barely street legal. The sound it emits could be compared to a cross between a biker-Harley and a dozen lawnmowers - to say nothing of the emissions themselves.

The two inventors 'envision' it being used in hills behind Whistler. Can't you just hear it now.....The World-Renowned 2012 Street-Legal Derby comes to Grouse Mountain!

Sincerely,

Liz James  
[604] 988-2066

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