

**Subject: RE: Mountain biking on the North Shore - A cyclist's/resident's view**

**Date:** Wed, 24 Mar 2004 15:52:00 -0800

**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**To:** <scott@thewaldrums.com>

**CC:** "Mayor Bell" <mayorbell@dnv.org>, "Janice Harris" <Janice\_Harris@dnv.org>, "Maureen McKeon Holmes" <Maureen\_McKeonHolmes@dnv.org>, "Lisa Muri" <lisa\_muri@dnv.org>, "Alan Nixon" <Alan\_Nixon@dnv.org>, "Richard Walton" <richard\_walton@dnv.org>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>

Mr. Waldrum:

This matter is no longer relevant at least not from the perspective of your email. I have by and large achieved what I set out to do. My own Council has committed itself to a strategic study to be completed this fall and Mr. Carline from the GVRD has also agreed, in principle, to take my request into consideration and has agreed that this is a regional issue with regional implications requiring a regional solution and regional assistance.

As I have tried to explain all along, this sport is growing by leaps and bounds and will impact the municipality beyond our available resources. I have suggested that the GVRD open up and consider developing electoral area A which is adjacent to the District but away from residential areas including local parks such as Wickenden or Mountain View Park, by way of example, where we have had confrontations between Bikers and residents not to speak of other areas. Whether or not you acknowledge this, it is a fact we are all aware of. One member of District Council belittled the idea of electoral area A as being 100 km away but that statement was absurd. Regardless GVRD area A merits a serious consideration. The Vancouver Province will do a full page weekend story in the near future I am told and this story will be fair, balanced and forward looking not influenced by political bias and prejudice.

All in all I have recognized long ago that Mountain Biking, although a wonderful sport, is a specialized sport requiring a special area. A few people have understood this and have helped me and many have not and instead have chosen to insult, abuse or threaten me which is, of course, a totally useless exercise. Be that as it may, I am looking forward to a long term and workable solution in line with my own vision of the North Shore Mountains, not only within our own community plan, but also within the context of the District of North Vancouver's regional recreation role.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist.

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

From: scott@thewaldrums.com [<mailto:scott@thewaldrums.com>]

Sent: March 24, 2004 2:25 PM

To: Ernie Crist

Cc: Mayor Bell; Janice Harris; Maureen McKeon Holmes; Lisa Muri; Alan Nixon; Richard Walton

Subject: Mountain biking on the North Shore - A cyclist's/resident's view

Councillor Crist,

I've been reading and watching the mountain biking debate proceedings over the course of the last many months. In addition to being a resident of the district of North Vancouver, I am also an avid participant in the outdoor activities available in the district. These include Hiking, Mountain biking, Skiing, Climbing etc. Not only am I a resident of the district, I live on Tourney Rd which is immediately adjacent to the Mt Fromme trailhead used by Hikers and bikers, and thus I am a member of the specific group of people you believe are severely impacted by the mountain biking community. I've been a resident for nearly a year now, and prior to that enjoyed access to the same trails commuting from Kitsilano. I specifically moved to the Upper Lynn Valley area because of its proximity to these types of activities given that my family (Myself, Wife and Daughter) participate

almost daily.

I've been using the Mt Fromme trails for the last 5 years now, and have not had a single bad experience with a biker when i've been running/walking or with a hiker when i've been biking. For the most part, Hikers and Bikers use different trails, and when we do happen to cross paths i've only ever seen positive encounters. Now i'm sure there have been a few negative experiences, but from what i can see they are few and far between. Additionally, you seem unable to provide any kind of data on this matter to show otherwise.

For the most part, i've been watching this develop quietly, but after listening to your interview with the CBC today, i felt compelled to provide my feedback to council. I will certainly be voicing my disappointment with your position in the next election.

Specifically, here are my issues with your position:

1. I don't see any data from you backing up your position that hikers and bikers are consistently having issues. My experience and the feedback from my neighbours (in the Tourney Rd area) show otherwise.
2. The exorbitant price I paid for my house, and consequently the significant level of tax I pay to the district every year, is based on a property valuation that has been driven up by a demand to be near these types of outdoor recreational areas. For the most part people want to live in North Vancouver because of its proximity to the outdoors. Why else would we put up with inadequate transit infrastructure and crossing the bridges every day?
3. Every day I drive down mountain highway to go to work. A significant number of people heading up the hill on bikes are young kids. These kids live in the area and do not typically have transportation available to them. Without local access to the trails, these kids are now out of luck. I'm very concerned about this, particularly because my daughter will be enjoying these hiking/biking trails on her own shortly. How would you propose these kids stay involved in the sport if you take their access away?
4. You have an interesting respect for your co-councillors. I would argue that they CAN "see beyond the end of their noses" and are taking an approach to this problem that reflects the opinions of their community. Your actions on the other hand do not reflect my opinion nor the opinion of the vast majority of the residents in the community adjacent to the park.

Now, having said that, i do agree that there are some issues that need to be addressed. The parking situation is one, and it seems we're going through some trials to determine the best way to fix this. Additionally, the environmental impact in some areas of the park should be addressed, but this applies to both hiking/biking trails. For the most part, the biking trails up higher on the mountain have been built with this in mind and are in much better shape than the hiking trails.


I would appreciate hearing your feedback on these issues. I encourage you to use more imagination than simply pasting your typical reply with the quote from ONE angry resident you've been using for a while. To save you the time, I'll include it so you can spend your time replying to my concerns.

"we walk with a baseball bat as we will take the law in our own hands to protect our dogs and ourselves."

Scott Waldrum

4766 Tourney Rd, North Vancouver

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