

**Subject:** [Fwd: Re: NSMBA's Volunteer "Chain Gang" Labour]

**Date:** Thu, 22 Sep 2005 15:52:25 -0700

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

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

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

**Subject:** Re: NSMBA's Volunteer "Chain Gang" Labour

**Date:** Thu, 22 Sep 2005 15:37:05 -0700

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

**To:** "Diplock, Dave" <DIPLOCD@tc.gc.ca>

**CC:** fonvca@fonvca.org

**References:** <C89C6E2445A84549B69F379FB8C7F5C301346205@pacvanmx01.tc.gc.ca>

Dear Mr. Diplock: Remember how mountain biking got started on the North Shore? I don't have to spell out the numerous hours of criminal activity that took place on our North Shore mountains, forests and natural parks behind the backs of the municipal landowners prior to 2003. Trees cut down for structures, new paths cut, etc. The fact that this kind of past behaviour is now being rewarded by DNV speaks volumes on the state of our society today.

The only thing that has changed is that DNV has given the NSMBA "approval" to maintain those illegally cut trails. That does not mean it is right to claim "stakeholder status" on previously built hiking trails such as the Baden Powell trail. That does not show true "volunteer spirit". Also, mountain biking on Fromme has not yet been legitimized for riding on. DNV "allows" it, but Council has yet to vote on it and the ARSS. Thus, illegal activity on Fromme still continues. DNV staff make comments in every media story on mountain biking on the North Shore to that fact. They refer to it by use of a milder term: "unauthorized".

If you have been keeping up to date, you will find that the USA still enlists chain gang labour in the State of Michigan. This chain gang labour also consists of caucasian prisoners. There is nothing racial about it. The fact is trail building and structure building for mountain biking has been going on for a long time before it was considered "volunteer spirit".

What is inflammatory and in very bad taste is the derogatory content of the nsmb.com Forum discussing my "Chain Gang letter" through attacking me on a personal level on a very public website. Similar attacks on a DNV Councillor in the past show a similar lack of judgement on the same website. It reflects the mentality of the people writing on that forum. Perhaps I do have it all wrong as one mountain biker wrote on that particular Forum:

<http://bb.nsmc.com/showthread.php?t=64420&page=3>

09-15-2005, 01:35 AM

#39

[Redneck](#)

Monica misspelled 'chaingang', I'm sure she meant 'chainsawgang'....BBBBRRRRRMMMMM

Registered User

Join Date: Jul 2003

Location: in the woods

Posts: 51

 Offline

That is all I have to say on that subject. Thank you.

--Monica Craver--

Diplock, Dave wrote:

Dear M Craver,

Your comparison of the North Vancouver volunteer spirit to that of the dark days of the racial slave labour of America's south is inflammatory and in very bad taste to say the least. I am sure the North Vancouver citizens in the photo to whom you are comparing to criminals are ill impressed as well.

But I too see the connection. It takes those most discriminated against to build our society. History repeats itself!

David Diplock

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

Subject: NSMBA's Volunteer "Chain Gang" Labour

Date: Fri, 09 Sep 2005 10:33:44 -0700

From: M E Craver <[mecraver@shaw.ca](mailto:mecraver@shaw.ca)>

To: Mayor and Council - DNV <[Council@dnv.org](mailto:Council@dnv.org)>

CC: Senior Management Committee <[managecomm@dnv.org](mailto:managecomm@dnv.org)>, James Ridge <[James\\_Ridge@dnv.org](mailto:James_Ridge@dnv.org)>, Susan Rogers

<[Susan\\_Rogers@dnv.org](mailto:Susan_Rogers@dnv.org)>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <[fonvca@fonvca.org](mailto:fonvca@fonvca.org)>

Dear Mayor and Council, et. al:

Kind of ironic, isn't it? All this free, backbreaking labour for DNV. The NSMBA and the supporting mountain biker trail builders are only "chained" to their adrenaline addiction in this case. Digging ditches for drainage, lifting heavy rocks, trail and bridge building, etc. for no pay. It is sad, but they are in a prison of a different kind. They deserve our sympathies. It all came to me in a lucid moment, last night.

Why am I trying to fight this? Instead, I will be gracious, look to the positive, and enjoy the "fruits" of their labour. I may even come out to applaud their efforts! Of course-- Susan Rogers and DNV staff should be delighted! Let "nature" take it's course. KUDOS to DNV and their volunteer "chain gang" labour. NSMBA folks---you have won! "Progress" and change is inevitable. Take care and have a great day!

--Monica Craver--

Caution: Chain Gang Ahead---Compare this with the photo below

New Haven artist Winfred Rembert created "Chain Gang III," this year. His images of life in rural Georgia are on carved and dyed leather. Rembert learned his craft from a fellow prisoner while serving time in jail.

Many young and old mountain bikers came out to help. ( photo-Courtesy of the NSMBA)

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