

Subject: [Fwd: [Fwd: Mountain View Update]]

Date: Wed, 05 Oct 2005 11:54:50 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

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

Subject: [Fwd: Mountain View Update]

Date: Wed, 05 Oct 2005 10:50:08 -0700

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

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

E-mail error. Resent. -MC-

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

Subject: Mountain View Update

Date: Wed, 05 Oct 2005 10:44:13 -0700

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

To: Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>

CC: Senior Management Committee <managecomm@dnv.org>, James Ridge <James_Ridge@dnv.org>, Jozsef Dioszeghy <Jozsef_Dioszeghy@dnv.org>, FONVCA@shaw.ca, Liz James <Cagebc@yahoo.com>

Dear Mayor and Council:

It is interesting to watch what people do to a park when there are no rules nor enforcement. For the past couple years since the gravel path was built, someone has been dumping raked leaves and other garden debris onto that path in Mountain View Park -- mostly red maple leaves (where no maple trees, except the vine maple, exist in the park). Last evening, I saw the culprit carrying a garbage can full of leaves, go into the park and dump them there. He does not like the gravel pathway, and feels he is doing the park a favour. A young guy in his twenties who also told me he had some kind of certificate. It was not so much the fact that he went into the park to dump leaves, but his very defiant and obnoxious attitude that he should be able to do anything he wished in the park. How many times have I seen that?

During the course of the year I have seen people go into the park with shovels, wheelbarrels, and even small chainsaws, and axes. "Fathers and sons" building illegal structures in Mountain View Park (I have pictures). These people will claim they have permits or certificates, but can produce none. The fact is there is no control of what people are doing in our parks and forests. It is a free for all, and there is no fear of retaliation from the authorities for doing so. And no will by DNV to curtail such activities.

It has been suggested that the small individually owned lawn care companies sometimes dump their sweepings into the parks and down ravines, etc. because they do not want to pay the transfer fees for bringing in the lawn trimmings, etc. I do not know who this individual was, but could spot him in a crowd easily the next time I see him (of course he did not offer his name). There is a situation out of control here. When the mountain biking trailbuilders, riders, commercial bike camps, tour groups, etc. are given free reign in our park and forests how can you tell one group they cannot do this or that while allowing another to do anything they wish? You cannot have a double standard here. So in the end -- what is DNV proposing to do about it?

Meanwhile it is likely that invasive plant problems will occur inside Mountain View Park due to this person "with certificate/permit?" dumping maple leaves that are covered in some kind of fungus, along with other garden debris. This person's sense of "entitlement" to do such things is one I am seeing more and more of by people using and abusing our parks and forests. Believe me, you cannot educate these kinds of people -- you can only enforce bylaws, of which I have seen little or no enforcement of. That is their education. Otherwise we begin to forfeit our natural parks and forests integrity and well-being. How much more are we going to lose to illegal activities in those parks and forests before real action is taken?

Once again, why was a proposal of Stewardship of Mountain View Park by a few Upper Lynn residents (three years ago) with substantial corporate sponsorship in hand turned down flat by both Staff and Council? It did not even merit a meeting nor a response from DNV Staff nor the Mayor and Council back

then. We were just turned down flat, or ignored. Instead the NSMBA got their park, paths, and much has gone downhill from there. Hiking paths are decommissioned without decorum while mountain bikers continue to ride and build without restraint. Consider that while the "paving over Fromme" continues unhampered. As long as there is no enforcement, there will be no protection. With the Alpine Rec Study final report coming to the table soon what are the citizens of DNV to expect in light of the above mentioned abuses to our forests and parks? More of the same? For shame!

Monica Craver

