

**Subject: [Fwd: Mountain Bikes and Fromme - An Outside Perspective]**

**Date:** Fri, 04 Mar 2005 14:11:44 -0800

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

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

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**Subject: Mountain Bikes and Fromme - An Outside Perspective**

**Date:** Fri, 04 Mar 2005 09:09:30 -0800

**From:** evan andersen <dustboy@gmail.com>

**To:** sunletters@png.canwest.com, provletters@png.canwest.com, jharris@dnv.org, ecrist@dnv.org, mmckeeonholmes@dnv.org, lmuri@dnv.org, anixon@dnv.org, rwalton@dnv.org, jcuthbert@dnv.org, fonvca@fonvca.org, Joey Hayes <joe@negativefive.com>, cam@nsmb.com

Distinguished Councilmembers,  
I noticed with interest the article on Cam McRae's NSMB.com website about the debate over the impact of mountain bikes on Mount Fromme. It is hardly my place to tell a faraway council how to conduct its business, but please let me submit an outsider's perspective. I will be blunt: Americans are fat. Americans ignore their children. Americans work so hard (out of necessity) that they often have little social contact outside of the workplace. I suggest that the citizens of Vancouver's North Shore (and larger B.C.) have a unique opportunity to build their community in a way that can fight the above mentioned social ills that we suffer from. In the time I have spent there, I have observed more families riding their bicycles together than anywhere else. These families were on the trails of Mt. Fromme, in the rain. I showed up for the weekly group ride from the John Henry bike shop, and we had a group of over fifteen riders, on a weekday! This phenomenon is not a trend to be stifled, instead, municipalities should be doing everything possible to encourage this sort of community building. I will grant that a small portion of the trailbuilding and riding activity has been destructive, but this is merely a problem of ignorance. I will grant that there have been some obnoxious mountain bikers in the Upper Lynn neighborhood and others, I have seen them myself. But these are hardly reasons to eliminate this activity altogether. It is rather the responsibility of the community (mountain bike and general) to guide these wayward individuals into more constructive behavior. Indeed, there is a large movement within the mountain bike community to build sustainable trails, and to practice respectful and less destructive riding. Whether the citizens of greater Vancouver choose to join the mountain bike movement or not, they must appreciate the larger benefits that it brings to the community. Beyond the community- and family- building activity it provides, mountain biking also brings a significant amount of business and tourism revenue to your neighborhood. I'm certain no one on the North Shore wants to see the area turned into a Disneyland for bikes (we wouldn't like that either!), but I can also say, and I'm sure any serious mountain biker in the States will agree, there is no place I'd rather spend my time than on the trails of British Columbia with the wonderful people who live there.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Evan Andersen  
Mountain Biker, former editor of 180 Magazine  
San Francisco, California