

Subject: [Fwd: Fw: Support for Mountain Biking on the North Shore]

Date: Sun, 22 May 2005 19:09:12 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Fw: Support for Mountain Biking on the North Shore

Date: Mon, 16 May 2005 14:29:58 -0700

From: Erian Baxter <baxter.e@telus.net>

To: fonvca@fonvca.org

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

From: [Erian Baxter](#)


To: council@dnv.org

Cc: daniel.jarvis.mla@leg.bc.ca ; belld1@parl.gc.ca ; info@nsmba.bc.ca ; newsroom@northshoreoutlook.com ; editor@nsnews.com ; [federation of north van community assoc](#)

Sent: Monday, May 16, 2005 1:49 PM

Subject: Support for Mountain Biking on the North Shore

I support the continuance of mountain Biking on the North Shore and Fromme Mountain.

 Mountain BIke Support Letter.doc	<p>Name: Mountain BIke Support Letter.doc Type: WINWORD File (application/msword) Encoding: base64 Download Status: Not downloaded with message</p>
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Erian Baxter
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604-924-2046

May 16, 2005

To: The District of North Vancouver
Attn: Mayor and Council

Dear Mayor and Councilors,

I am writing in support of mountain biking on the North Shore and in particular on Fromme Mountain, since this is a point of concern for the Council at this time.

I am a 42-year-old mother of three who took up mountain biking when my last child was born and have really enjoyed it. My 50 year old husband started a couple of years before me and it has increased both our fitness levels and our appreciation of all that North Vancouver has to offer with our close access to wonderful wilderness trails for biking and hiking. Actually, access to mountain biking is one of the reasons we continue to live and raise our family in the District of North Vancouver rather than moving to a less expensive region of British Columbia.

We often have gone for a “date” ride on the trails on Fromme Mountain and have experienced how well maintained they are by the trail builders, NSMBA and other volunteers. We have both only experienced positive interactions with the mountain bike community on the trails, in the stores and also in our community as far as fundraising and support for our schools and events.

This year, I was on the fundraising committee for the Annual Seycove Auction Fundraiser and if you look through the program it will show you how much the mountain bike community gives back. The total of donations of products and services from various mountain bike businesses, classes and riders was over \$7500.00. This is approximately 10% of the total value of items donated. The funds raised from these donations go to the PACs of four schools and for student bursaries at Seycove Community School. The mountain biking community was also generous this past weekend at Cove

Cliff Elementary's Spring Fair in loaning the use of 3-4 large canopies to protect us all from the inclement weather that was forecasted. All this type of support is done willingly and quietly without a lot of knowledge about it given to the rest of the population of North Vancouver District. These are just two events that I have had personal involvement with, I am sure there are many more instances of this kind of support given by the mountain biking community to the residents of our District.

I realize that the Council has been dealing with conflict between residents of the Upper Mountain Highway community and the increased activity brought about by the popularity of mountain biking, hiking, trail running etc. Unfortunately, the present "no parking" solution makes this area difficult to access for any other District residents who might like to take their children, dog or elderly family member for a hike since you must now park so far downhill that your kids are worn out by the time you get to the start of the trail. As a bike rider I have easily ridden up the extra distance to the trail, but as a parent I no longer take my children hiking in this area since the drop off point only works if someone else is driving you there. If your children are younger, you are not going to leave them waiting for you at the drop off while you hike up to them, so this has effectively closed off enjoyment of this area to other District residents.

We live in the Deep Cove area and have also experienced the high volume increase of recreational visitors to our community and it can be frustrating at times. Yet, there is such benefit for people to be out enjoying the wonderful activities we have on the North Shore that it is a shame some want to deny or decrease access to these resources. If we took this same negative attitude to the greatly increased activity in our neighbourhood, I'm sure visitors would just park in other nearby areas, which would then shift the conflict to our neighbours. Also, if we turned our area into a "gated" community even if that gate is in reality a "no parking" sign, as has been done in Upper Lynn Valley, then I would think that we should pay higher taxes for that privilege of privacy and for making sharing our resource with others in the District less accessible.

In regards to Council denying funding to the North Shore Mountain Biking Conference and Festival, I have not heard the reasons for this decision so can only comment that I know Council provides grants to other recreational associations such as the recent grant to the Rowing facility in Deep Cove. This was in order to help them with their unexpected tax increase. This

facility has relatively low membership in comparison to the numbers of mountain bikers on the North Shore, so I was surprised that funding for an important conference addressing the issues of stewardship, sustainability and liability would be denied.

I strongly feel that mountain biking is an important activity that needs to continue on the North Shore. The mountain biking community contributes in many ways to our quality of life in the North Vancouver District. There is also the interest and income from tourism that comes from the history of the North Shore as the birthplace of mountain biking. Mountain biking started on the North Shore almost 25 years ago so we can certainly take some time to work on the issues that are arising from it's popularity.

The Council should take the position that mountain biking is an important asset of our District and Council needs to continue to work through the complex issues with the interest groups involved without allowing mountain biking to be shut down during this process as all progress takes time. If we are to come out ahead for our District then we need to take the time necessary for all issues to be addressed.

Yours truly,
Erian Baxter