

**Subject: RE: Attention: The Mayor**

**Date:** Sun, 15 May 2005 20:47:28 -0700

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

**To:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>, <fonvca@fonvca.org>

**CC:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>

The comments below reflect my own personal opinion not those of Council.

Ernie Crist

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From: Ernie Crist  
Sent: Sunday, May 15, 2005 8:39 PM  
To: fonvca@fonvca.org  
Cc: Mayor and Council - DNV; Senior Management Committee  
Subject: FW: Attention: The Mayor

Dear Mr .....

We are talking apples and oranges. Many of the points you have made in your 9 point submission below cannot be disputed. I am an ardent advocate of recreation, including outdoor, myself and I have biked all my life. Indeed, that the North Shore today is a regional outdoor playground is the result of mainly myself and Mr. Harvey Burt, a North Shore Teacher now deceased. We were the only two North Shore representatives on the GVRD Liveable Planning Committee 30 years ago.

When the plan was drawn up, the North Shore, including the mountain slopes, were earmarked for high density residential development. We persuaded the GVRD that although saving the farmland in the rest of the region was important so was saving the mountains for recreation. We were successful.

As for the points regarding residential development adjacent to Rivers, you are lambasting the wrong person. I have consistently fought against this policy. I made numerous initiatives and motions to increase the distance but without success. To put it bluntly, the residents in the District on one hand were far too complacent and/or too greedy on the other to ever assist in increasing the distance between development and the rivers so they may be used for regional recreation, without being objected to by local residents as being too close to their homes. Indeed there have been many initiatives on my part but not once was there ever any user or sports group speaking in support.

However, it is true that the closing of Riverside was because it had become a hangout for junkies and rowdies with the police being powerless, since it was too isolated and dangerous to enforce especially at night.

As for Mountain Biking I am enclosing a letter to the editor which I understand will be published in one of the local papers this coming week. It will explain where I stand on this issue. I would urge you to differentiate between regular biking and stunt biking on Mount Fromme. In any case my motion calls for the completion of the long promised Alpine Study. This is notwithstanding statements to the contrary by the NSMBA .

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

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From:  
Sent: Sunday, May 15, 2005 6:39 PM  
To: Ernie Crist  
Cc: Mayor and Council - DNV  
Subject: Re: Attention: The Mayor

Dear Mr Crist,

I would please like your official response on behalf of the DNV on the following points I have made which you say have no basis in fact:

1. The District of North Vancouver (DNV) manages access to the Seymour river. As residential development began to restrict access in the early 1970s, the DNV and the former BC Canoe and Kayak Club began discussing ways to resolve this.

After a medical emergency on the river unrelated to paddling, the first staircase was constructed in 1973.

Due to residents' complaints about over use, noise and litter in the 1970s and 80s (similar to the current complaints from the Fromme area), the staircase was gated and locked in May of 1983.

This was done by a resolution of DNV Council. At this time, resident-only parking was also implemented for the summer months (May 1 to September 30), similar to the response on Fromme.

This has complicated access to the twin bridges trail for families with kids in addition to the paddling community. The restrictions have benefitted no one but a small group of residents and the North Shore community is poorer for the decision.

2. I live in the cul de sac above the Seycove school and have first hand knowledge of the decision made on the Norah's walk access. This was to appease a small vocal group of residents and was not in line with the initial plans for access and safety for the development.

3. The statement that approx 50% of the Fromme cyclists come from the North Shore comes from your organisation and were communicated to myself and my colleagues recently.

4. I would be happy to pass on research figures on the increase in obesity and the impact on health and the cost to society. These have been published by the "Economist" and the North American Outdoor Industry Association.

5. The significant change in use and approach to outdoor activity is another fact published by the O.I.A. and is seen in the sales of merchandise from outdoor stores and the R.V. industry. These too I can provide. The movement is to "park and play" activities done closer to home. This is placing more traffic on front country, quick access trails and this will only get busier. We are seeing access issues all over North America, from Yellowstone Park to the climbing areas in Ontario. Why are we building more roads, lodges and access into the wilderness and yet cutting back on the front country close to where people live and prefer to recreate?

6. The demographic trends of Canada show an aging population and a decline in younger demographic groups. These are available from Stats Canada. The most rapidly declining part of this demographic are children from 2nd generation Canadians (read white Anglo Saxon). The immigrant numbers are moving higher. These are people that have a different paradigm to the "traditional" outdoor user. These cultures need to be embraced and encouraged to use the outdoors.

7. The North Shore mountains do have the most recognized freeride trails in the world. Pick up any mountain bike magazine and you will see (and read) proof of this. These second growth forests have little or no life under the canopy and if you educated and used the volunteer trail builders to upgrade the habitat you would be able to bring life back to

the forest.

8. The volunteer hours are documented by the NSMB (available on their website) and they are quite phenomenal. There are few examples of this kind of passion evident anywhere.

9. Squamish has chosen to embrace the outdoor community (their slogan is the outdoor capital of the world). They have benefited from being involved and managing the access pinch points. Your counterparts on the Squamish council will, I am sure, give you this information should you be interested.

I stand by my point that the reason for the Fromme problems are largely due to access issues, and that the environment could actually benefit from a managed forest. We need to use this issue as an opportunity to show the world how things should be done, engage, manage and take a role of leadership and entrepreneurialism.

Sincerely

David .....

On 15-May-05, at 3:54 PM, Ernie Crist wrote:

Sir:

The points you make have no basis in fact.

Ernie Crist

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

From: To: Mayor and Council - DNV

As I am balancing career obligations with a young family I will unfortunately not be able to attend Monday's meeting to hear Councilor Crist's next phase of his crusade to stop mountain biking on the North Shore.

It is now high time the council was honest about the leading reason behind this issue....access pinch points. Not In My Back Yard. This direction is clear in your track record of closing Riverside Drive parking to shut down the paddler's access of the Seymour river and the strange decision not to open Nora's walk to the designated traffic flow in and out of a public school area. It all boils down to the local residents objection to parking and/or traffic on their streets.

Some 50% of mountain bikers come from the North Shore. It is a world class destination. Health and obesity issues are fast overtaking smoking as the biggest drain on the medical system in North America. The demographic trends of Canada coupled with North American outdoor activity trends are not healthy.

The North Shore mountains have the potential of being a World

Benchmark

sustainable forest and leisure area. The trails are the best on the planet. Volunteer hours in maintaining the trails are exceptional by world standards.

We require open thinking to produce sustainable strategies established by objective politicians.

The time has come to consider the interests of the greater community over the wishes of the few.

Take a look at how Squamish have managed their resources and how the area has developed in a positive manner.

The only way this issue will be resolved is through engagement and

management. Please show some leadership on this issue and don't drive it underground.

Sincerely

David .....

North Shore resident.



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