

Subject: [Fwd: We get the forest we deserve -- NS Outlook]
From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>
Date: Mon, 03 Apr 2006 18:52:01 -0700
To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: We get the forest we deserve -- NS Outlook
From: M E Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>
Date: Mon, 03 Apr 2006 18:03:39 -0700
To: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>
CC: Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>

I wish to express many thanks to those few hardy souls on the North Shore who have contributed their time and energy for protection of our beautiful, but fragile, forest environment and its biodiversity from mountain biking damage. We can confidently support everything we have stated with documents, reports, and pictures, etc.

"Muchas gracias" to my many friends in California who still fight for safe, peacable hiking/equestrian trails, along with protection of wildlife and the environment, from off road recreational vehicles, including mountain bikes, today. I applaud their perseverance, stamina, and help. We tried. No regrets.

--Monica Craver--

'We get the forest we deserve'

By JENNIFER MALONEY Staff Reporter
Mar 30 2006

After three years of battling mountain bikers who race down the trails near her North Van home Monica Craver is officially retiring from the war in the woods.

"I've got better things to do with my life than battle a bunch of people in the woods," she told The North Shore Outlook Monday. "It's not really quitting, it's just realizing some times there are battles you just can't fight if people don't listen. I'm just one voice."

It all began in March 2003, when Craver was notified that a group of mountain bikers was pushing to have a pond in Mountain View Park paved over for a parking lot. She joined her neighbours in signing a petition to create a residents' parking only designation in the area. That designation was granted temporarily by the District of North Vancouver, but it is the only victory Craver says environmentalists like herself have had over the surge of bikers who've taken over the forest.

"So now, in 2006, I fold my cards on this issue," she said. "If people are interested in this issue it's someone else's turn to take over or we'll just see the forest go."

"We get the forest we deserve."

The decision to put down her baton on this issue did not come easy. Craver continued to advocate for her cause, speaking out against trail intrusions that allegedly impact the endangered red-legged frog even after she was nicknamed "frog lady" by her opposers.

The North Vancouver mother held out hope that the District's Alpine Strategic Plan would give other user groups in the forest a voice. But since the plan's adoption, maintenance on old bike trails has continued and Craver says more bike traffic is going through Mountain View than ever.

"It really hasn't changed except [mountain bikers] now have the regulations to do what was illegal before and they're being praised for their work," she said. "It just seems we're up against a wave that's much too big."

She does credit former District councillors Ernie Crist and Jim Cuthbert for their leadership in her cause.

So as the mountain bike season starts up next week, she says she will watch silently as trees fall on the trails due to compromised stability and park protection bylaws are looked over.

"I've tried to fight for a park, a small park. It just isn't worth the effort if they're just going to continue to build trails through there," she said. "It's going to take a few years time before we see the damage it does."

While Craver is through with the battle in the woods, she will continue to serve her two years on the Parks and Natural Environment Advisory Committee.

"I'm not gonna distance myself from the [environmental] scene completely, but there are things you have to get used to."

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Due to a publishing deadline, the following response came to the reporter from one of the ex-Councillors about my contribution. She was kind enough to forward it onto me.

Hi Monica,

Glad you liked the article I wasn't able to include comments from Ernie and Jim as I was in a rush to meet deadline, but below is Jim's comment and Ernie's was similar.

Take care,
Jennifer

Hi Jennifer - just received your message since our internet connection was down.

About Monica Craver ... " a tireless and knowledgeable advocate for a high standard of stewardship on the North Shore Mountains particularly in the area of minimizing environmental damage from mountain biking. Monica has worked diligently for years to protect the North Shore's outstanding natural values such as Mountain View Park."

Jim

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Jennifer Maloney

Reporter

North Shore Outlook

(Thank you, Jennifer, Jim and Ernie.)

We get the forest we deserve -- NS Outlook

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