

Subject: [Fwd: [Fwd: RE: An Open Letter to Eric Pettit]]
From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>
Date: Mon, 16 Jan 2006 17:58:13 -0800
To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

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

Subject:[Fwd: RE: An Open Letter to Eric Pettit]
Date: Mon, 16 Jan 2006 12:14:49 -0800
From:M E Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>
To:Eric Pettit <eric@dongurnevarchitect.com>
CC:Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, James Ridge <James_Ridge@dnv.org>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Eric: I do have pictures, written reports and studies that prove mountain biking and its trailbuilding/structures are detrimental to our forests and natural parks. These studies, reports, etc. are both local and from outside the area. These studies come from professional biologists, government parks authorities, etc. I have solid proof the "species at risk", Red-Legged Frog, exists in Mtn.View, and other species than just birds. It is too bad you have not seen them. That is why I wish mountain bikers could compromise a little for protection of these species. Bikes do not belong in Mountain View Park.

The only "merit" to the gravel path (now that it is in place) is for those in wheelchairs, or young children in strollers to enjoy the peacefulness of the park. It is hard to enjoy the peacefulness of the park with speeding bikers, and their loose dogs running off trail, through the park's gravel path -- a common occurrence! It is almost like they "own the forest".

I strongly believe sports such as mountain biking belong in **contained bike parks** within private recreational resorts (both outdoors and indoors). But even then, it is not the perfect solution. A bear expert in Whistler has stated that the Whistler Bike Park is the worst thing that has happened to the black bears there. The fact one of the bike trails runs right over a bear den goes against better sensibilities.

DNV may have given the okay for "bikes in the woods", Eric, but it does not mean the decision is a wise one or a correct one. It just means the mountain bikers were more outspoken than it's opposition. I happen to believe that any off-road recreational vehicle (whether mechanized or motorized, two-wheeled or four-wheeled, etc.) inside our forests and natural parkland is irresponsible and leaves a very "large footprint" (and very difficult to manage). It defies common sense.

The "free-ride" on Fromme and LSCR/Seymour, along with ongoing trail and structure building, such as the "Zipper Totter" (shown below), IS NOT beneficial to the forests (I find this "creation by 'Synchro' " to be an eyesore. **The forest is not an amusement park, Eric):**



This is the type of *eco-vandalism* in our forests I am talking about. For shame, and the lack of common sense! For poor decisions made by the public "authorities and landowners". Once again -- **The forest is not an amusement park!**

It is up to you to prove such mountain biking activities are not doing harm to the forest and its biodiversity -- and that these activities do "leave no trace"! Remember, even one of yours -- Dafydd Davis-- the Welsh trail builder, who won the Queen's award of merit, stated on our national television last year that he was aghast the landowners had allowed this kind of mess of trails and structures to occur on Fromme and elsewhere. (I was interviewed on the same feature pointing out the environmental damage done by your Griffen Trail building techniques). I have a copy of that feature.

I rest my case. *Talk to me in ten years.* The forest and natural park will tell its own stories for better?-- or worse? I am only one vocal and outspoken person, it seems, but cannot twist arms. In the end, people *will* get the forests and parks they deserve .

--Monica Craver--

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

Subject: RE: An Open Letter to Eric Pettit

Date: Fri, 13 Jan 2006 10:12:09 -0800

From: Eric Pettit <eric@openspacearchitecture.com>

To: 'M E Craver' <mecraver@shaw.ca>

Hello Monica,

I agree with many of you comments below and have very little to respond to.

I can see your point on many levels with respect to the natural wildlife in the area and their migration and breeding season.

I also understand you did not want the big gravel path in there any more than I did

I also agree that the park was a mess before the path was added, and I think something needed to be done because that area was becoming a waist land.

The one thing I do not agree with is the impact of the trail work and the Bikes (aside from the headlamps) on this ecosystem.

The Lower Griffen Trail was originally a hiking trail, cut many years ago into that hillside. When I began riding, it was in rough shape and had big erosion problems, This was in 1992.

I moved into Lynn Valley in 2000, and each winter, I saw the hillside erode more and more until I decided to do something to fix it. Before I began my work, the water would seep from the hillside from subterranean water ways that hit a hard pan clay base and were forced to the surface at the third switchback (third from the top). this water would then run down the center of the trail, cutting a groove deeper and deeper into the silty soil. this run-off would flow, uncontrolled, into the stream to the east of the last big switchback. This steam in turn leads across the flat-lands and into the Pond.

Since I began my maintenance of this area, I have created ditches that collect this water and dump it back onto the forest floor on the west side of the trail. the water flows on the surface of the forest floor until it hits the flat lands at the lower part of the switchbacks, (still 1/2 km from the pond) it then slows its rate of flow, pools and seeps back into the substrate, where it is filtered of sediment and it then percolates into the ground water where it re-joins the stream and tributaries of the pond.

I have been careful in the design and placement of this drainage path. I have observed the water flow on very rainy days, and I believe my efforts have helped to reduce sediment in the creek, not add to it. I do admit that there is a collection of sediment (silt) which has developed on the forest floor right at the base of the switchbacks, and it is not a perfect solution, but the fact that this silt has collected here, tells me it is not going further down the flow and into the creek or Pond. I do not believe this silty clay layer will harm the environment at all, and it has not seemed to effect the plants that were already growing in this area.

I have been rocking it the trail as well to minimize the flow and erosion caused by rain-water that falls directly onto the trail. Now that I have the seeping water problem controlled, I am working to control this water as well so it does not cut the trail any deeper nor enter the creek. If you take a walk up to these switchbacks on a very rainy day, or just after a heavy rain, you will see that the trail surface it self is relatively free of running water, Which tells me I have almost eliminated the erosion problems. During these periods of heavy rain, you will also notice that the ditches I has dug are running clear. the water flowing down the hill is slowed to the point that it flows without cutting deeper into the ditches. Therefore it is no-longer moving silt and sediment down hill. I strongly believe that the work I have done has helped to save the wet-lands below this steep bank.

As for your comment of closing this trail all together. I think it is too late for that. every trail that begins off the east side of the access road (except for the Baden Powel) ends at the top of this bluff, every one of these hiking / biking trails (again, most of these trails were there way before mountain biking evolved), have no exit from the forest except to use this switchback trail and the route through MVP. Even the BP exits through MVP. This switchback trail is also one of the only access points for many hikers and joggers who wish to explore this beautiful forest on the less steep slopes of Lower fromme. Bikers do not access the forest from this point. it is too steep to climb on a bike. With that in mind I have been making the trail easier to hike up as well as roll down on a bike.

I commend you on trying to save this little patch of forest wet-land, and I believe your intentions are good, but you are going to have to stop fighting a battle that can't be won. The District supports Bikes in the woods, The sport brings lots of \$ to the district. The trail in question was here way before biking was, and many people enjoy exploring the forest via this entry path. May-be a seasonal ban can be tested. But first I think you will need to gather a lot more hard evidence that proves the MTBer's, Their Dogs and their Headlamps are actually causing a problem. Until then it is just you opinion against mine.

For you information. I have spent a lot of time in the forest around the switchbacks and Moutainview park, and the only wildlife I have seen in 5 years are birds and owls. I have been in there in the dark as well as the early morning, and I have never see a Red Legged Frog, or a Salamander. I hope that with your efforts to protect these wet-lands, that one day I will see one of these endangered species. That would make me smile.

Best of luck to you and your family. The winter season is almost over and the days are getting longer so I'm sure the guys will stop with the night rides soon.

Eric Pettit
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From: M E Craver [<mailto:mecraver@shaw.ca>]

Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2006 7:32 PM

To: Eric Pettit

Cc: Council@dnv.org; James_Ridge@dnv.org; fonvca@fonvca.org; Graham_Knell@dnv.org; Sharon Bader

Subject: Re: An Open Letter to Eric Pettit

Dear Eric:

Apologies somewhat accepted. A few things to correct and clarify from your note below. Anytime you bring in my name, etc. into this website, the reason is very clear it is not to "immortalize" the struggle between the different groups. Also, I said eco- *vandalism*, not "terrorism". There is a big difference between the two. I do not condone either. The Lower Griffen trail *does* impact the pond, especially during the rainy season (mountain biking during this time in inclement weather exacerbates the siltage problems in the pond). Activities in the upland area do affect the wetland area below. Everything is interconnected to work well together. If so much modification of drainage, rocking in areas, etc. is needed to "carry" the mountain biking sport in our forests and parks, is it really the right place to ride? Perhaps these trails should be "retired" instead?

Yes, off-leash dogs are a problem with everyone who allows them the run of the forest. I am not a fan of that, either. What of the mountain bikers who like to bring their dogs along with them? These dogs travel off leash and go farther into the woods than regular hikers and dog walkers do. Perhaps dogs should be banned from running in the woods with mountain bikers? All dogs should be on leash? I agree. My dog is always on leash, except in our own backyard. I also clean up after my pet. Do the mountain bikers do likewise while exercising their dogs from the back of a bike? I didn't think so.

What of mountain bikers who like to ride at night with bright halogen headlamps -- in groups -- with their dogs? There are a few who regularly floodlight my home ablaze in these lights, along with my next door neighbour's home -- and a group of at least a dozen, on occasion. It can be disturbing. This cannot be good for the nocturnal wildlife, who freeze when "caught like deer" in the headlamps. It will not be good for the soon to be breeding amphibians (between late February to late April). **How can we best address and solve this ongoing problem?**

Lastly, I did not advocate the gravel pathway through the park, nor did I advocate the present format of fence structures in the park. The original plan was to have an partially elevated boardwalk through the park--- that plan fell through (I guess it was too expensive). For the record: I have always advocated for conservation and protection of the pond and park and for ecologically sound, defined and signed hiking trails through the park, with the pond fenced in parts to keep dogs out. ***Never did I advocate for the park to become a mountain bike thoroughway, Eric.*** Had the mountain biking community left this unique and dedicated park alone Fromme, the gravel road would not have been built to accommodate your bicycles in the first place.

Is there a solution? Could this park not be used by mountain bikers during the rainy season from November to April? (also includes the migration and breeding season of several amphibians, including the "species at risk" Red-legged frog). Could night riding be discontinued in this park and environs, also? These few things could help Mountain View Park, if it cannot be *closed completely* to mountain biking. **Can there ever be a compromise between two opposing groups?** This is a solution that could most likely work for both sides, in a monitored experiment -- since the rest of Fromme is now open to mountain biking. **Seasonal riding through Mountain View Park, I believe, is a fair compromise that would address many of the ongoing problems within the park and pond.**

Remember, Mountain View Park is the only DNV designated park (1999) for protection, in the Fromme Alpine area. It is also the only "alpine" park within the DNV boundary of Upper Lynn Valley neighbourhood -- where the DNV OCP has determined Mountain View Park to be a "future neighbourhood park" (according to DNV "Park Search" records to this very day!). What is mountain biking doing in a unique wetland park and pond designated for protection (to be a "future neighbourhood park"), in the first place? Can anyone answer that one for me? Thank you.

--Monica Craver--

Eric Pettit wrote:

Dear Monica. (and everyone she included)

I'm sorry you have taken offence to this thread.

<http://bb.nsmc.com/showthread.php?t=7104>

I can not be responsible for the posts that are added, and apologize for posting the name "Cravers Corners".

No disrespect was intended, and it was more of an attempt to immortalize the current struggle between the riders and the anti-biking groups.

As for starting this thread and wanting to name the trail. I am well within my rights.

I have been working very hard, and under the approval of the District to re-build this old hiking/biking trail and I am very proud of the progress.

Currently the trail is referred to as "The Switchbacks on Lower Griffen". The "Griffen Trail" is a very long and old trail on Fromme that starts at the first switchback of the access road, So I just wanted to give this steep and difficult section a name that made it stand out as its own trail, and not just a small part of the Griffen trail.

My purpose for re-naming it (or actually giving it a name) was not to taunt you.

I really do not understand your problem with my work or this trail or as you call it Eco-Terrorism.

The trail in question is almost 1/2 KM away from MVP, and the work I am doing is meant to restore the hillside.

I have been very careful to protect the stream that runs adjacent to the trail, and the work I am doing has no impact on MVP or the pond.

When I adopted the Switchbacks 2 years ago, the hillside was so badly eroded that no vegetation was growing on it. Over this time, I have been re-directing & controlling the water that seeps from this hillside, rocking in the trail to make it more stable, reducing the width of the single-track to reduce its foot-print, and re-planted a number of small saplings and ferns onto the barren slope. (plants that were about to roll down the hill due to the erosion below them). This spring, the District is going to supply me with a number of indigenous plants from their nursery to be planted along the sides of the trail to help re-stabilize the slope. As well, I hiking along the new Gravel path in MVP to get to the switchbacks, and since I am in there I do routine maintenance to this path. (this includes re-building / re-enforcing the log boarder to prevent bikes / hikers from entering the sensitive forest floor in MVP, raking the gravel to infill low spots that are prone to ponding, picking up garbage left by the dog walkers, and picking up and moving dead fall which is blown onto the path quite often.) If it were not for me hiking up to the switchbacks once a week, the park and path would not be as well maintained as it is.

As for the bikes that use this trail, they pass thru MVP park on the defined trail constructed by the district to protect the pond, and they do less damage than the dog walkers who let their animals run freely through the woods.

I invite all of the individuals who Monica has included in the e-mail to view the tread on NSMC.com and judge for yourselves if it is tasteless. I also invite you all to walk this trail to see the work I have done. I will post a comment on the tread letting others know that Monica has contacted me and that the posts about her and Ernie are not appreciated.

I invite you all to review this thread as well, <http://bb.nsmc.com/showthread.php?t=70887>, it is about Ernie's accident, and is full of best wishes for his recovery.

Monica is fighting with a group of individuals (Mountain Bikers) who don't want to fight.

As for naming the trail. I don't see anything wrong with calling it "Red Legged Frog" I think a name like that actually helps riders to remember to be sensitive towards the environment and MVP.

Monica, you got your gravel path in MVP, and your signs about the frogs and the sensitive ecosystem. You got the fences built in the forest. So please stop fighting us

Eric Pettit

Associate

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

Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2006 1:42 PM

To: Eric Pettit

Cc: Mayor and Council - DNV; James Ridge; FONVCA (E-mail)

Subject: An Open Letter to Eric Pettit

Dear Mr. Pettit (also known as mountain biker, "King of E-Ville" on NSMB.com bb) and others who have joined the following "thread":

[North Shore Mountain Biking Forums](#) :: [Trail News/Maintenance](#) :: **Name the switchbacks**

It is a shame that there is so much immaturity among mountain biking adults that they can not just leave well enough alone. Are things so boring in life you have to just call the dogs out again? Has having Fromme/Mountain View Park approved for mountain biking by DNV Council taken the fun out of riding and building there? It seems so by the tone of the recent thread on the nsmb bb: <http://bb.nsm.com/showthread.php?t=7104>

What am I supposed to think when I see suggestions for names of switchbacks above Mountain View Park and pond as feeble attempts at taunts towards Mr. Crist, myself, and the "species at risk"--Red Legged Frog? You may think it is hilarious, or perhaps even take it seriously?, as you choose names for mountain bike trails that are detrimental to the future survival of the park and pond. As you all already know, I take environmental conservation seriously. Threats to the viability of the North Shore forests' biodiversity and ecology in the form of future development and "extreme" recreational overuse is not a joke, boys and girls.

I do not want to know the reasons for this latest thread, but it clearly shows that environmental "sensitivity training" is sorely needed. But anyone who believes this is possible with mountain bikers, such as you and others, is sorely in need of an education themselves. Grow up, people! Leave the Cravers, Ernie Crist and the Red-Legged Frog out of your immature "name the switchback" games. I (we) do not wish to be associated with your eco-vandalism of our natural parks and forests in any shape or form. I hope you can respect my request in a mature way. Thank you.

--Monica Craver--

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