



2005 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Announcement: 2005 Annual General Meeting

The Fraser Valley Mountain Biker's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for **Thursday, 17 November 2005 at 7:00pm** at the Abbotsford Agrifair Arena (32470 Haida Drive, Exhibition Park – site of the Abbotsford BMX Indoor track).

The AGM is the place to show your support, raise questions, meet the people who keep the trail system running, and volunteer to join the organization. For 2006, the FVMBA has vacancies for the Executive positions of Treasurer and Coordinator so, if

you're truly interested in making a difference in the mountain biking community in this area, this is a good opportunity to step up to the plate and volunteer.

If you can't make it to the meeting on 17 November, please fill out the attached membership form, drop it and your twenty bucks in an envelope, and send it along to the address provided. Your support provides important assistance to the FVMBA and the trail builders in your area.

2005 in Review: A summary

2005 was a good year for the Fraser Valley Mountain Biker's Association. The group saw its membership numbers grow over the course of the year and, currently, we have about 100 confirmed, paid members. Membership dues went primarily to trail builders in Abbotsford (Sumas and Ledgeview), Chilliwack (Vedder Mountain), and Maple Ridge (The 'Woodlot'). These funds were used to purchase equipment necessary to maintain the extensive trail

networks in these areas of the Fraser Valley.

We continue to solicit and receive support from a number of local bike shops and look forward to building on these relationships well into the future. If you're an active cyclist and are looking for a shop that supports the trails in your area, please give your support to these shops – they help us all by contributing to the local riding scene.

Message from Gary Harder, President

As we end our second year, we have affiliated formally with the International Mountain Bike Associations (IMBA). A relationship with IMBA brings advice and support from an internationally-recognized mountain bike organization, an organization that brings experience and a fantastic set of resources to the table. Publications like the IMBA trail manual discuss about sustainable trail building

and the organization's ethos is right on, in terms of focus, goals, and approach.

We've been putting a bunch of cash (ie. membership dues and corporate support dollars) right back into the trails – money is spent on shovels, nails, chains for saws, wire mesh, etc. etc. – and is welcomed by many area builders who, until recently, paid for the

maintenance of local trail networks with money from their own pockets. With all of the directors being trail builders, we now can hand in our receipts at our quarterly meetings and expect some money back.

Members of the FVMBA Executive are involved in talks with the Ministry of Forests regarding the future of the recreational access in the Chilliwack / Vedder area (more information below). To sum up though, the FVMBA is part of a larger coalition of user groups – known collectively as the Vedder Mountain Trails Association (VMTA) – and discussions are ongoing with the governmental organizations that are involved in the area. I feel that the trails (and the people who use them) are the big winner in this process and, based on the plans for the area, good things will likely result from the talks.

Negotiations between the FVMBA and the Ministry of Forests (MoF) over Sumas mountain are at a standstill as the Ministry reorganizes. Also, the MoF is looking to establish some clarity over the legal status of the trails in the area (ownership, liability, etc.). However, as a sign of good faith, the MoF gave the FVMBA a key to the gate on Sumas Mountain, something that

makes trail maintenance a whole lot easier. Regardless of the standing of current negotiations, our primary goal for Sumas Mountain continues to be the legal recognition of the mountain bike trails in the area.

If you are interested in being a bigger part of the trail building scene, the FVMBA Annual General Meeting (AGM) is going to be held on 17 November 2005 at 7pm at the Abbotsford Agrifair Arena (32470 Haida Drive, Exhibition Park – at the site of the Abby BMX Indoor). Areas like Sumas Mountain can use more representatives, and many builders welcome helping hands. Also, we have openings on the Executive for Treasurer and Coordinator, as Cory and Denise are stepping aside because of other commitments.

Access to your FVMBA Directors is easy, so feel free to contact your local area representative to see what's happening in your area. All contact information is available on our website.

Thanks for your support ,
Gary Harder,
President, FVMBA

Updates from your Area Reps

Abbotsford: Sumas Mountain / Ledgeview

Sumas Mountain has seen a bunch of trail building and maintenance over the past year, with repairs being made to old bridges and new structures being erected when and where they're appropriate.

Time Killer continues to be a big bike area, and the mountain bike cabin's fame is spreading as more riders realize that sitting in this coolest of the cools is what this mountain bike life is all about.

Knob Gobbler is in great shape even though the FVRD destroyed every ladder on this trail, it has

slowly come back to life – Sideshow has been reborn, with riders refusing to let it die. Other trails, like Noah Fear, are in need of some work and will be cleaned up this winter. Also, Holiday Sauce is in need of signs and we will soon be posting these at trail heads (note this is a great cross country trail except for the maze of in and outs, which will be soon corrected).

The newest trail on Sumas will be opened in the Spring 2006 and is tentatively called 'Rockstar Diva'. The trail opens just below Time Killer, unless there is some other trail with this name. Steep and deep, Rockstar Diva is a video trail will

