

BC to eliminate hills and mountains

Province's green plan will impact randonneurs

The BC Provincial Government has undertaken an initiative to reduce motor vehicle emissions by levelling all hills and mountains in British Columbia.

Studies have shown that motor vehicles use considerably more fuel while going uphill than they do on the level. By removing all hills and mountains in the province, it is estimated that British Columbians will reduce their fossil fuel consumption by half.

When asked about what impact the levelling of the BC landscape might have on recreational activities, Premier Gordon Campbell said, "Mountains attract mostly skiers and randonneurs, and neither group should be adversely affected once the mountains are gone. Very few people go to ski resorts just to ski, but rather to drink their faces off while wearing bulky sweaters. Randonneurs will ride regardless of conditions".

The elimination of hills and mountains may or may not make things easier for members of the BC Randonneurs Cycling Club. Some Vancouver Island riders believe that a flat landscape will enable them to



Campbell: who needs mountains, anyway?

finish the Back Road 400 (Mill Bay to Buckley Bay and back along very hilly back roads) in less time than at present.

One of the fastest finishers on this year's edition of the Back Road 400, Ken Bonner (15 hours, 36 minutes), said, "I think it's great. Instead of finishing the 400 and being home in time for supper, I can now be home in time for lunch." The other fastest finisher, Nigel Press (also 15 hours, 36 minutes), reached while doing a 200 km recovery ride, said, "Four hundred? Are you sure? It felt like three hundred to me."

One of the slowest finishers, Kevin Bruce (23 hours, 16 minutes) said, "The Back Road 400 was so ridiculously tough, I'm never going to ride another rando event again, ever."

When asked if he was lying about never riding another event, Mr. Bruce said, "Yes, I am not lying now, nor was I lying the last time I lied about lying."

Commenting on the veracity of Mr. Bruce's statement, online newsletter editor Eric Fergusson (DNS) said, "Kevin tells lies only when he writes newsletter articles. He just makes that stuff up."



Bonner: home in time for lunch

Back Road 400 ride organizer Raymond Parker (21 hours, 9 minutes), reached at Victoria's Fairfield Bicycle Shop where he sells new bikes that look old, was asked what effect a flat Vancouver Island might have on the very hilly 400 route.

"Don't worry," Mr. Parker said, "One of our members, Michel Richard (19 hours, 5 minutes), knows a few things about engineering and construction, so he's working on installing a giant fan to replace the Malahat and another one near Courtenay. The fans will blow in the faces of the riders to make



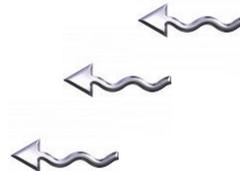
Richard: will turn fans off

them feel like they're going uphill the entire time. Next year, it's going to take them even longer to ride the Back Road 400."

Following an outcry by worried club members, Mr. Richard qualified Mr. Parker's statement and allayed concerns by saying, "We'll turn the fans off as soon as Ken and Nigel are finished."



Parker: giant fans were his idea



With giant fans being installed on Vancouver Island to replace the hills, cyclists will still feel as though they're going uphill according to Island Route Coordinator Raymond Parker.

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