

A NEW TWIST FOR AN OLD RANGE

Many older members of the RCMP and other forces that have served in the Lower Mainland may remember the old Barnett Rod & Gun Club property, which was closed down several years ago. Well, May 31st 2008, it was reborn, with a new twist in favour of community, families, and youth.

The gun club had closed in 1998 and had a long barrel range, clubhouse, and pistol range. Many an ERT training day was spent there by myself and my team mates over the years, not to mention the annual qualifications that were completed by all members of Burnaby Detachment. Over that time, one of my memories on the range was of cease fires often called to allow the local deer to pass through the upper reaches of the rifle range.

“E” Division

Jump forward ten years, and the City of Burnaby, together with a bicycle park designer and NORCO Factory Team Rider Jay Hoots, worked to convert the old property into a mountain bike skills park. The park has been constructed to develop riders' skills and confidence, and many of the obstacles have been designed, built, and marked with the increasing levels of difficulty from beginner to extreme. Having spent weeks at the property while it was under construction, Jay says the deer still stroll through the property. In the morning, deer tracks indicate they enjoy standing on the highest points of the table top dirt jumps surveying the property when no one is around.

For the grand opening of the bike park, the Burnaby Fire Department ran a Burn Fund Benefit BBQ, TREK Bicycles brought their demo bikes for complementary trials, Red Bull girls were in attendance promoting their

energy drinks, and NORCO Factory Team Riders were showing that the most difficult obstacles could be overcome. Dignitaries were introduced and had their time on the podium, and a sculpture was unveiled. The RCMP brought their Police Mountain Bike Team, with police mtn. bike trained Auxiliary Members, and were asked to ride down through the park itself to signify the formal opening of the facility.

The most impressive memory on the day were of the families that attended. Parents and their children together were decked out in full face helmets and mountain bike riding armor, having a great time enjoying the facilities. While I was sad to see the old gun club closed down, I am certain that the property will be well used by the community for years to come.

*Submitted by Pat Reilly, Sgt. ; NCO i/c
Problem Oriented Policing Sec., Burnaby
Detachment*



Jay Hoots on the bike jumping over Sgt. Pat Reilly and Cst. Jason Spielman. Cst. Clarke Johnston (front left) with other cyclists.

Photo by Cst. Chris Scott