



JULIE IVERSON/RICHMOND NEWS

Darren Butler and Jay Hoots (background) work on the Richmond Bike Park at the foot of No. 2 Road Tuesday. Their pair is getting ready for tomorrow's (Saturday's) open house at the park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

STEVESTON

Riders invited to get a jump on new bike park

BY DAVE WILLIS
Special to the News

Richmond BMX and mountain bikers have the chance to check out the newly upgraded bike park in Steveston tomorrow.

The dirt jump component has been redone and an open house and volunteer workday is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"My guys just worked right to the bone on this one," said Jay Hoots, a park designer who worked on the project.

Reconstructing the jumps took two weeks and during that time, there were people who came out and helped and others who hindered the process.

Some park users had a spin on the jumps before work was finished, impeding the job. Others volunteered their time and lent a hand.

Hoots said if it's not raining, there might even be a bit of riding Saturday.

Also, park maintenance and a discussion on safety and etiquette are planned.

Darren Butler, a friend of Hoots, also worked on the upgrade.

"We'll be able to walk the kids around the park, do a final clean on it, but ultimately use it as a forum to speak to the kids and the parents about some of the etiquette involved in the park," he said.

Always wearing a helmet and not riding when the wet stuff is coming down are two main points, Hoots noted.

"You shouldn't be jumping in the rain. It wrecks the jumps," he said.

Jamie Esko, a Richmond parks planner, said the new dirt jumps should benefit riders at different skill levels.

"They (the previous jumps) had worn down to a degree and the reconfiguration addresses the fact that there are people at different levels of ability and so it allows us to provide a certain progressive skill development in the park which it didn't have before."

The bike park is located at the foot of No. 2 Road in Steveston.