

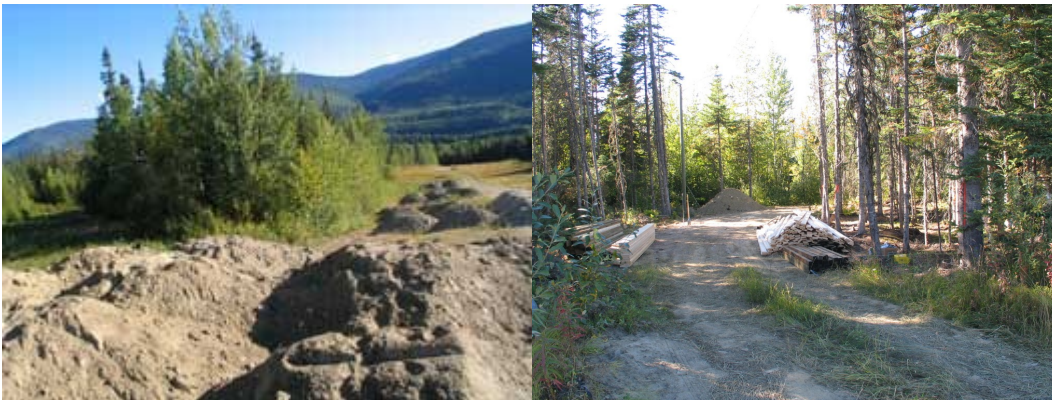
06 Mackenzie, BC – Little Mac Ski Hill

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In July 2004 at Norco VPS Fest in Kamloops I sat one evening talking about youth, jumps and riding with my friend Vanessa. Vanessa had left Norco in order to move up north and pursue other career opportunities. Once in Mackenzie she realized how little there was for youth especially cycling based so she started a [Sprockids](#) program and was interested in the idea of implementing a skills park where the local youth would have a place to go and ride.

After emails, telephone calls and exchange of information Vanessa managed to create a proposal and muster enough youth input to go to council with and gain support for her vision. Once council passed funding for the project I immediately scheduled a site visit (June 2006) and made the journey to check out the proposed area and do a presentation for staff regarding process and integration. Vanessa arranged the Sprockids group ride to coincide with the visit and with some local newspaper exposure we kicked off the riding season and got the community fired up on cycling and the upcoming park.



Once returned from a ride trip to Sweden I headed back to Mackenzie in August 2006 with a wrist cast and a blown knee but ready to build with the locals. During the time I was away a contractor worked with the town to bring in over 100 loads of high quality dirt and complete arrangements were all in order for the needed wood for the technical areas.



Back in town I went directly to site and met with the local youth. We all got to work cutting, clearing and prepping the area for the technical skills section and made game plans for the next day.



It had been a hot and dry summer so it was necessary to run 400' of water hose to wet the dirt as it was being transferred into position. The design was created to fit a comprehensive beginner set on the run that had the least downward slope and then to build a progressive large set with a expert set on the steeper side of the hill. All of the jumps are precursors to the each other. The Technical area was placed inside of a treed area at the top of the hill and a wall ride was placed in the same corridor off to the end of the trail so as not to interfere with XC skiing.



Tuesday opened the first official build day and after meeting municipal staff and contractors we got straight to work putting in drainage infrastructure and building of the beginner jump area. The town offered up a large loader and operator and a local contractor donated a large excavator and operator for the four days needed to build the jumps and start ramp areas.





From the first day of the build the local youth came out and helped in all aspects. We completed the beginner set on day two, and finished big set and run in on fourth day. Every build day involved creating new jumps and features as well as having set aside time and resources to dial in what we had build the day before.





After all the dirt was done we moved forward on to the technical features and with a lot of effort, determination and Steve our motivated carpenter, we hammered away at the ladder bridges and wall ride finishing the park in a staggering 8 days.





During the build we rode everyday and some injuries did occur, however the injuries were in alignment with expectations and the injured youth still came out to represent stoked on the park.



A Sprockids ride took place on the Wednesday and all the kids came out to work on the park and then we had a huge jump fest. The local youth jumped along side the kids and everyone had a great time offering the perfect opportunity to assess the parks teaching potential.





Mackenzie is located two hours drive north of Prince George and has limited trails but the skills park is really a fantastic start and has lots to offer every level of rider. The municipality was great to work with and the level of participation and excitement from the community was stellar.





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