

August 23, 2010

For all concerned with the preservation of the Copeland forest in Oro-Medonte, Ontario. As you are aware, this corner of our world is an important habitat for many plant and animal species. It appears there is now a company operating out of Horseshoe resort offering guided mountain bike rental/tours here. Their website boasts of tours in the wetland areas, on wet –what they call Copeland rainforest trails, on the hills single tracking, as well as main trails. The website is: www.borntoridebicycle.com

The good folk at the Ministry of Natural Resources(underfunded and overworked no doubt) do indeed care about the Copeland and have thus far turned down Born to Ride Bicycle's application for a contract to run the cycling there. It does appear that it is using the forest currently however as they are actively advertising it. The issue is still under review by the MNR so permission may yet be forthcoming. One thing we can do is let the District manager of MNR know how we feel about the commercialization of our space. His contact info is:

Mark Shoreman
Ministry of Natural Resources
Midhurst District
2284 Nursery Rd.,
Midhurst Ontario
L0L 1X0
Email: mark.shoreman@ontario.ca

You may also wish to contact MPP for Simcoe North Garfield Dunlop at: garfield.dunlop@pc.ola.org

Born to ride has a good idea, it's a great sport but the Copeland is not the place for a business. Hopefully the take over, control and overuse of our forest can be stopped before it goes any further. And let's not forget that Horseshoe Resort already has full use/control of the county trails on the south side of Horseshoe Valley road for their motorized and non-motorized endeavours. They also use the Copeland for cross country skiing in the winter. Do they need it all?

Please speak up. Write letters, call the MNR, contact politicians, be proactive or we will lose this precious area.