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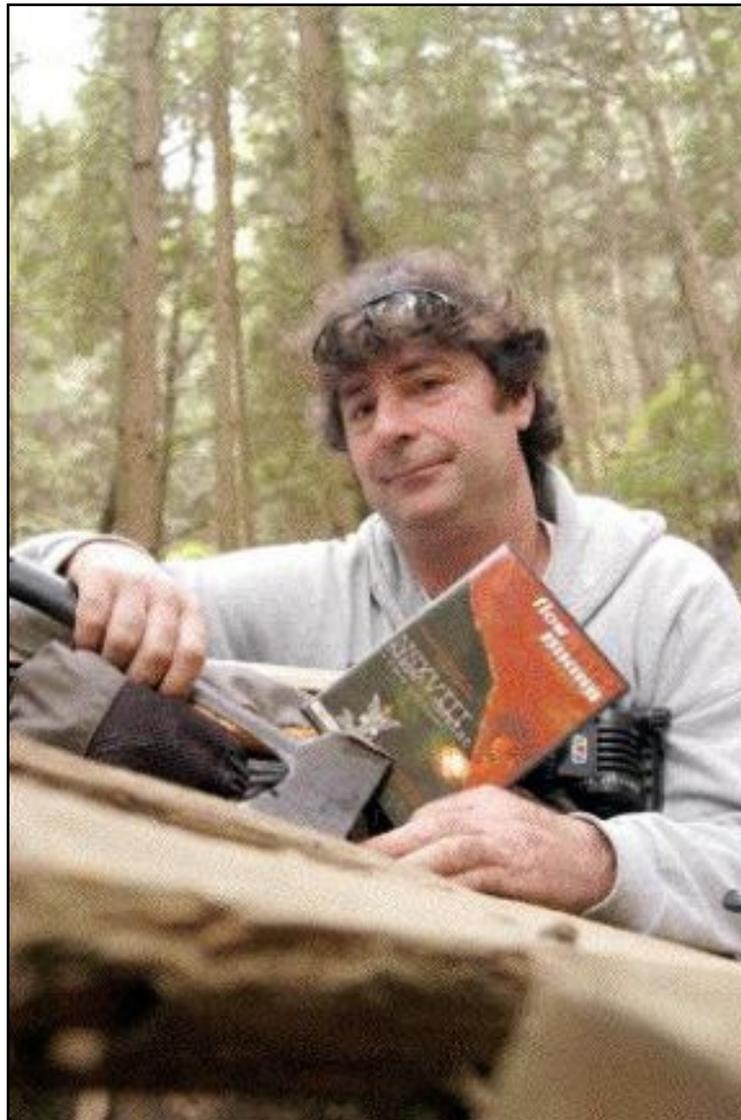
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**War of the Woods - Extreme box office**

**By**



**In addition to building epic trails, 'Digger' has found his calling as a video producer. Here, he holds up his latest, NSX 8: Cease and Desist.**

**Justin Beddall (Rob Newell photo)**

*May 19 2005*

Todd "Digger" Fiander's started filmmaking with a handcam Duct-taped to his mountain bike helmet. For fun, he started filming his buddies as they rode

Aldergrove Star

the North Shore trails, documenting the thrilling stunt-riding - and rim-busting spills -that had come to define the new style of riding in these parts. He added a soundtrack and took it down to a local bike shop to watch it with some fellow riders. "Someone came in and said 'Wow, where can I buy that.'"

Fiander decided to create a video called North Shore Extreme, which is now one of the most widely watched mountain bike video series in the world. So far reaching, in fact, that when Digger dropped by a friend's house who had a Japanese home-stay student, he was instantly recognized. "It sold around the world," he said.

These days, Fiander's Know Fear production company recently released North Shore Extreme 8: Cease and Desist, described like this: "Digger's legacy has returned with his 8th installment of the North Shore Extreme series. Continuing on his quest for sicker and bigger trails, he has been slapped with a Cease and Desist order from the North Shore District of Environmental Protection and Preservation Bylaw. With a shovel and stealth-like techniques, Digger has once again risen to the calling and continued building his world famous trails. The next installment continues to mesmerize and capture the attention of all bikers everywhere."

He is currently filming a ninth installment. "It's pretty tough to get nice shots," Digger explained.

Dangerous Dan, who has appeared in all of the videos and even provided some music for the soundtracks, said the videos represent a seminal moment in the history of mountain biking on the North Shore.

"I would say NSX has had a profound effect, it has changed mountain biking forever - it displayed and introduced a new type of riding to the world."

Cam McRae, a longtime North Shore mountain bike rider and founder-slash-editor of e-magazine nsmb.com, agrees.

"Digger's videos showed Joe rider what's possible on the Shore. Before I saw any of his films we just rolled down steep stuff. Afterwards we began trying to 'wheelie drop' off.

"Then the top riders in the video started riding off and launching without pedaling so we began to try that. By exposing the cutting edge Digger has brought everyone's riding level up and inspired other trail builders to stay ahead of the curve as well."

John Sedacek, co-owner of On The Top bike shop, says Digger's videos fly off the shelves. "[The videos are] very popular. It's definitely made sport bigger.

More people want to ride."

While Digger's NSX and other mountain bike video series like Kranked continue to use the North Shore as the backdrop for their videos, there's also interest to turn the North Shore into an actual video game. Rumours have persisted for the past three years that Burnaby-based EA Sports is interested in developing a game based on North Shore freeriding legends, which would likely translate into huge gaming sales. Digger, meanwhile, isn't sure exactly how many of his videos have sold world-wide. "It's in the thousands," he said.

For Digger, filming and building trails is a labour of love - not a money-making venture - taking up approximately 80 per cent of his time.

"I'm seven days a week. I've spent more time building trails than I did working any job. It's just too much fun," Digger smiled.

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