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**CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER**

**MAY 12 -15, 2009 ■ DUNFRIES, SCOTLAND**

**June 2, 2008**

## **News Release**

### **SW SCOTLAND HOSTS WORLD CONFERENCE**

**Dumfries, in south west Scotland, will host the World Mountain Bike Conference on Sustainability (WMBC) for the first time in May next year, and with interest already building from delegates as far away as Kathmandu, the impact on the local economy will be considerable.**

This is the first time the WMBC has left Canadian shores and Dan London, of Vancouver-based Shore Events, one of the two Canadian organisers, explained: "We are now pressing ahead with the planning for 12-15 May 09. And we anticipate that around 400 delegates worldwide - including land managers, trail organisers and resort operators - will join us at the Conference to pool ideas on how to manage mountain biking as an environmental, economical and socially sustainable activity."

Projections are that the Scottish economy will benefit by more than £1.3 million during the days surrounding the Conference, which will be held in Easterbrook Hall on the Crichton Estate.

It was fitting that the Conference bid was won by Dumfries as it was in here in SW Scotland that Kirkpatrick Macmillan, a blacksmith on the Drumlanrig estate, invented the first pedal bicycle in 1840. Coinciding with the Conference a number of activities are planned for people to enjoy, including a bike festival in Dumfries, appealing to all age groups.

Forestry Commission Scotland, a key partner in supporting the conference, manages the famous '7 stanes' trails, plus 1,000 kms of off-road routes across the country. Bill Meadows, forest district manager for Ayr, said: "This event has huge potential for the future development of south west Scotland as a premier mountain bike destination and the event will put Scotland's mountain biking trails firmly on the world stage.

"However, the importance of social and economic sustainability and management of the environment cannot be underestimated to ensure its ongoing success. Discussions among world experts during the Conference next year will shape biking globally."

In June this year, Richard Walton, the Mayor of North Vancouver and now a Director of the Conference, is expected in Scotland to officially hand over the Conference to Dumfries. He is also expected to speak at the May 09 event.

**Editors note:**

The Canadian organisers of the WMBC on Sustainability are Dan London of Shore Events and Jennifer Aldridge of Prime Strategies, both based in Vancouver.

Partners supporting the WMBC on Sustainability include:

Forestry Commission Scotland, Crichton Development Company, Dumfries & Galloway Council, Scottish Enterprise, VisitScotland, Aston Hotels and Scottish Natural Heritage.

For further information, visit: [www.worldmountainbikeconference.com](http://www.worldmountainbikeconference.com)

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