

June 6, 1996

**TO:** CITY MANAGER

**FROM:** DIRECTOR RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

**SUBJECT:** BURNABY MOUNTAIN GOLF COURSE - LETTERS OF CONCERN FROM THREE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

**PURPOSE:** To respond to concerns regarding Burnaby Mountain Golf Course raised by three members of the playing public.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT this report be received for information.

**REPORT**

Council has recently received three letters from members of the golfing public regarding the condition of Burnaby Mountain Golf Course. They were from Mr. Peter M. Grabowski (Agenda - 1996 May 27), Mr. Peter Tudhope (1996 June 10) and Mr. John F. Dowling (1996 June 10).

The Parks and Recreation Commission received all three letters at its meeting of 1996 June 05 together with the following paraphrased information.

In general, the comments in the three letters fall into two broad categories. The first arises partly from the record breaking rainfalls that we have experienced in March, April and May. There is nothing that we can do about these conditions and every other golf course is suffering similar stresses. Naturally, the newest built and highest quality constructed courses are faring the best - example: Riverway Golf Course. Burnaby Mountain does not fall into these categories.

To a lesser extent, this category of comment also derives from a situation created by an over construction of golf courses in the Lower Mainland. All courses are experiencing reduced patronage not just Burnaby Mountain Golf Course and we believe that our reduction is mainly due to this over abundance of facilities and not because of the alleged quality of the course. Burnaby Mountain Golf Course has continuing patronage commensurate with its quality of course and fee schedule.

The points in the three writers' second category however, are well taken and that is that the course is getting old and wearing out. After 26 years of intensive play mostly from average or less than average golfers, Burnaby Mountain Golf Course requires some renovation attention.

It has not been ignored in the past. During its life, 11 of its 18 greens have been totally rebuilt plus some of the tees. Some years ago, intensive drainage work was done on the seven fairways requiring renovation. The entire irrigation system has been replaced and a new pro shop and public washrooms constructed.

In addition to these major works, there has been an annual program of maintenance usually carried out in each off season improving all aspects of the course including drainage. The work plan for 1996 includes improvement to the drainage in the driving range grounds.

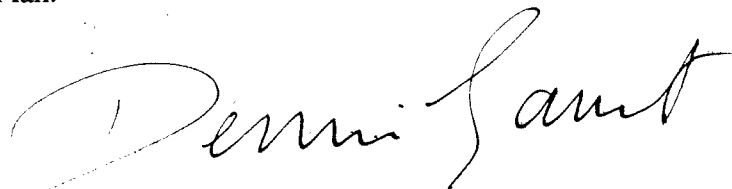
However, in spite of this continuing attention, we agree that the course should be now considered for a staged improvement program in various areas. We would propose to develop such a program and bring it to the Commission for discussion leading to the establishment of the Commission's 1997-2001 Five Year Capital Plan.

Our staff have spoken by telephone with two of the letter writers and they have provided further information on some of the concerns expressed in their letter which required explanation.

We will continue to work with the writers and other golf course patrons and professional staff in preparation of the proposed plan.

The Commission approved the following three recommendations:

1. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to City Council
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Mr. Peter M. Grabowski, Mr. Peter Tudhope and Mr. John F. Dowling.
3. THAT staff be requested to bring forward a staged plan for capital improvements to Burnaby Mountain Golf Course to be considered in conjunction with the 1997-2001 Five Year Capital Plan.



DENNIS GAUNT  
Director Recreation &  
Cultural Services