

From:

Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 8:53 PM

To: CPSC <cpsc@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] please include on the agenda

Committee Members,

Several of our group of loyal members of the Corporation's golf courses have made submissions to this committee concerning the possible closing of River Road golf course. In my mind, there is no question that this is a financial decision and as many members speculate, this decision is based upon questionable financial data and poor policy decisions.

I will focus on the latter. I understand that policies and protocols for opening and managing the 2020 "cvid driven" golf season were made at the "administrative" level not at the "clubhouse" level. The pros and staff at Thames and Fanshawe worked hard to implement those questionable policies.

The problem was that those policies and protocols have contributed to a revenue stream that was likely considerably less than privately owned public courses. According to my research, Thames and Fanshawe initially had tee time intervals greater than any other course in Southwestern Ontario with comparable green and cart fees which results in fewer golfers per day. When you combine this with the totally ridiculous program for booking tee times which resulted in many no shows it is no surprise that revenues were not maximized and members were frustrated and angry. The clubhouse staff were the undeserving recipients of this outcome.

To clarify for example, our group of about 16 members would have 10 to 12 members try to get tee times. Initially at 5am!! This often resulted in obtaining no tee times, or sometimes obtaining more times than needed resulting in tying up what resulted in unused tee times. This strategy was used by a majority of members.

Needless to say, with the number of golfers who join and play the Municipal Courses, closing one is doing a disservice to the membership. Without River Road last year there was a 25% decrease in available tee times and combined with the extremely conservative "Covid" protocols re time between tee times there was likely closer to a 30% decrease in green fees every day.

Finally, if Thames and Fanshawe did not operate at a surplus, the "City" is guilty of total mismanagement of their golf courses. River Road needs to be reopened and a better business plan is needed.

Respectfully,

Don Rowdon