

for the added agenda packet, tues. Nov.1 2022

I confess I paid little attention to Municipal Affairs until the vote to close River Road hit my hot button !

With the help of a knowledgeable friend, I learned a great deal about the history and management of the network under the PUC and more recently Parks & Recreation.

Having been a Muni golfer for 45 years, I was aware of the increasing difficulties with accessing T-Times on the network and with the deterioration of playing conditions, but the closure of River Road brought it all to a head.

The closure of River Road based on a \$26,858 Deficit and the coincidental revealing of the depleted Golf Reserve Fund was a shock given the 96 year history of profitability and the self-funding principle of "Golf pays for Golf".

As a retired senior citizen, I started to dig-in to the operation of the system i.e., what was the capacity of the system and what would be the impact on the golf community of 25% less playing time. I discovered there was little in terms of utilization versus capacity with a singular focus on rounds played as the primary indicator of the health of the system regardless of operational problems like the 2017-2019 Toluene Spill and clean up. There was no metrics relative to unsatisfied requests for T-Times as capacity became a bigger constraint and the assumption by Parks & Recreation was that private area golf could accommodate those disenfranchised by the closure and network downsizing. .

My analysis eventually took me to the 2018 KPMG Report that documented the deficit with the allegation that a reduction in rounds played was the key contributor and an indicator of the decline in golf's popularity. The KPMG Report was the key influencing factor on Council's decision to close River Road even though it overlooked the impact of the Toluene Spill, disregarded the 25% Redirection of Golf's Gross Margins to Aquatic Services and ignored the ballooning Operating Costs at 3.7 times the change in Revenues. Other than the allegation of golf's decline there was no analysis of other factors, no explanation of the Operating Costs and totally overlooked the predicted 80,000 population growth by 2039.

How Municipal Golf went from "Boom" (generating surpluses of \$950,000) to "Bust" was never explained and the lack of published reporting made tracking of changes impossible. Requests for a review of the management system prior to 2018 was denied and management was described as excellent while Municipal Golf was being "declared" bankrupt !

The Municipal Golf Community was never consulted and Parks & Recreation convinced Council to vote for closure while allocating \$Millions in tax subsidies to every recreational activity/facility in their empire that never attain a "Net-Neutral" status

while discriminating against London's recreational golfers in a system that has never received a subsidy....ever !

Andy McGuigan