

Madam Chairperson/Committee Members

My name is Stuart Watson. I have been a member of the City of London golf courses for over 20 years and played the River Road golf course on a regular basis.

On February 23, 2021, Council directed the Civic Administration to:

- cease golf operations at River Road immediately
- initiate disposition of River Road
- allocate the proceeds from partial or full disposition of River Road
to the municipal golf reserve fund

The Report you are considering today is a summary of the Civic Administration's progress in addressing these directives.

The closure of River Road has made it difficult for City of London Golf Members

and the General Public to book tee times at Thames Valley and Fanshawe golf

courses. This has resulted in lost revenues from potential green fees, cart rentals and a reduction in memberships for these remaining municipal golf courses.

In February 2021, when the Civic Administration assumed responsibility for River

Road it was a mature 18 hole golf course with a quality, fully operational irrigation system and an attractive Clubhouse. This 134 acre property would have had a market value of millions of dollars.

Today, the River Road greens and fairways are beyond recovery, the irrigation system is severely damaged (beyond repair?) because required winterization was not done and the Clubhouse was recently destroyed by fire.

As a result of the lack of due diligence by the Civic Administration, millions of potential revenue for the municipal golf reserve fund have been lost. This could have a negative effect on the future of Fanshawe and Thames Valley Golf courses.

As a municipal golfer and a London taxpayer my question is :

Why was this result allowed to happen??

Stuart Watson