

Memorandum

Office of the City Clerk
Fax: 623-5468
Telephone: 625-2230

TO: Members of Council
FROM: Ms. K. Power, City Clerk
DATE: Tuesday, December 8, 2020
SUBJECT: Additional Information
Committee of the Whole (Special Session – PSR) - December 9, 2020

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Additional Information

1. Correspondence from Mr. A. Smith, dated December 4, 2020 relative to Mr. J. O'Neill's golf courses deputation.
2. Correspondence from Mr. T. Alderdice, President – PGA of Canada, dated December 8, 2020 relative to Mr. J. O'Neill's golf courses deputation.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **alex smith** <alex_smith_8@hotmail.com>

Date: Fri, Dec 4, 2020 at 8:09 PM

Subject: Thunder Bay golf

To: Pat.Berezowski@thunderbay.ca <Pat.Berezowski@thunderbay.ca>, Jacob O'Neill <joneill3@lakeheadu.ca>

Good evening,

Below is an attached letter I wrote in participation of the petition to save the courses. I hope this adequate and please reach out to me if there is anymore I can do.

Alex smith

To whom it may concern,

My name is Alex Smith and I would like to share how much of an impact both Strathcona and Chapels Community Golf Courses have had on me. I am an avid golfer and have been for many years. Moving to Thunder Bay in 2017, I knew I wanted to join a course and was very excited to hear about the community run ones. I've been a member since 2018 and have made many friends that have not only added to my life on the course but also my life as a whole. I've really enjoyed the tournaments, men's day and rounds over the last few years. I'm saddened to hear the potential closing of these community courses and feel as though it would have a grander impact on the community more than you may realize as well as on me and my potential future in Thunder Bay. The professionalism, sense of community and social aspects these courses have given to me and my peers is more than I would have ever expected. With my growing family it is very appealing to me to continue to become a member and potentially include my children in this hobby/ tradition of mine. The community courses offer a great opportunity to allow regular people to get outside and be active at an affordable cost with out sacrificing the preferred golfer's experience. The courses were always maintained and the clubhouse were always welcoming.

Regards,

A.S.



December 8, 2020

Dear City of Thunder Bay Council,

I am writing this letter in support of keeping Chapples and Strathcona Golf Courses operational in the community of Thunder Bay.

Municipal courses serve as the lifeblood of golf in Canada. As a Thunder Bay native who is now the President of the PGA of Canada, I am proud to have been introduced to the game through municipal golf in your city. I know firsthand how important these facilities are to the fabric of Thunder Bay and share fond memories alongside thousands of other community members.

But courses like Chapples and Strathcona offer more than just fond memories. These facilities serve as a catalyst for growing the game by providing residents with an affordable and accessible option for outdoor recreation, green space and social activity. They offer an inclusive opportunity for community members of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to experience the wide range of physical, mental and social benefits inherent to the sport.

These benefits have never been more prevalent than during COVID-19. Golf, which has been shown to combat health conditions like heart disease, diabetes, colon cancer, depression, and dementia¹, proved to be one of the safest and most beneficial activities available to Canadians this year. Participation surged, as evidenced by the 58,000 rounds / 10% increase in play at your facilities, and we project enthusiasm for the sport to continue sustainably in 2021 and beyond.

The future of the golf industry and its impact on local communities is bright. In 2019, golf contributed over \$18.2B in economic activity, up 14% from 2013, providing \$4.5B in government tax revenue, and employing nearly 249,000 Canadians through direct and indirect effects. It also provided \$330M in charitable impact to organizations and communities across the country². Now, more than ever, we should be looking to capitalize on this momentum by protecting the facilities that foster participation at the grassroots level.

I would implore Council to carefully consider the wealth of benefits available to the City of Thunder Bay and its constituents by keeping Chapples and Strathcona open. The closing of these golf courses would be a profound loss for the game of golf in Canada and for your community at large.

Sincerely,

Teejay Alderdice
President, PGA of Canada

¹ [R&A 2016-2020 Golf & Health Report](#)

² [2019 Economic Impact of Golf in Canada / National Allied Golf Associations](#)