

Silver Star charts course

Victoria gives green light for 18-hole golf project

by RICHARD ROLKE
Morning Star Writer

Silver Star Mountain Resort scored a hole-in-one with word that its plans for a golf course have been approved.

The Ministry of Environment announced Thursday that it's giving approval in principle to the North Okanagan ski resort to construct a golf course on Crown property.

"It's big news for us and good economic news for the North Okanagan," said president John Gow.

"We are very pleased with the announcement. To develop more of a winter season, we must also develop a strong summer component."

The 18-hole course is proposed

for 300 acres east of the cross-country ski area, about a 2.5 kilometre drive from the village.

"We plan to develop it over the next four to five years. This site was selected because it is 800 feet lower than the resort and by moving away from the village, we are away from the heavy snow belt. Spring comes earlier to this site."

In making the announcement, Environment Minister Moe Sihota stated that permitting a golf course at Silver Star will benefit tourism opportunities in Vernon.

"Expanding Silver Star to a four-season operation will provide a strong economic boost, including job opportunities, to the community."

Sihota added that development of the golf course will take into account the needs of the environment.

"We want to commend the owners of Silver Star about the fact that they wanted the proposal to go through an environmental review.

"Any land that is removed from Silver Star Provincial Park for the golf course will be replaced within the region. There will be no net loss to parkland in the region."

According to B.C. Parks, the area being considered for the golf course is located at the southern end of Silver Star park and is considered to have low park values.

"We will be careful stewards of the land," added Gow.

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