

Golf course facts needed

Dear Editor:

Re: Proposed Silver Star Mountain Golf Course

I would like to comment on your coverage of the proposed golf course at Silver Star Mountain.

Patrick Brennan's article in *The Okanagan* Saturday of Feb. 11 quoted Mike Duggan of Silver Star Mountain Resorts as saying that the Western Canada Wilderness Committee endorses the concept, because the parcel proposed for the golf course has no unique environmental features. That statement is wildly inaccurate.

I wrote a letter on behalf of the committee to the Minister of Environment Lands and Parks. I

gave a copy to Silver Star Mountain Resort, specifically to Mike Duggan.

In the letter I tried to give a balanced view of the proposals at the Silver Star Open House last Dec. 30.

Specifically on the golf course proposal, I asked whether environmental assessment had been done and any special natural values known. I suggested that it was essential to do adequate assessment before taking more land from the park. Mike Duggan's reported statement was almost the opposite of what I wrote.

I also said that, if more land is to be taken from the park, compensating additions should be made to Silver Star Park, which

has already lost a lot of land to the ski area and village.

I related this also to the provincial objective of 12 per cent protected land area and how this applied to the North Okanagan, which is conspicuously short of park area.

On the golf proposal, I made many suggestions on how environmental impact should be minimized to meet today's standards.

The main point of my letter, however, is about communication. The message that I put out was almost totally distorted. I think that you should correct the false statements in your earlier article.

**R. G. Pearson
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