

Local News

Proposed course foresees no hazards

by RICHARD ROLKE
Morning Star Writer

A proposed golf course is taking into account the needs of the environment, says a spokesman for Silver Star Mountain Resort.

Dick Munn, special projects manager, told the North Okanagan Regional District Wednesday that there will be no environmental impact from the planned course.

"To quote a government release, this area has low park value," he said.

"We know what the potential impacts of a golf course are so we have addressed the possible impacts."

He added that the planned site for the course is more than 50 per cent logged and the resort will have to have a wildlife management plan in place.

"We are building the project in an environmentally sensitive way."

According to Munn, the chief concern from the public and jurisdictions such as Coldstream has been ground water and action is being taken to get public confidence.

"We are creating internal irrigation and drain systems. We will retain all of the water on site and recycle it."

Munn also took issue with some statements in the community that wetlands will be negatively impacted, by saying existing wetlands will be looked after and 13 new wetlands will be created for use by birds in the area.

Other people have questioned the loss of parkland, but Munn said the provincial government has promised to replace any land used for golf course with parkland

elsewhere in the region.

Silver Star is currently in the process of receiving input on an environmental study that was done on the proposal, and Munn has talked to the City of Vernon, District of Coldstream and the Okanagan Indian Band.

He said Silver Star would like to start preparation of the site this fall so the course could be ready in 2000.

"But what will determine when we get on the site is due process and that is what we are doing right now."

Members of the North Okanagan Regional District board did not discuss the plan Wednesday, but were told that staff is looking at the environmental study and will bring back a report to appropriate NORD committees.