

## Local News

# Mayor says letter simply Star bashing

by RICHARD ROLKE  
*Morning Star Writer*

Vernon's mayor believes regional politicians are badgering Silver Star over its plans for a golf course.

"I don't know why we are always picking on them. They are one of the cleanest businesses there is," said Wayne McGrath.

McGrath slammed his colleagues on the North Okanagan Regional District Wednesday after they decided to write a letter to Victoria insisting that an environmental assessment be done on Silver Star's proposed 18-hole golf course. The directors had already received a letter from the province confirming a study would be done.

"Why do we keep harping on this issue? How many times do they have to say they will do a review?" blasted McGrath.

NORD's decision to write a letter was sparked by a request from Coldstream council. Council is worried the golf course could negatively impact Coldstream Creek, a major water source for the municipality.

However, McGrath said that concerns about the golf course hurting the creek are unfounded.

"If we are concerned about the environment, let's get the government to address the pollution that exists in

Coldstream Creek now and not 10 or 20 years from now."

McGrath's view was supported by other directors, including Armstrong Mayor Eric Hornby.

"Isn't this letter (from the province) sufficient evidence that the study will be done?" asked Hornby.

Other directors, though, demanded that there was nothing wrong with reinforcing the concept of an environmental assessment.

"I don't think it's putting undue hardship on Silver Star to assure us that it will be done," said Lumby Mayor Joanne Kineshanko.

John Gow, Silver Star president, admits he is confused as to why the regional district would seek an environment assessment when that is required by provincial law.

"I don't know what is motivating people but we have discussed the terms of reference with the Ministry of Environment and part of the review is an environmental impact assessment," he said.

"They (NORD and Coldstream) have no information and they haven't contact us about the proposed sites for the golf course."

Gow doesn't believe the golf course, which could be open in three or four years, will harm Coldstream Creek.