

From: Julie Rolph
Sent: Sunday, September 10, 2023 10:13 PM
To: Mailbox, Clerks <Clerks@burlington.ca>; LIST - Office of Ward 1 <ward1@burlington.ca>; Galbraith, Kelvin <Kelvin.Galbraith@burlington.ca>
Subject: Proposed Changes to Tyandaga Golf Course

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Dear City Staff,

We are writing today with regard to proposed changes to Tyandaga Golf Course.

As residents who back directly onto hole 14, and who have maintained an ongoing and positive relationship with course management over the years, we were surprised and disappointed to learn of a potential conversion of this land via a local social media group.

When we looked into this further, we were troubled that a call to submit feedback pertaining to future plans by September 11th was only made known on September 7th via our Councillor's newsletter. If the true aim of the City as stated in its report is to present any change to this rare, valuable, biodiverse asset as a positive for Burlington, why hasn't it been publicized?

The 2021 Study

When consulted about current usage in 2021, residents - including ourselves - made clear their strong desire to maintain an 18-hole golf course, improve basic amenities like cart paths, enhance winter park play experience and use of the clubhouse (source: Burlington Gazette, May 10, 2021).

The article goes on to say that the common consensus among council in 2020 was that they value the greenspace at Tyandaga, value having a municipal golf course, value having a destination of the community year-round, look forward to hearing about additional uses for the clubhouse, and would welcome hearing about additional uses for the greenspace for the community to enjoy.

Our position remains that the City of Burlington would be best served by an 18-hole executive, municipally-owned course that is accessible to all residents, with lands that are maintained and that can be safely enjoyed by dog walkers, cross country skiers, and other nature enthusiasts during the off-season.

Safety and Other Concerns

The most recent proposal suggests ongoing safety concerns with Tyandaga's 18-hole course. To this, we respectfully submit that issues pertaining to the 14th hole had initially been addressed with the installation of a safety net (without shortening the hole itself), and the single vocal resident on this matter has since moved away.

Having lived with fescue since the hole was subsequently shortened a few years ago, we can personally attest to the fact that these unmaintained lands are not only less accessible to the groups the City aims to attract, but are home to allergens, ticks and increased populations of wildlife that place families and pets at greater health and safety risk.

Questions About This Plan and Tax Implications

Is the City's plan to design and maintain converted spaces or will land not used for a 9-hole course and driving range be unmaintained, unusable, and overgrown?

Moreover, as taxpayers, it is incumbent upon the City to share financial modelling and revenue projections for any proposed 9-hole course plus driving range compared to the existing 18-holes, which - according to recent reports - continue to be net profitable.

Should the City consider moving to a 9-hole model, we as residents are also entitled to understand the full cost of any conversion and timelines to recoup these funds before returning to profitability.

As much as our response above addresses the points presented to date, we would be remiss not to question the true motivations of the City - in particular if this is simply a means to an end of having another green space lost to residential development.

Expected Next Steps

We expect that the City intends to share information about this potential re-development with all residents of Burlington on its and Tyandaga Golf Course's website and with local media, as well as to provide all stakeholders with ample opportunity to provide their in-person feedback through town halls and other suitable forums.

Had we had the benefit of sufficient notice about the September 12th meeting, we would have availed ourselves of the opportunity to communicate this feedback in person at this time. Our schedule permitting, please advise how we can register to speak virtually at this or future meetings pertaining to this matter.

Sincerely,

Julie and James Rolph