

Aug 9, 2020

Before I begin, I would like to share with you how I have spent the last two days holding the hand of my 92 year old father in law, hospitalized with pneumonia. On Friday, the hospital called us to say we should come as he was not responding to treatment and all they could do was try to keep him comfortable. However, once we got there he had started to rally a little, he held my hand tight and tried to pull me closer, trying to tell me something, even though after these months in isolation, he seems to have lost the capability of speech. Watching him struggle has made me appreciate the fact that everything we have is a precious gift to be cherished and NOT wasted.

Having said that...

An Open Letter to the Membership of the Bashaw Golf & Country Club, specifically those in the seasonal campground:

At the 2019 Annual General Meeting, I agreed to let my name stand as a nomination for the Board of Directors for a 3 year term.

2019 was a difficult term when 3 of the Board members resigned. We were faced with an ultimatum from a group of members who tried to force the board to make a decision in their favour or they would not be back this year. Unfortunately, this was never recorded in the minutes, because none of them wanted to sign a written complaint.

Now 2020 has turned into an even worse year, even though we on the Board warned people that it would be a difficult year, requiring cooperation and tolerance as we tried to deal with the issues resulting from COVID-19. We didn't know if we would even be able to open the course for this year, then when that was allowed, there were numerous communications sent by email to the membership, advising of what was acceptable and what was not. This is not the year that saying "I didn't know" would be an acceptable excuse.

Because we have people coming to the golf course from so many areas of the province that have been affected by active cases of COVID-19, the board made the decision that we would err on the side of caution in hopes of keeping all of us safe and enabling us all to still enjoy coming here for fun, fellowship and love of the game of golf.

Unfortunately, things have gone badly off the rails this year, with small factions questioning the Board's decisions. There have been so many complaints lodged that in one afternoon, I had 40+ emails just related to golf course business. We as Board member have for the most part, jobs that require our attention, family matters to deal with and in some cases other interests besides just the Bashaw Golf & Country Club. It was with some dismay that I read an email from a member last week stating that :

"We all know board positions are not a paid position. I've been on several boards in this local community, still being on two, and have given a lot of my time outside of sitting at a meeting once a month. Maybe they should question WHY they went on the board or the decisions their making if they don't like the reactions to their action."

None of the decisions made by the Board this year have been vindictive in nature, rather trying to maintain the welfare of everyone in the park. We did not want to be listed among the golf courses who were fined and/or shut down for failing to follow required protocols.

Lately it would appear that there is a 'witch hunt of sorts' going on, quick to find fault with board members actions on and off the course. Another member took it upon herself to point out to other members that I don't like my sister very much (not true), but why would anyone think that they have the right to make it their business and spread gossip like that? I would contend that such gossip is hurtful and completely unnecessary. I always taught my children to live by the Golden Rule and continue to try to do so myself. **"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you"**.

In closing, I submit to you all that you should take a step back and think about just what this place means to all of us. It was stated previously and I would like to reiterate, "It's our own little piece of heaven". Can't we please just get along and enjoy it in peaceful coexistence again?

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Procysen

Secretary/Treasurer

Bashaw Golf & Country Club Board of Directors