



BRUCE RUSSELL'S
VICE PRESIDENT, SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT
JULY 19, 2019 ~ AGM

After some 20 years of submitting my AGM report in one capacity or another, this is my last as a Director or executive. It has been a pleasure, most satisfying and rewarding to have had the confidence and support of the members to allow me to serve for such a long time throughout the design, fundraising, construction and first 13 years of operations. Collectively we have a great deal for which to be thankful and for that I thank first and foremost my wife Dorene for allowing me to commit so much family time to our community golf course, my fellow directors past and present and the members for their exceptional support and participation.

Without the foregoing team effort, we simply could not have accomplished what many thought was impossible/never-to-be, but we proved otherwise. I have no hesitation in suggesting the Bowen Island Golf Association has set the bar exceptionally high for a non-profit organization both as to the development of an award-winning public amenity and the fundraising for same. Being able to pass-the-hat for over \$3 million dollars to develop the course, the clubhouse and more to operate it without any government assistance is something that will be difficult, if not impossible, for other non-profit/charitable entities to equal. Well done team. Your faith and buy-in was exceptional.

I would be remiss not to thank Bowen Island Properties for their timely contribution and assistance from the outset (circa 1998). In particular, their blind faith and trust that a relatively unknown entity like BIGA could deliver on our end of the effective partnership is to be noted as is their appreciation for the improvement the public course has made to their Cowan Point development and the community at large.

After 20 years there is no question it is time for myself and the other three (3) *long-of-tooth* directors to fade off into the sunset. Our lower profile/involvement does not mean we will no longer contribute in some meaningful way(s), however, we do look forward to more time to use the course – not *just* work for the benefit of it. President Al will speak to a couple of important issues that we believe will benefit from our historical knowledge of and continued involvement. In addition I have a long held belief we need a power cart storage building which is required to better protect our substantial investment in power and pull carts, rental clubs and general storage which could be located south of the 1st blue / white tee.

As to the “normal” matters I generally report on, I advise:

1. 2019 BAF ~ A review of our 2018 financial statements will confirm broad-based support from members and non-members is still required for this fundraiser in order for a profitable operation. Please consider a \$300 joint hole sponsorship or a \$50+ (single or couple) PATRON donation for this September 7th event. Thanks to

Cheryl Bailie and Sandra Dawson for co-chairing this essential event plus their hardworking committee.

2. JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIPS ~ Congratulations to Ben Welsh and Dayna McMahon on being respectively awarded the BIGC – Herb Paterson and BIGC – Penny Moul \$750 scholarships. These will be presented at our July 19th AGM with the assistance of the Bowen Island Community Foundation who administer our \$54,000 Junior Scholarship Fund.
3. DEFIBRILATOR ~ Thanks to Bill Brown for his \$2,000 donation which has enabled the club to purchase a 2nd AED which will be installed on the far side of the course where it will serve both golfers and perimeter trail users. Thanks as well to the Bowen Island Rotary Club for their donation of the “birdhouse” cover and BIM for agreeing to incur the cost of annual maintenance. Please advise the pro shop or Bruce Russell (brucer@gulfpacific.ca) should you wish to sign up for a \$55 AED orientation and CPR course.
4. COWAN POINT DRIVE LANDSCAPING FEATURE ~ The feedback has been very positive on the club’s cleanup/re-planting of this feature between the 1st green and the #2 B&W tee. Bruce Johnstone is to be commended for his incredible donation of time as is south Bowen resident Dave Honing for his generous cash donation towards our \$1,000 cost. I thank Kathy Leishman for her recent offer to supply and plant some deer-resistant vegetation. Members are welcomed and encouraged to stop and remove weeds anytime.
5. 9TH GREEN SWALE & POND ~ Kudos to Braden Jolly for underwriting the substantial cost of the attractive and functional upgrades to these two golf course features plus Caroline Orr for the donation of a Magnolia tree which has been planted NE of the 9th green.
6. CLUBHOUSE ~ A big “hooray” for the changes in the clubhouse such as Monahan Golf’s hiring of Les Meszaros as the pro shop manager; the hiring of our wonderful former and new staff; the liquor licence changes and of course, the incredible/improved food service at Montgomery’s Grill (Jamie Smith). Thanks as well to Cody Bentall for his donation of labour on the new BCLDB mandated north patio fencing and I understand Mayor Ander for the counter top to this fencing.

In conclusion, thanks again to everyone who believed in our vision and commitment, circa 1998, to “just do it”. Without a full team effort our 77-year-old dream of a public golf course on Bowen would now be a 97-year-old dream... *and not* the award-winning amenity we all enjoy so much. Few would argue that a number of our good friends in the community are as a result of this magnificent community course. Speaking personally, stepping back from it is the easy part, stepping away is impossible, so as needed I look forward to continuing as a team member when called up but really do look forward to our great, new group of directors taking over and “doing it their way”!

Should Bob Sangster and I be blessed with the task of work party co-chairs please prepare yourself for a call to join the list of volunteers required to attend to a number of items around the course. Frank's small and hard working maintenance crew simply cannot be expected to deal with them as needed. On the other hand, should a director choose to lead, great, add our names to the volunteers list as we have extensive experience!

Once again, it has been a real pleasure to have been a part of such a successful and popular endeavour. I believe the club / course is in good hands with incoming President Rob and a great group of directors. Thank you all for your willingness to serve.

Here's to a successful future.

Bruce Russell