

Message from the President – Bill Connell

Budget Overview

After 2 consecutive years of declining revenues due to poor weather and prevailing economic conditions, our finances have suffered. The Board of Directors have been trying to cut costs and save money to the extent that last fall maintenance staff were laid off early. Wages have not increased for 2 years except where minimum wage increases were legislated and prior contracts were in place.

In the last 5 years expenses have grown steadily. Fuel has doubled, fertilizers tripled and now as of January 1st power rates are going up by 9%. Borrowing has been kept to a minimum with 2 equipment loans, 1 for paving and last years' loan to replace the irrigation pump. Regular member rates will increase by \$25 to help offset expenses. In an effort to bring new members into the club, the Board is offering some attractive rates for regular membership and a new intermediate category. The Board will continue to monitor closely revenues and expenses and make adjustments where required.

Five Year Capital Plan

At this time no new projects are being considered until we see how the operation performs over the coming year.

Conclusion

I would like to thank those who stepped up and offered to serve on the Board. We now have a full contingent but need volunteers for committees such as Greens, House and Tournaments. Please contact myself or the office if you would like to help out. Also in the Spring we'll be looking for help with clean up so please keep this in mind. Enclosed you will find 2012 Registration form. Please provide us with your present mailing and e-mail addresses as we update our records. Early payment of dues by cash, cheque or debit will help our cash flow and cut down on interest and bank fees. Your cooperation is much appreciated. Please feel free to contact me at 902 679 1522 with any questions or concerns. On behalf of your Board of Directors, I wish all an enjoyable 2012 golfing season.

Message from Ladies President – Gwen Merriam

Welcome fellow golfers to 2012! I trust you all had a pleasant holiday and you are looking forward to the following year with all its expectations and challenges.

Our Ladies Division and its executive will have a few challenges, because as you know, we have had difficulty filling 2 positions, namely the vice-presidency and also the secretary. We did have the vice position filled but , after much thought and consideration, Jean Baak has decided not to take this on just now. I for one can understand her reasoning in her decision. The secretary position, as most of you know, has been on hold for the year due to Margie Stewart's health issues. Unfortunately for her, she still has some of those issues and will not be able to take on this task and probably will have to put her golf on hold for the year. I wish her the best and hope she is back with us soon.

So, there you have it, ladies. Please give this some consideration over the winter months and hopefully two conscientious ladies will give us their time and fill these two very important positions.

We had a great year in 2011, filling our obligations to the Provincial Golf Association in hosting the Amateur/Senior Ladies Provincial Golf Play-downs and still being able to hold our much enjoyed Invitational. On the fun side, we had good turn -out for our Wednesday Ladies and other tournaments. I pass along my "thanks" to all the ladies for their time and effort to make the year go so well.

I offer my best wishes to you and yours for a great New Year and for all you gals and guys in the sunny, warm South – may your putts be short and your drives be long.

Message from the General Manager- Gerry MacMillan

Hoping all had an enjoyable holiday season and are in good health entering the New Year. Take heart in the fact that April is just around the corner and we'll be golfing before you know it!

Looking back on 2011, the highlight undoubtedly was Paragon hosting the NSGA Ladies Amateur and Senior. Congratulations again to Leslie Houde for her wonderful play and representation on our provincial team. Also to all the volunteers a heartfelt thanks for their efforts in making the championship a great success as echoed by players and officials alike.

Looking ahead, the Board of Directors have embarked on an aggressive campaign to promote new members to the club. Over the recent past years our numbers have been declining steadily and finances have suffered accordingly. I am optimistic that the new initiative will attract new golfers to the club and put Paragon back on track as the place to play in the Annapolis Valley.

I want to extend my appreciation to all staff and volunteers who work hard to provide us with the great facility we all enjoy at Paragon. In particular I would like to thank Carla Findley for her dedicated efforts over the past season and wish her well as she pursues her golf game .

Please take note that early payment of dues by cash, cheque or debit will earn free green fee passes and help relieve our cash flow situation.

_____ Check here if:

You are 70 years or older and wish to play in a seniors division of Men's Night. Seniors would play from forward tees with separate handicap divisions and skins and may play with their regular Men's night group.

Valley Seniors

I am taking this opportunity through this mail-out, to ensure that all members of Paragon who are 50 years plus, are aware that they are eligible to join and participate in the Valley Seniors.

The Valley Seniors is made up of players from all 10 golf clubs on the Valley Floor from Avon Valley to Clare.

Currently 234 strong, in two divisions, which play once per season at each others clubs. (on either Mondays or Tuesdays). Registration is only \$20.00 each spring at the pro shop. (look for the yellow notices) Play starts near the end of May and ends with a banquet mid September.

Daily costs at each club is one half the price of their regular green fees, plus \$5.00 for prize money or competition money which makes it more interesting. There are a couple of additional rules for seniors to assist in speeding up play to make it more enjoyable. As well, all of the clubs allow us to transport and use our personal golf carts with no trail fees.

You can look at the yearly schedule on the web site at: Thevalleyseniors.com.

Happy golfing from your Paragon Representative, Keith Thompson, who can be reached at 242-2651 or e-mail: kandmthompson@eastlink.ca.