

Write to premier about golf course swap

Vancouver Courier

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

To the editor:

Re: "Give Musqueam piece of Pacific Spirit Park instead of golf course," Aug. 31.

I did have some sympathy for the preservation of the UBC golf course, but that has all evaporated now that the club is advocating a deal in which the Musqueam First Nation be granted, instead of the golf course area, a large chunk of Pacific Spirit Park, on which they would be able to build houses immediately.

The golf club has the resources to be able to issue a glossy newsletter and to open up a fancy website. A powerful core of its members is organized in a way that the multitude of ordinary people, who use the trails of Pacific Spirit Park for their physical and spiritual recreation, cannot easily match.

The golf club's newsletter of August 2007 suggests the B.C. Liberal government could exchange the club for 6.5 per cent of the land of Pacific Spirit Park, and then use revenues from the golf club to "improve the remaining 93.5 per cent of Spirit Park."

What improvements do they have in mind, I wonder? The park needs preserving in its natural state, not sanitizing via man-made "improvements."

The park is aptly named: it is a spiritual sanctuary for families, walkers, joggers, equestrians and cyclists. The park envelops everyone who enters it with its calming spirit. It needs contiguous space to be able to do this. It would not be able to provide so many of us with sanctuary if it were parcelled up even more than it is now.

Additionally, for those who are not moved by spirit, but appreciate the factors affecting climate change: please be moved by comparing the carbon sequestration of the existing trees in the park with that of houses and associated tarmac and cars. The park is a cleansing lung for our city.

As a start to preserving Pacific Spirit Park, I urge you to write to the B.C. Liberal Government, and to its representative for Vancouver Point Grey. The latter is also our premier, so write to gordon.campbell.mla@leg.bc.ca

David Pulfrey,

Vancouver

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