

## COPEsters ensure park fight political

Vancouver Courier

*Friday, September 28, 2007*

To the editor:

Re: "Spirit moves COPE into golf course controversy," Sept. 12.

In the proposal to swap public park land in Pacific Spirit Park in place of the UBC golf course, Bob Hindmarch, co-founder along with Marty Zlotnik of the "Save the Course," campaign argues that the parcel of land proposed for the swap is not particularly environmentally sensitive, and that the greenspace at UBC golf course is just as valuable as the greenspace at Pacific Spirit.

As park board commissioners, we have been inundated with public comments indicating shock and disbelief that such insensitive attitude's still exist in today's environmentally aware society.

There is a fundamental qualitative difference between the university golf course, a privately owned and operated, manicured recreational space that discourages wildlife, and uses chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and that of the publicly owned Pacific Spirit's ecological preserve.

In surveying the forested area being offered up for development on the "Save the Course" website, one notices that this intact portion of Pacific Spirit Park intersects into an ecological reserve, crosses the salmon bearing Musqueam and Cuthroat Creeks, and impacts myriad nature trails, contrary to Hindmarch's argument that it's not particularly environmentally sensitive.

A housing development would not only impact on the proposed forest area, it would have significant impacts on the rest of the ecosystem around the development. The park is renowned as a habitat for wildlife, bird and plant species, with running streams, and trees that act as an air filtration system. Large populations of owls and hawks breed and feed in the park, and the trails are used extensively by walkers, joggers, horse riders, dog walkers, cyclists, bird watchers and nature enthusiasts.

Loretta Woodcock,

Spencer Herbert,

COPE Commissioners

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