

Links Report – January 16, 2025

Shop Yard Fence

The Links crew has been installing privacy slats into the chain link shop yard fence that was installed last summer. These privacy slats should offer some visual protection from potential would-be thieves, as well as a visual improvement for our golfers as they play the first hole.



Golf Course Accessories

The Links crew has been busy putting a fresh coat of paint on all of our tee markers, and many of our hazard-marking & rope fence stakes. Along with our markers, the pin flags have all been washed as well. Refreshing the on-course accessories where we can will help to improve the overall golf course aesthetic this upcoming season.



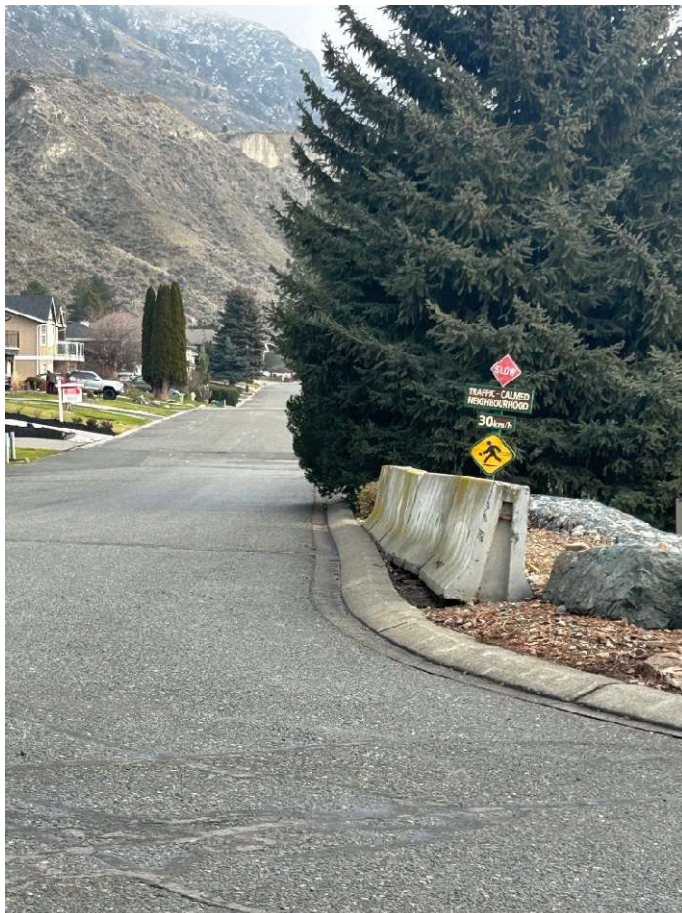
Maintenance Day Scheduling

The Links department, in coordination with Golf Ops, is in the process of generating a “maintenance day” schedule in order to help facilitate some of the more time and labour intensive cultural practices required to help improve overall golf course conditions, while minimizing the amount of overall disruption to play. My goal is to continually improve overall golf course conditions, but those improvements take time – and “maintenance days” where we delay the first tee time of the day 30-90 minutes, and our first groups remember to adhere to proper pace of play, will go a very long way in helping the Links crew achieve those goals. As many of you know, Rivershore was without proper top dressing equipment for 18 months, and as a result of that our greens have succumbed to a good amount of fairy-ring disease due to excessive thatch accumulation. In order to combat this excessive thatch buildup, an aggressive verti-cut and topdressing program is in order. The process of verti-cutting & topdressing involves cutting the greens in two directions (equivalent of mowing 40 greens in one day if practice area is included), then blowing off the grass clippings, followed by a light layer of top-dressing sand, then a brushing in of the sand, then the greens roller, then a bit of irrigation to help water in the sand – all before they are ready for play. Maintenance days will help the Links crew complete this process, along with several other of the more time-consuming cultural practices (such as

aerification), thoroughly and consistently, with the goal of improving overall golf course conditions.

Snow Removal

Overall, Rivershore has been experiencing a mild winter up until this point at least. As such, there has not been a whole lot to report in terms of snow removal at this time. I just wanted to remind our community members to please, for everyone's safety, drive according to the weather conditions. As the sign pictured below states, this is a "traffic-calmed neighbourhood", with a speed limit of 30 km/h – under normal/dry road conditions. Please consider further reducing your vehicle's speed during winter storm events. The Links department will continue to plow the community roads when there is enough snowfall to justify doing so (> 5cm snowfall) – any less snow and we are putting unnecessary stress on the work truck/snow blade.



Frost

During the winter months the Links crew is somewhat limited in terms of the ability to complete on-course work due to frost. When temperatures are 3 C or below the possibility of frost exists (other factors influencing frost occurrence include humidity). Our creeping bentgrass tees, fairways, and greens are particularly susceptible to damage from foot or cart traffic during frost events. Please be reminded not to walk on, or let dogs walk on, the golf course during frost events. The damage that this activity causes is cumulative and will lead to degradation and poorer overall future turf health.

