

## 2019 Annual General Meeting President Message

Good Morning and Welcome to the 2019 Annual General Meeting.

Thank you for attending today and supporting the Turner Valley Golf Club

I would like to thank my fellow board members for their devotion and diligence to our club.

Your board of directors would also like to thank all of you that have volunteered your time to support numerous committees, social activities or work to assist operations. We would also like to thank JD and his team for all of their hard work in 2018. A number of staff have returned and proves to me that the staff enjoy their workplace as much as we all enjoy our time here. Congratulations to Peter Keenan on his additional responsibility.

John Burke and I have decided to let our names stand for another term. Dan Heyde, our past president, will be leaving the board at the conclusion of today's meeting.

I have known Dan for several years, and it was Dan that brought me back to Turner Valley Golf Club. He recruited me to membership and then to join the board of directors. We have played countless rounds here together and most of them end with me covering our tab as he refuses to give me any strokes. Dan celebrated his year as our Past President with a hole in one on #17 and without the stress of being Club President he dropped his handicap by several strokes. Thank you Dan for your dedication and commitment to our club.

Dan told me recently that during one of his first board meetings there was a discussion to create a member's waiting list. I wish we still had that problem. The past golf season started slowly due to snow and ended early because of snow. Despite the weather JD, his team and your board implemented a number of new initiatives and have several achievements I plan to cover. First, how was the drive? We have a marketing plan and a tag line. Turner Valley Golf Club, It's a Great Drive.

Several grants were applied for and we managed to receive grant funds to assist with maintenance costs of our cart shed and clubhouse. The historical committee has also received grant approval for signage to promote the Indigenous history of the grounds of Turner Valley Golf Club.

JD has had several meetings with both towns and there has been progress on the land transfer agreement regarding Imperial Drive and annexation. Gary McGonigle and his staff had the course and grounds in summer conditions by our June 1 target. A budget for fall 2018 projects was presented and approved this past July. Please recognize and thank Gary and his staff as you see them throughout the season as we have the pleasure of playing this course in its fine condition as a result. The fall project work will continue this year as a result of the early snow last fall.

This leads me to the challenges of 2018. Before I pass the microphone to John and the financial review. I would like to highlight a few of the challenges we faced. I already mentioned the snow? Staff were laid off as a result. You all now know of our decision regarding the GPS system on the carts. The exchange rate and cost of this contract in US dollars has been an impairment for several years. The discussions on this contract was not taken lightly and was a monthly topic of discussion since last summer. We also are not in good standing with AGLC and our casino application has been denied. Thank you to John and his team for your efforts in the application and gathering the rationale for their decision.

The Historical Committee has already started planning for our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season. Achieving a milestone like this highlights our aging infrastructure. This past winter was rough, age and wind has damaged several poles on the driving range. The severe cold contributed to the damage you likely witnessed already on the greens of the Diamond Nine.

An article I came across recently stated that more than fifty golf courses have closed in Canada since 2015 and that there hasn't been growth in the industry since 2008. The current Master's

Champion set a record for the longest gap between championships. This gives me hope that the members and staff of Turner Valley Golf Course will continue to fight to keep the grounds in the condition we enjoy, celebrate our golf experiences at the Royal Lite Grill or play some tunes at Pub Night on a simple six string.

Today is the official launch of the 2019 golf season and I am optimistic for the upcoming season. The business ladies have exceeded their registration. We may not be out of the rough yet, but with the use of the Turner Valley Golf Course App we can see the green!