

August 23, 2011

## **City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation Accessible Golf Agreement and Guiding Principles**

### **Background**

On October 21st 2008, and on behalf of Ontario Visually Impaired Golfers (OVIG), Fred Worsley made a presentation to the City of Toronto Disability Issues Committee chaired by Councilor Adrian Heaps in an effort to increase access to City Golf Courses to people who are blind. (Agenda meeting 5, Committee Room 2, City Hall, 2:00-4:00pm)

Although there are currently many golf courses in municipalities surrounding Toronto offering services to Golfers who are blind, there has been nothing developed in the City of Toronto until now. In all cases, other cities have provided reductions to either green fees, carts or both or provided a budget line established for these types of services.

A direction from the Disability Issues Committee through Councilor Adrian Heaps was given for PFR to create access to our golf courses for people who have visual impairments. This direction along with the AODA legislation on Accessible Customer Service on behalf of Ontario Visually Impaired Golfers (OVIG), the Ontario Human Rights Code and the City of Toronto's Statement of Commitment to Creating an Accessible City ([www.toronto.ca/diversity/pdf/statement-commitment.pdf](http://www.toronto.ca/diversity/pdf/statement-commitment.pdf)) is clear on our responsibilities to people with disabilities. With all of this in mind, we have developed an accessible practice that is in keeping with current City and Divisional policies and operating practices.

The following outline is what has been agreed upon after extensive consultation with the Corporate City Staff, Golf Course Staff, OVIG representatives, Risk Management, and the Advocate for People with Disabilities.

Staff will be required to report back on this matter to the Disability Issues Committee when they resume in the fall or early winter.

## People Involved in the process

### City Staff

Bernita Lee	City Manager's Office – Diversity Management Consultant Disability Issues Committee <a href="mailto:blee@toronto.ca">blee@toronto.ca</a>	416-397-5251
Mina Basarke	City of Toronto - Risk Management Analyst <a href="mailto:mbasarke@toronto.ca">mbasarke@toronto.ca</a>	416-392-7972
Lorene Bodiam	PFR-Advocate for People with Disabilities <a href="mailto:labodiam@toronto.ca">labodiam@toronto.ca</a>	416-394-8532
James Dann	PFR-Manager, Enterprise Services - Former Golf Courses <a href="mailto:jdann@toronto.ca">jdann@toronto.ca</a>	416-392-1122
Bill Falkner	Retired	
Bill Harding	PFR-Manager, Parks - Golf Courses <a href="mailto:bharding@toronto.ca">bharding@toronto.ca</a>	416-395-6003
Dan Coote	PFR-Supervisor Golf Courses <a href="mailto:dcoote@toronto.ca">dcoote@toronto.ca</a>	416-392-2479
Keith Chung:	Director of Golf City of Toronto Golf Courses Golf Plus Marketing Inc. <a href="mailto:keith.chung@sympatico.ca">keith.chung@sympatico.ca</a>	416-936-7982

### OVIG Members and Citizens

Fred Worsley	Citizen <a href="mailto:f.worsley@sympatico.ca">f.worsley@sympatico.ca</a>	416-267-4850
Jim Crawford	Citizen (Blind) Former City Staff Golf Pro	416-261-9454
Jim Hamilton	OVIG Past President Tournament Coordinator	<a href="mailto:jim.hamilton@rogers.com">jim.hamilton@rogers.com</a> 905-853-9866
Gary Saxon	OVIG and The Canadian Council of the Blind Chair of Ontario Division	<a href="mailto:gsaxon@screenreview.org">gsaxon@screenreview.org</a> 1-905-543-9873 1-866-6439873

## Accessible Golf Agreement and Guiding Principles For People with Disabilities on City of Toronto Golf Courses

The City of Toronto is committed to building an inclusive society and providing an accessible environment in which all individuals have access to the City's services and programs in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. Following through on our commitment not only benefits community members, but serves as a demonstration to others of the value that the City places on the development of this community's potential in a recreational setting.

Although the desire to access City golf courses was generated by the interest of people who are blind, these same guiding principles would be used for a person with any type of disability.

- **Fees – Greens** will be charged to the player as it would to any other citizen (i.e. Older Adult rate if it applies, otherwise a regular rate would be charged),
  - Welcome Policy (subsidy program) would apply if it applies to Golf Courses
  - If playing golf **on the weekends, there will be no reduction of fees applied (i.e Older Adult rates do not apply on weekends)**
  
- **Fees – Carts** – Carts are the property of the contractors. Contractors will offer reduced rates (Twilight/9 Holes) for the duration of the contractors' current contract with the city. Terms, including prices, may change with a new contract. (See schedule below for current prices; yellow highlight indicates reduced rates)

	Don Valley	Humber Valley	Tam O'Shanter	Scarlett Woods
Adult Regular	\$38	\$35	\$35	\$32
<b>Adult 9 Hole</b>	<b>\$26</b>	<b>\$23</b>	<b>\$23</b>	<b>\$21</b>
Senior Regular	\$35	\$33	\$33	\$29
<b>Senior 9 hole</b>	<b>\$23</b>	<b>\$21</b>	<b>\$21</b>	<b>\$18</b>

- Reductions have been extended to people with disabilities due to the fact that many live on Ontario Disability Support Program (O.D.S.P.)
- (i.e. Approximately 60% of the Blind Community are on (O.D.S.P.) subsidies and living on approximately \$1000 per month for all expenses).

- **Support Person / Player Assistant** – if a support person is required to assist a player, they will not be charged whether they are playing alongside or not. This is in keeping with our Divisional practices in other Parks and Recreation programs and services.
  - A Waiver Form must be signed by the support person before going on the course
  
- **Quieter Times of Play** - Currently the quieter times of play are afternoons between (Mon – Thurs) although it is not suggested that this is the only time people with disabilities may play. Please note the courses are busy most of the time however if there is any chance of it being quieter, these would be the times.
  
- **Duration of Game** - A game of golf should be played in 4 1/2 – 5 hours tops. Therefore if a game is being played at a slower rate, the players may be required to occasionally pick up their ball to move the game along or to waive players behind others (if there is encroachment)

**Aug 23, 2011**

Submitted by:

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