

David Olivier Chagnon Commentary

1. Superb work from architect and the whole committee. It's a pretty titanic job to do all this. The project presented, in my opinion, respects the spirit of the original architect. MBCC is a sublime course. Changes would only further confirm its status as one of the finest golf courses in Canada and indeed North America.

2. The proposed changes also address the one thing that members complain about most: the quality of the bunkers. I am an absolutely terrible bunker player. I am probably unable to feel the difference between good sand and gravel, but I trust the members who report the imperfections of our pits. These comments are recurring.

3. Based on the readings and presentation, I believe we need to work on our greens to give them sustainability. A few hard winters of freezing and thawing and we're done. If we don't work on the greens now, we'll have to do it in 5 years, 10 years, 15 years... the questioning will always come back. I think we need to give ourselves the tools for stability. I would also be open to new pin placement sites. More opportunities for me to do 3-putts, I like to suffer a little.

4. Not sure if creating new blue tees is necessary. Not many of our members use them, we do it for the members not the gallery.

5. Trees: It will be almost impossible to get the city to accept all this cutting. I would consider clearing the wooded area between the 2nd and 4th greens to restore the splendor of the view from the property. Ditto for the trees behind the 10th green. I like the idea of seeing the curve of the 11th from the 10th tee. Freeing up the right side of 16 a bit and penalizing players otherwise is also a nice strategy. Should we cut that much? Abandoning the idea of new blue tees keeps quite a few trees from what I understand.

So I think the truth lies somewhere between the proposed project and the status quo. Would we be able to do the work in 18 months? For example, are the modifications to the 12th hole absolutely necessary? Do we really need to rebuild a canal on the 9th fairway? Do we need to change the turf on all the fairways?

The most important thing, in the end, for me, is that we all find a project that will bring people together, with a very high acceptance and retention rate of the current membership.

In my opinion, the current membership should feel privileged to be able to make improvements to a magnificent course that we love and that we still want to be present, in the same immaculate state, in 100 years. It's like having the opportunity to have a grandfather you love live on for another 100 years... That never happens in my field.

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