



SURVIVING THE SELKIRK FLOOD!

submitted by Ian Brooks, Assistant Superintendent, Selkirk Golf & Country Club

For those of you who didn't hear the news the Selkirk Golf and Country Club was flooded on March 22, 1995 at approximately 5:15 p.m..

We had a feeling that we were going to flood that morning so we began moving machinery and tools up to our Clubhouse. With help from a few volunteers we were able to turn our club storage facility into an upside down maintenance shop. By 10:00 p.m. that night the entire golf course was under 8 feet of river water. It looked like work was going to be tough on us for the next couple of weeks.

On March 23, we rented a 12 foot boat and motor, this became our new Club Car for the next few days. We then went searching for our bridges, outhouses and other wooden structures. which were making their way around the golf course. We then secured them to the nearest trees available.

On Sunday March 26, we had to break open a 20 foot section of the dike which surrounds our course. This helped to drain the water to a 3 to 4 foot depth throughout the course.

On Monday March 27 we were able to rent a 16" impeller pump from the Department of Highways. We also rented a John Deere 4450 tractor (150 hp) from a local farmer in order to power the pump. Also a 12" diesel pump was rented from Selkirk Redi-Mix. The two pumps along with our 14" electric pump ran for 24 hours a day from March 31 to April 19. The main problem with the pumps was keeping them diesel up. We had to have a worker there every 8 hours to hand pump the diesel into the machines. Through this period of time we went through \$4,200.00 in gas and diesel fuel.

Several of the trees on the course suffered major damage during the first week in April, when temperatures dropped down to -25°C. This caused a 4" layer of ice to form on the flood water, this ripped branches off 60 spruce trees throughout the course.

As the course slowly dried up we had to rent several smaller pumps from Wyatt Rentals. We also rented 2 power brushes and a Turf Vacuum to clean up the silt and debris. There wasn't as much silt to clean up as we had expected, but the branches, trees, stubble, garbage, wood and compost piles scattered throughout the course was enough mess to keep volunteer crews busy.

All of the bunkers and cartpaths needed a cleaning and

resurfacing with new materials. We used 200 yards of granite chips for cartpaths and 250 yards of sand for the sand traps.

SUMMARY OF FLOOD RELATED EXPENSES

Rental Equipment	\$26,884.14
Golf Course Equipment	20,759.00
Labour Costs	31,106.38
Damaged goods on course	18,729.25
Total	\$97,478.77

We are still trying to claim compensation from the Provincial Flood and Disaster Board to help out with our flood expenses.

After a flood like this there were lots of doubts about golfing in Selkirk this year. But with the help of volunteers and lots of hard work I feel that Selkirk just may be experiencing one of the best seasons so far. We would welcome you all out to enjoy a round of golf at Selkirk.

