

Friday, May 08, 2020

BC Report

I think every communication will start with the line “Crazy Times”, which of course these are. Golf in BC was never officially shut down, and while many golf courses stayed open as usual, others decided to close of their own volition. There are many good reasons on both sides of the argument and whether you chose to open or close during these times my suggestion is prioritize keeping you, your family, and your staff safe.

There are some positive things that have come out of the Covid-19 crisis. Golf has positioned itself well during these times and people that golf have clearly shown they cannot live without it. The public outcry for golf was unheard of with arguments that ranged from, “It’s 100 acres of open land I can physically distance”, to “It’s more dangerous to go to the grocery store or gas station.” While I agree with both of those statements, I would suggest that during a crisis like this it’s impossible to live without doing only “one” of those things.

During this pandemic I have personally gone through a full range of emotion as perhaps many of you have experienced as well. My main concern initially and to this day has been my concern for other human beings, family, staff, caregivers, and front line workers. It’s impossible to know what those people have gone through and my hat goes off to all of those that braved this strange new phenomenon.

Recently my feelings have been at how much the policy makers have lost us, our interest waning and our desire to return to a normal life has superseded our desire to beat this thing. Covid-19 has changed us and the way we live for now and for the foreseeable future. Please continue to fight the fight so that we may be able to return to “normal” whatever that may be, sooner rather than later.

Another positive is how well superintendents adapted to the crisis. I heard from superintendents in all different situations from; “laid off” to “work with minimal staff” to “carry on with full staff let’s get some work done.” Now that golf is opening up slowly across the country I hope that all of you have returned to your workplace and however different things now are, I know you will adapt.

During these times I can’t stress enough how important our golf associations have been. Our associations have been instrumental in putting together documents, literature and education in an attempt to get us open and working in a safe manner. The CGSA has put out a clear and concise document that details the points required to keep your facility safe, I urge you to take a moment to read and understand it fully.

The CGSA has just gone through an extensive technical changeover with a new software system and new website put together by our staff during this very hectic time. I would like to applaud their efforts and remind all of you we need this association now more than ever so if you can please remember to renew your membership. It’s now easier than ever when you visit the website.

I think a big shout out to Jamie Robb, BCGSA President, and Brett Finlayson, BCGSA Director for their efforts in developing the AGA-BC document for Covid-19 re-opening strategies is warranted. The document is very detailed for all operations of the golf industry and is worth a read. Jamie was very proactive in his stance on closing his facility which in turn may have helped others with their own facilities decisions. Brett spent a lot of time in AGA-BC board meetings developing this document. Thank you both.

This year will be very different from years gone by, of that there is no doubt. It appears that our conferences and ability to network as we have in the past will change. I think Superintendents will be required to look for alternative ways to acquire CEC credits and educate themselves until we are free from Covid-19. Your suppliers and your associations are your greatest resources. Take care of them and yourselves. Hopefully we meet again in the near future.

Sincerely,

Ken Bruniski
BC Director, CGSA