Whitman
ROD WHITMAN GOLF COURSE DESIGN LTD.

The Fredericton Golf Club
331 Golf Club Road
Fredericton, NB
E3B 5Z6

Dear Board Members (and members of the Fredericton Golf Club),

Firstly, I simply want to thank you very much for the privilege of being involved with renovation work at the club's 4th, 5th, 10th and 13th greens this spring. It is sincerely a privilege to work for the members of Fredericton Golf Club. The club has a rich history, and it was our pleasure to work to honour this heritage. Further, I always feel a deep sense of responsibility to get this type of renovation work "right". And, I am very pleased with the results.

Like all great golf architecture, the ground given dictates much of the product. Luckily, the ground at the Fredericton Golf Club is undulating and makes for interesting golf. However, as much of the existing layout and features predate modern construction and maintenance techniques, advancements have now necessitated change. Nevertheless, it is our preference to improve playability, turf conditions, and strategy, without fragmenting the character of the existing golf course. We pride ourselves in producing a product that looks as though it was always there.

As planned, the renovated bunkers possess an old-fashion, evolved look that fits very well with the nature of the property and the heritage of the course. The reconstruction and expansion of the putting surfaces will assist with spreading "wear and tear" over the relatively tiny greens, facilitate proper mowing patterns (due to the softening of steep slopes), and provide more interesting hole locations than were previously available.

The following are some notes on a hole-by-hole basis:

HOLE #4:

Frankly, the former 4th green was more akin to a ski jump than a putting surface! As such, the pinable locations were severely limited, resulting in condition issues due to constricted foot traffic. However, the green site, hole corridor width and general movement in the ground offered much in the way of inspiration for the new green complex.

Having been lowered and enlarged the new 4th green provides many more options for the golfer, while also more closely resembling the surrounding landscape. A central spine, running between the two bunkers, divides the green into several distinct areas. Whereas the front pin locations are accessible with a running shot, the majority of the green's surface is best accessed with an aerial attack. Rear pin locations will require different shot shapes depending which bunker the pin is located nearest. With a variety of pin locations, requiring several different shot shapes, the new 4th green will challenge golfers differently day-to-day.

While we liked the general concept for the bunkering at the 4th hole, their overall size and relationship with the green were not ideal. Now, contours within the green extend outward into the surrounding hazards, allowing the bunkers to be fully integrated with the playing characteristics of the golf hole. Further, their reduced size will improve turf conditions as the green complex now has more room to accommodate walk-on and walk-off traffic.

Rod Whitman
1-403-963-0085
rod@rodwhitman.com

Keith Cutten
1-226-750-3855
keith@cuttengolf.com

HOLE #5

Back-to-back par-3 holes are fairly unique in the world of golf. Yet, Cypress Point, one of the top golf courses on the planet, has back-to-back par-3s at holes 15 and 16. Even though these holes share the same par on the scorecard, hole 15 at Cypress Point plays only 135 yards from the back tees, whereas the lengthy 16th stretches to 233 yards. What makes this pair of holes work in conjunction with one another is the contrast between the two.

While the difference in yardage between holes 4 and 5 at Fredericton is far less than at Cypress Point, what makes Fredericton's back-to-back par-3s stand out is the contrast in hole strategy. Whereas the 4th hole dictates an aerial shot, the ideal play at the 5th hole would require a running shot, utilizing the 'kicker slope', and overall left-to-right ground movement, short-right of the green. Our reshaping of the ground in this area should also improve turf conditions, as surface water is no longer trapped.

The surrounding ground was so good at the 5th that we decided to leave this hole bunkerless.

HOLE #10

The renovation of the green at the 10th hole was our most complicated assignment. Built into a shale hill, the previously constructed green was far too severe for today's green speeds. Further, a large false front rendered much of the green unpinable.

Our new green at the 10th hole has three (3) distinct tiers. This design treatment is a classic golf course architecture solution for green sites which are benched into slopes. Flowing levels step up the slope, allowing the green edges to connect more seamlessly with the surrounding ground. Though different shots will be required depending on which tier the pin is located, the slope at the back of the green can always be used as a backboard. This strategy will mitigate the impact of the front-right greenside bunker.

The bunker at the 10th is critical, as it dictates the ideal angle of approach from the fairway. This strategy depends on the pin location each day in relation to the bunker, backing slope, and interior green contours.

HOLE #13

Previous construction work at the 13th hole was evident based on traces of old bunkering and awkward contouring. The original green shared many of the same issues as the old 10th hole, as a large false front severely limited the pinable areas. Further, the original false fronts on both the 10th and 13th holes did little to benefit the golfer who used these features for their approach shots.

The new green at the 13th hole has a properly proportioned false front. Further, and perhaps more importantly, our new green funnels from right-to-left, allowing golfers to utilize the false front to access the majority of the putting surface. The front-left bunker adds to the strategy of this improved hole by requiring both the aerial shot and the running shot (which uses the false front) to be more precise. As always, contouring around the green allows for a variety of recovery options.

Rod Whitman
1-403-963-0085
rod@rodwhitman.com

Keith Cutten
1-226-750-3855
keith@cuttengolf.com

ROD WHITMAN GOLF COURSE DESIGN LTD.

Finally, I must note as well that the success of this project is largely attributable to the talents, abilities and hard work of Steve Hancox and his dedicated crew. This group of hard-working men and women is undoubtedly one of the best in-house maintenance/construction crews we've had the pleasure of working with to-date. I am very grateful for all their efforts, and the Fredericton Golf Club is extremely fortunate to have this great group of people looking after and working at improving its course.

Thank you again for this opportunity. I very much look forward to continuing our relationship with Fredericton Golf Club, and working at additional golf course improvements into the future.

Sincerely,

Keith Cutten MLA, MCIP, RPP
Golf Course Architect and Author

Rod Whitman
1-403-963-0085
rod@rodwhitman.com

Keith Cutten
1-226-750-3855
keith@cuttengolf.com