

History of Sophie's Way - Cart Path on Hole 13 Victoria Golf Course, Edmonton, Alberta

The cart path up to the thirteenth green on the Victoria Golf Course is named "Sophie's Way". This was done in honour of Sophia Derbawka, a wonderful member of the Tuesday morning Victoria Ladies Golf Club (VLGC). Sophia was known to friends as "Sophie". She was recognized for having the vision of what the Victoria Golf course could do to make the course safe and enjoyable for those who have difficulty walking, especially up and down that steep hill.



L to R: Roean Cunningham, Delores Mackoruk, and Anne Ward Neville

As a member of the VLGC, Sophie sat on the City Advisory Committee of the City of Edmonton along with other representatives of the Women's, Men's, and Senior Men's golf leagues from Victoria, Riverside and Rundle. These members volunteer their time to raise concerns about golf related issues at their respective City courses.

Sophie campaigned for many years, through the Committee, to have a proper cart path built up to #13 green. The City representative always said, "no money for a cart path". Sophie, therefore, asked the VLGC to write a supporting letter requesting a cart path. One point being that many people rented carts because they were unable to walk distances or climb hills. They felt no other golf course would rent such carts and then not allow people to use them for that purpose. Building a path traversing the hillside would meet this need.

The request was again refused by the City representative. Undaunted, Sophie went to the then MLA Thomas Lukaszuk. Mr. Lukaszuk was sure the province had some funds for that type of project. He got back to Sophie telling her there was a grant \$80,000 on the agreement that the City would also match the amount. When Sophie took it to the Advisory Meeting, the City representative was livid and again said "No". Sophie then contacted Mr. Lukaszuk about the result, who offered to have a chat with Mayor Mandle. He was sure something could be worked out. The Mayor came to the golf course and he and Sophie rode out to have a look. The City then kicked in the other \$80,000 to make it a reality.

The first path to the 13th green was built in 2008. The City recognized the efforts of Sophie with the placement of a sign on the path, "Sophie's Way."

Sophie joined the Victoria Ladies Golf Club in 1982. She was very active in the league, holding various positions on the executive. She served on the social committee, chaired the Podersky Cup for VLGC and organized participation in the EGA Podersky tournament when VLGC won the Podersky Cup in 1999. She also volunteered for other activities such as when Victoria hosted the Ladies EGA Tournament.

In addition, Sophie supported fund raising events like the "Win House Golf Tournament" and "Golf for the Cure". She worked tirelessly to gather prizes to ensure all the participants received something. She actively promoted and participated in the Centennial events of Victoria Golf Course in 2007.

Sophie was a wonderful wife and mother, and a great friend to many.

May Sophie rest in peace.

May 25, 1937 – May 19, 2016

Respectfully Victoria Ladies Golf Club



Podersky Cup (1999)

L to R: Top row.

Jean Campbell. (City Rep)

Joan Davidson.

Joyce Lampard.

Bertha Proctor.

Harriet Ferrari

Doreen Sorochan.

Diane Capar.

Olga Hryniw.

June Dumka

Middle Row

Val Scoffield

Jean Debolt.

Vi Northey.

Betty Gegolich.

Sandra Harvey.

Joan Crawford.

Front Row

Gloria Murtagh

Sue Fish

Mabel McQuitty

Sophie Derbawka(C)

Mary Stephens

Janis Watkin

Marion Weir

Dottie Badger



Centennial Celebrations 1907-2007 Victoria Golf Course, 18th Green

L to R - Val Scoffield, Sophie Derbawka and June Dumka.

Missina on photo is the photographer. Joan Crawford