

Golf course blocking trail

Oct 12, 2007

By **PAUL TURENNE**, SUN MEDIA

Winnipeg's portion of the Trans-Canada Trail should be complete by this time next year -- if the trail builders can figure out what to do about a golf course that stands smack in their intended path.

An announcement to build the trail's final missing links in the city was made yesterday morning in St. Vital Park.

Two new sections, totalling between 4.2 and 4.5 km, are set to be built beginning next spring through the Assiniboine Forest and on the south side of Bishop Grandin Boulevard between the Red River and Scurfield Boulevard.

Because the federal and provincial governments committed a total of \$2.5 million to build the remaining two sections of trail on city-owned land, MP Rod Bruinooge and provincial Healthy Living Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross made the announcement.

But it seems the politicians brought the money to the table before all the details were ironed out.

RIGHT IN THE WAY

Arnason's Golf Course, a privately owned nine-hole tract located at the corner of Waverley Street and Bishop Grandin Boulevard, lies right in the way of the trail's advertised path along the south side of Bishop Grandin.

A map provided by the trail's proponents shows it passing right through the golf course's land. The course operates through a long-term lease on city land.

Paul Jordan, chair of the Winnipeg Trails Association, admitted the group isn't sure what it will do about the golf course.

"We'll get what we can done, and then we'll see," he said.

One possibility is running the trail on the north side of Bishop Grandin once it hits Waverley, but Jordan said his group's preference would be to not have to cross the street. Another option would be to run the trail even farther south of the golf course.

Both new trail sections will be paved and will connect to existing trail networks, completing a circuit through the city.

Jordan said the trails should be complete by next fall if all goes well.



Bruinooge, Irvin-Ross and city Coun. Jeff Browaty (from left) in St. Vital Park yesterday where funding for the trail was announced.

(C. PROCAYLO/ SUN MEDIA)