

## **Meadowbrook mystery**

By Joel Goldenberg, The Suburban West End News 2007-06-20

No one is talking about what went on last Wednesday at a “corporate day” held on the Meadowbrook Golf course.

News of the event a week and a half ago had golfers and activists worried that developers were visiting the site, which straddles Côte St. Luc, Lachine and Montreal West, to determine potential for a housing development.

Côte St. Luc councillor Dida Berku said before the meeting she had heard from sources that the event is a “day for developers”, and golfers phoned and e-mailed The Suburban to say they heard “owners, investors and developers” were invited to attend.

But since the event took place, which caused the closure of the golf course for the day, local leaders say they have no idea what took place and those potentially in the know are not talking. Côte St. Luc Mayor Anthony Housefather said he has not heard anything, and officials at Lachine Mayor Claude Dauphin’s office say the mayor did not know of, and was not invited to, the corporate day. Lachine favours development on its part of the site.

“My sources say it’s not clear they were all developers,” Berku said. “But I don’t think there’s immediate pressure now to develop.”

Meadowbrook’s owners, New Brunswick-based Meadowbrook Groupe Pacific, did not return numerous calls, and officials of the golf course had “nothing to say.” Last Wednesday, The Suburban attempted to enter the golf course but was denied entry by a man posted at the entrance who only allowed access to those on an invitation list. The man refused to show the list to The Suburban. On Wednesday morning, a mini-demonstration was held at nearby Sheraton Park in Montreal West.

Activists JoAnn Goldwater and Jack Cabot also brought up their concerns at last week’s Côte St. Luc council meeting, held a week ago Monday.

“The golf course could be closed [Wednesday] for any number of reasons,” Housefather told them.

The golf course was sold last fall to Meadowbrook Groupe Pacific Inc. for \$3 million. The Suburban has been told that the buyers attempted to develop the site in the mid-1990s. At this point, only the Lachine part of the course can be developed — Côte St. Luc rezoned its part of the site recreational from residential, prompting a longstanding \$20 million lawsuit by Meadowbrook’s owners.

Housefather told Goldwater that Côte St. Luc would prefer Lachine’s side not be developed. “We have no power or ability to stop Lachine from doing what they want to do on their side. All we can use is moral suasion. Discussions are ongoing with Lachine to find another solution.”