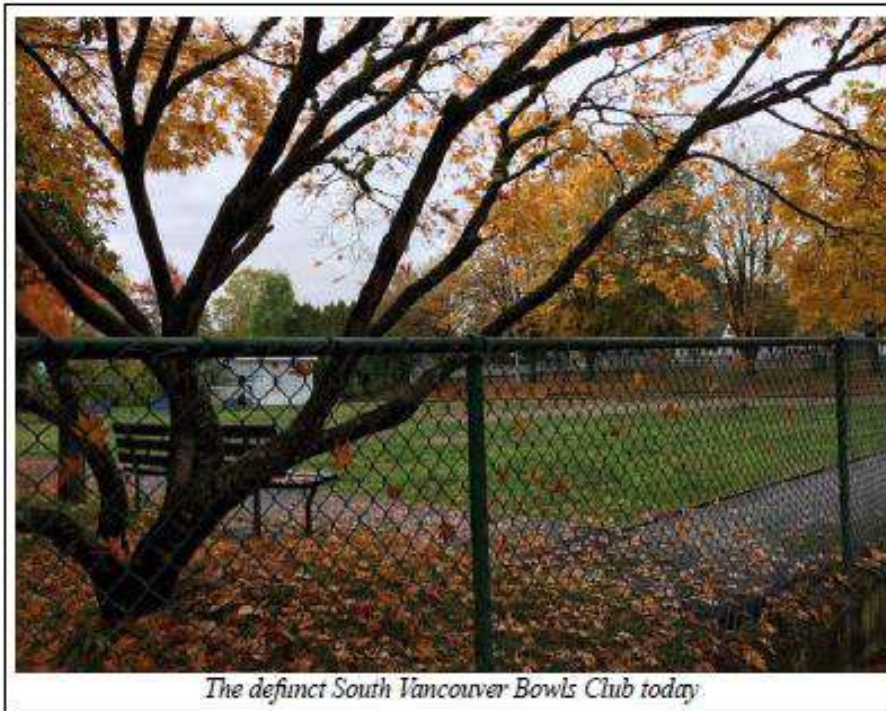


## *The Elm Park Jack Newsletter – Winter edition*



*The defunct South Vancouver Bowls Club today.*

### *Could Kerrisdale suffer the same future?*



*The green is a shambles*

One has only to venture inside the fenced off square in East Vancouver's Grays Park that once housed the South Vancouver Bowls Club to understand the magnitude of what has taken place there in little more than three short years.

What patchy growth that remains is grown over with a more coarse variety of green or has given way completely to a sea of sand that has either been dumped there or eventually worked its way to the surface over a period of misuse and neglect.

The clubhouse entry is now but a stands on the site was taken over for Centre, although it's appearance

What support structures that remain taken or fallen down, leaving only a foundation as evidence of what used

The blue-painted wooden benches that line the eastern boundary of the green are peeling and cracking with lack of upkeep, the shelter above the seats is worn and fraying.

A City of Vancouver sign near the only open gate to the forgotten green



*The site in disrepair*

memory and the building that still use by the Kensington Community suggests it is under utilized.

are either bolted shut or have been worn concrete to stand there.



*Now off-leash park*

reads 'Pick up after your dog', suggesting that the site is used for little more than as an off-leash dog park.



*One can still see signs it was once a functioning green*

## Heritage Vancouver wants city's lawn bowling clubs protected

Naoibh O'Connor / Vancouver Courier

JUNE 24, 2017

*As Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club celebrated its 100th anniversary last weekend, Heritage Vancouver released its annual Top 10 watch list, which names lawn bowling clubs and greens as being among the "historic urban landscapes" that are threatened.*

*It's the first time clubs and greens have made it into the ranking — they landed in the 10th position.*

*Heritage Vancouver is concerned what would happen to the historic clubhouses, greens and their cultural history if membership falls to the point that a club can't be maintained.*

*Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club has so far avoided that fate by attracting younger players.*

*Member Lois Goodeve, who didn't realize lawn bowling clubs made the watch list, said her club's numbers have almost doubled in the past four years and it's in a "huge resurgence."*

*It boasts 270 bowlers and 80 social members making it the largest lawn bowling club in Canada. Half of its bowlers are now under the age of 65. Most, but not all, are West Enders.*

*Goodeve said it enjoyed a large influx thanks to a LGBT curling group whose members joined the club. It also has more evening and weekend leagues, instead of just afternoon ones, which attracts the younger crowd.*

*"[The club] is very important to our community because it's a social place. We're there through the summer almost every day of the week," said Goodeve. "People meet*



*Van South in 2016*



*Van South today*

each other and experience the sport, so it's a physical activity, and we have a lot of social activities. It's a huge part of our life."

She's been a member for 12 years and said she can't walk down the street without meeting someone she knows from the club.

Not all clubs are growing. Goodeve noted that the Vancouver South Bowls Club, which was small, folded this year, although she's heard a group may be trying to revive it.



The clubhouse appeared empty

She suspects it's tough for some clubs to keep going, while the Stanley Park club's location means it's "blessed" with more of a working population and a younger one. It embraces the LGBT community and Goodeve said it's also very active in pursuing new members.

The Vancouver Park Board confirmed the Vancouver South club folded in the summer of 2016. The building that housed the club is more than 50 years old. The Kensington Community Centre Association uses the second floor of the building. There have been some informal enquiries from groups that would like to use the lawn bowling club's space but the building is in need of "significant work that would have to be factored into future usage decisions," according to the park board.

Heritage Vancouver says lawn bowling clubs "speak to Vancouver's social, cultural and sports history, and provide green community oases and a strong connection to the past."

While lawn bowling sites may not be specifically threatened, "a lack of recognition of both their built and cultural heritage means that these precious and beautifully-maintained sites could face future threats from changing park policies or leases."

At this point, only one Vancouver club — the Terminal City Lawn Bowling Club at 3025 Fir St. — is on the Vancouver Heritage Register.

Heritage Vancouver recommends six lawn bowling clubs be added to the heritage register "to acknowledge the strong sense of community created by one of Vancouver's long-term sporting activities." Those clubs include Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club, West Point Grey Lawn Bowling Club, Dunbar Lawn Bowling Club, Vancouver South Bowls Club, Kerrisdale Lawn Bowling Club and Vancouver Bowling Club.

This move wouldn't provide legal protection (although there are some restrictions for "A" designated sites) but such recognition is seen as the initial step to ensure they don't just disappear — it would identify them as having historic significance, which could trigger a heritage review if there is a change in their situation. It also sends a message to the park board that they should respect their heritage value.

Bill Yuen, a spokesperson for Heritage Vancouver, calls it an "awareness tool."

"If there was a development or demolition of something on site, city staff would be alerted that the site is on the register as well as its significance," he explained. "The property owner who wants to do something on the site would most likely have a conversation with staff on what that significance of the site is."

In an effort to keep the clubs going, Heritage Vancouver also encourages Vancouverites to join and suggests those who are already members to research and document their histories. West Point Grey Lawn Bowling Clubs, for instance, has a collection of archival material dating back to 1921 at the City of Vancouver Archives.



A once vibrant green neglected

*An interesting read?*

While the century-plus Kerrisdale Lawn Bowling Club is far from becoming just another Vancouver dog park there is much in the above article to take to heart and consider.

As well, as I write this newsletter, the club is actively working towards formulating plans and putting together ideas at the committee stage to address our dwindling registration, which was a major factor in the ultimate failure of the South Vancouver club in 2016 to remain a viable self-sustaining group.



*Peter and friends doing what he liked best*

### *Saying good-bye to a good friend*

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of a good friend and bowling companion to many Kerrisdale club members.

Here is the obituary that ran in the Vancouver Province recently:



*RIP Peter*

*Peter Dudley Burbidge passed away peacefully at the age of 77 with family by his side. Peter was predeceased by his wife Marilyn Burbidge.*

*He is survived by his daughter Kathy, her husband Vic, son John, his wife Jackie, and grandchildren Ryan, Leah, Amber, Tori, and Cole.*

*Peter was a social guy, who loved curling, fishing, dog walks, playing cards and spending time at Parksville.*

*Most of his retirement involved food, drinks, games and lots of laughter. He loved spending time with his grandchildren and was their #1 fan at their sporting events.*

*A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Jan. 25 at 2 p.m. at St. Phillips Anglican Church, 3737 West 27th Avenue @ Alma Street (1 block west of Dunbar Street). In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Canadian Cancer Society.*

### *Kerrisdale pair medal again*

Kerrisdale's Jon Braun and Matt Miller came so close to defending the annual Pacific Indoor club pairs competition title on Jan. 5.

Braun and Miller, championship winners at the inaugural inter-club tournament last year, lost a thrilling one-end tie-break on the final bowl of their championship final to the team of Jim Dulholke from West Vancouver and Kerrisdale associate member Linda Ng.

The two-day competition, held this year with the sponsorship from Jim and Sheila Buttar, saw 24 teams battle it out in six groups on the Saturday, with the section winners and two wild card additions making it into the quarter-final on the following Sunday.



*Braun and Miller with the Buttars*

The Kerrisdale duo made it to their second consecutive PIBC final with a 9-4, 8-4 victory in the two seven-end, semifinal matches against the eventual third-place Granville Park team of current Canadian men's outdoor singles champion Michael Leong and Paul Leung.

In their quarter-final match, Braun and Miller came back from early deficits in both sets to win against the only all-women's team to make the final 8, Mary-Ann Gillies and Diane Fulton.

The men came back from an 0-5 start to take the opening set 9-5. They then fell behind 0-3 before drawing the final set 7-7 to move on to the semis.

Indoor bowling is beginning to heat up at PIBC with provincial indoor mixed pairs coming up in February, triples in March and singles and pairs in April.