



BANFF LIFTS LTD.

Thursday, June 27th, 1996

Mr. Mike McIvor
Bow Valley Naturalists
Post Office Box 1693
Banff, Alberta
TOL OCO

By Fax: 403-762-4160

Dear Mr. McIvor,

Thank you for your letter of June 26, requesting clarification of the details surrounding the planning process which produced the Long Range Plan for Mt. Norquay in 1989. As you well remember, the process that led to the adoption of the long range plan was a comprehensive one involving a great deal of negotiation and public consultation. As most of the senior park managers who were involved in the process are no longer in Banff, it is easy for Parks Canada to forget just how much went into the process.

The first thing that must be pointed out is that the long range plan was not a decision imposed upon Mt. Norquay by Parks Canada. After a great deal of discussion and negotiation, we realized that we had to make some concessions in our overall operations if we were to be able to convince Parks Canada of our need to expand the winter ski operations. Parks Canada was very worried about overall impacts on the area. The only way we could advance our ski area proposal was to promise a reduction of impact on environmentally sensitive areas like Widow-Maker and the area around Cliff House. This could only be done by sacrificing our summer

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operations. The assertion that giving up summer use was simply a business decision we made independent of Parks Canada demands is misleading. We had to give something in order to get the additional terrain we needed for our expanded winter operation. Summer use was all we had to trade.

You may also remember that environmental opposition to our expanded winter operation was neutralized by this trade off. Groups such as yours did not challenge the final plan because they felt their concerns had been met by limiting use in the summer and increasing use in winter when fragile landscapes were frozen or covered with snow.

I hope these perspectives are of use to you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur Haenni', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Arthur Haenni
President & General Manager

cc: Charlie Zinkan