

# GOLF

Vol. 16, No. 1

BRUCE GREYSIMCOE

Spring 2020

## New season, new rules

Courses adopt practices to help ensure safety of staff and golfers



**Celebrating  
100 Years!**  
Milestone year for Legacy Ridge

This stunning shot of Walkerton Golf and Curling Club was taken by Happy Valley Drones. The club has made a number of course improvements this year including the removal of 40 trees.



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# Glad to be back

Thrilled to get season started

**W**elcome to the Spring Edition of Golf BruceGreySimcoe. This is the most unusual start to the season, with the coronavirus crisis having a dramatic impact on the world and delaying our return to the game.

But it has been determined by health officials that it's safe to return to the links as long as we follow safe practices. It definitely feels and is different under these new guidelines but what a thrill to once again play the game we love so much. Especially after self-isolating in our homes for more than two months!



Steve Harron

From the  
Publisher

We are very fortunate that golf is one of the activities that we can partake in during this pandemic. And with that comes the responsibility of making sure we are not putting ourselves and others at risk.

So play well but more important, play safely this season (check out the story on page 3 to see what courses are doing to keep us safe).

\* \* \*

A few housekeeping items before I wrap up. Ordinarily this publication is available both online and in print but with the circumstances this season I have decided to make it available online only.

If you're not already signed up to have the publication sent to your inbox, I invite you to do so at [golfbrucegreysimcoe.com](http://golfbrucegreysimcoe.com)

See you on the links!

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Steve Harron

Publisher/Editor

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## Super Senior



PETER ROBERTS

**P**eter Roberts is a 96-year-old member of the Super Seniors League at Meaford Golf Course. He plays in the league once a week and, prior to this season, was playing a few more days a week at Tomahawk, a par 3 course operated by the Town of Blue Mountains (at press time the course hadn't opened for the season).

Before the pandemic, he was keeping in shape by playing pickle ball three times a week in Thornbury. This exercise and "good genes" have allowed him to continue with his golf.

The former Toronto resident moved to Thornbury permanently 13 years ago and has been a member of the seniors league for more than a decade.

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# Measures in place to keep us safe

It looks a little different this season but clubs are happy to be open

It's a new season and it's unlike any season we've seen before.

Golf clubs are thrilled they have been allowed to open during the COVID-19 pandemic and have been quick to adopt new protocols to help ensure the safety of golfers and staff.

The changes include:

- \* Tee times must be pre-booked. No walk-ins
- \* Increased spacing between tee times to enhance physical distancing (at some clubs)
- \* Physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) mandatory at all times
- \* Modified golf holes so golfers don't have to touch the pin.
- \* Clubhouses closed and off-limits
- \* Single rider power carts (unless same household) that are disinfected after each use
- \* No rakes in the bunkers
- \* No ball washers
- \* Immediate departure of the facility upon completion of golf

Large gatherings were still being banned at press time so many tournaments have had to be cancelled. Some have gone ahead with tee times instead of a shotgun start and boxed lunches instead of a sit-down meal.

Clubs have got creative with their food and beverage business, making curbside take-out food available.

While the restrictions will definitely make for a more challenging season for the local clubs, demand for golf has so far been extremely high.

At least two local clubs have reported record attendance at men's league events this spring and



Signs making golfers aware of the COVID-19 rules can be found at clubs throughout the region.

many clubs are reporting full or almost-full tee sheets on many days.

And with most other sports cancelled this summer there has been an influx of junior golfers, forcing at least one club to put a cap on the number of junior memberships sold.

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# Upgrades at Duntroon

New owners make numerous changes at Collingwood-area club

**T**he new owners of Duntroon Highlands Golf Club have wasted no time in making improvements at the picturesque facility south of Collingwood.

The husband-and-wife team of Martin Rydlo and Stacie Smith, who bought the club with help from silent investors, got to work right away and by opening day in mid-May their accomplishments included:

- Clubhouse renovations that provide a more spacious pro shop and a completely renovated dining room that now features a licensed café and patio with a menu inspired by the region's rich farming history
- New fleet of golf carts
- Rebuilt tee boxes, including the tripling of the size of the 7th tee.
- Developed new website.

Martin and Stacie are originally from Toronto but have been weekend visitors to the area for many years and became full-time residents six years ago.

Martin's background is in marketing and business in the sports and tourism fields and he has served on the board of the South Georgian Bay



**Duntroon Highlands Golf Club near Collingwood offers up spectacular views.**

Tourism Association for five years.

Stacie previously worked in public relations and her new role at the club is as Director of Administration.

They will lead a team that includes General Manager John Marshall, who has been at the club for 12 years, and CPGA Pro Tony Rubes (8 years with the club) and new chef Christina Sheardown, who previously worked at Blue Mountain Resort and Andrew's Roots restaurant in Meaford.

Martin is passionate about creating a great culinary experience at the golf club by serving local food, craft beers and cider.

"Golf clubs may be known for burgers and fries but golf food can be fantastic," he said.

He's also a big fan of creating experiences for customers and that has led to promotion of hiking trails around the club, which has the Bruce Trail on its doorstep and is adjacent to Highlands Nordic, which has a network of ski and bike trails.

The parkland-style golf club was created by visionary Dalton Sampson and his family and it opened in 1986.

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# Meet the new owner

Evan Kilimnik takes over from Paul and Ellen Farrow at Sauble Golf and Country Club

**A** 33-year-old golf management graduate is the new owner of Sauble Golf and Country Club.

Evan Kilimnik of the Kitchener-Waterloo region took possession of the 18-hole facility on Dec. 16, 2019.

After graduating from the Golf Facilities Operation Management program at Georgian College in 2012, Kilimnik worked for several years in the golf business.

His most recent position was as a technical representative for Cobra Puma Golf, but he has also worked as a Sales Associate at Golf Town in Kitchener.

His golf resume includes being part of the pro staff at Deer Ridge Golf Club in Kitchener from May 2014 to September 2016 and working in the pro shop at Capilano Golf and Country Club in West Vancouver during the summer of 2017. He has also worked at Coppinwood Golf Club in Uxbridge.

He has always dreamed of golf course ownership and is excited about trying to take the Sauble club to the next level.

He's also big supporter of junior golf and in the past has run junior golf clinics.

The sale comes five years after Paul and Ellen Farrow purchased the club from Jack Gillespie, who along with his brother Bobby had bought it in 1987.

Jack became the sole proprietor in 2009 when Bobby retired from the business.

After purchasing the club, the Farrowes carried out renovations to the course and clubhouse and turned it into a year-round business by keeping the



**Evan Kilimnik is the new owner at Sauble Golf and Country Club.**

clubhouse (Bogey's Pub & Eatery) open after the golf season ends.

The Farrowes, who previously owned Avenue A marketing company in the Owen Sound area, had a family connection to the Sauble course as it was operated by Paul's parents – Lloyd and Marg – from 1963 to 1971 when it was a 9-hole facility.

This will be the club's second owner from the Kitchener area. The first was Clark Gibney, who owned the course for 20 years before selling to the Gillespies.



View up the 18th hole at Braestone Club with the new clubhouse in background. The clubhouse, expected to open later this season, is perched on top of a hill and will provide spectacular views of the course and valley below.

# Busy times at Braestone

Numerous course improvements and opening of new clubhouse coming soon

It has been a busy and exciting couple of years at Braestone Club but probably the biggest news right now is the plan to open a new clubhouse later this season.

Work on the impressive structure started in the fall and continued right through the winter and General Manager/Head Golf Professional Greg Hickey is hoping for a late July or early August opening.

Paving of the entrance and parking lot and completion of what Hickey describes as "one of the nicest water features in the area" are scheduled for early July or sooner.

These improvements come as the golf course rounds into top shape after two years of hard work.

"The golf course is in the best shape ever and what has been started in the past two years has all been completed and we're waiting for the sod to take," Hickey said.

"The golf is outstanding and customers are having a ball. Our members and guests arrive after their round excited to see the finished product and no one is more excited than me and our incredible

staff and ownership!"

Changes to the Orillia-area course over the past two years include:

- \* Redesign of both #1 and #10 along with new drainage and state of the art irrigation!
- \* Drainage on many holes has been improved with a final drainage project scheduled for the fall of 2020 on #3, #13 and #14. They will put in the final cart path on 13 and 14 along with this project
- \* In 2019 they relocated the tees on #6 and changed cart path routing. (They say this has made it "a great par 4 and a real test for all! Our #1 Handicap hole").
- \* A new black Tee (210 yds) has been added on #4 par 3! Sodded just last week, it should be open for play early July.
- \* #9 has a new black tee making it a better and longer par 5
- \* #9 Ponds at the green are now in place and have come into play! This water feature will be something to behold, they say. Completion date is late June.

**Cont'd next page**





The revamped 10th hole, which now includes a pond, is one of signature holes at the Braestone Club.

### Cont'd from previous page

\* #10 has been reconfigured with a pond added to the left side of the fair-way and is certainly a signature hole

\* #11 Tee complex has been rebuilt in 2019 and is ready for play in 2020.

\* #9 and #18 provide great views of the new clubhouse slated to open at the end of July or early August. (Covid-19 delayed the whole process by a few weeks).

\* New practice green is well on its way and will be available as soon as the clubhouse opens

All these changes have taken the club to a new level, according to Hickey.

"I believe we are a must-play for now to see where we are and where we are going into the future!

"This year will be a preview leading into a remarkable future for golf in the entire area," he said.

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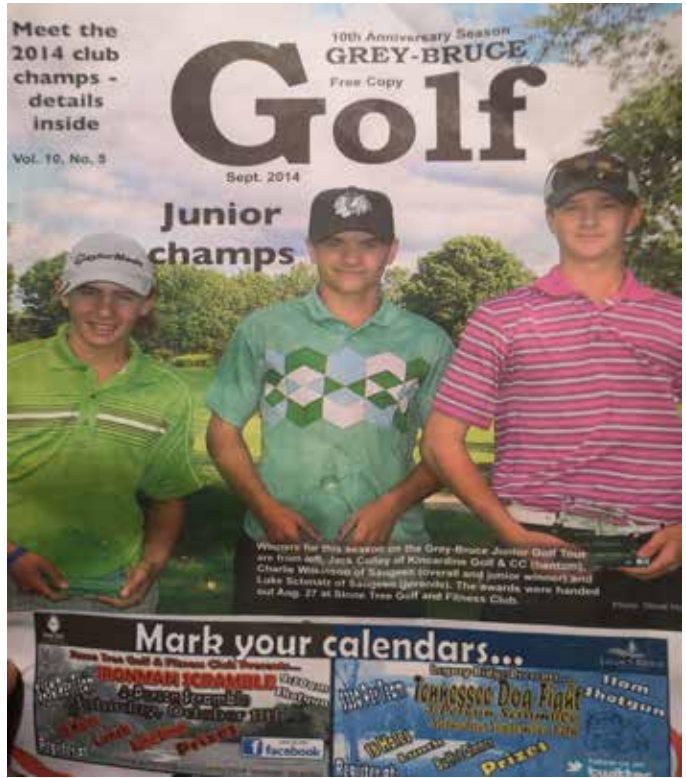
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Charlie Wilkinson, shown above in a recent photo, was featured on the front page of Grey-Bruce Golf magazine in September 2014 after winning the junior and overall titles on the Grey Bruce Junior Golf Tour. With him in the magazine photo are Jake Colley, left, the bantam champ and Luke Schmalz, right, the juvenile champ.

# New pro shop manager at Westlinks

Charlie Wilkinson learned the business while working at Saugeen Golf Club

**C**harlie Wilkinson looks a lot different now but long-time readers of this magazine may remember him from the front page photo in September 2014.

The Port Elgin resident was featured on the cover back then because he had just won the overall and junior championship titles on the Grey Bruce Junior

Tour.

Now, he's the new Pro Shop manager at the Club at Westlinks (the former Piper's Glen) near Port Elgin.

He learned the business by working in the back shop, as a starter and in the pro shop at Saugeen Golf Club over a period of seven years.

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AROUND THE CLUBS - AINSDALE

# New tee markers among changes

**L**ike most other clubs, Ainsdale Golf Course has had to change things up this season in response to the pandemic. They have implemented new protocols to keep golfers and staff safe and remain optimistic about the prospects this season.

They have gone ahead with men's and ladies leagues using tee times with 12-minute intervals between times.

With clubhouses unable to open so far, they are now offering contactless, curb-side pickup for takeout food on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. A weekly menu with the options available is posted on their social media and sent in an email blast to members and guests.

Another new touch – this one having nothing to do with the pandemic – is the introduction of custom-designed metal tee markers which incorporate the club's logo design.





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# New pro shop manager at Stone Tree

Randy Ellis has 22 years experience in the golf industry

**R**andy Ellis is the new Pro Shop Manager at Stone Tree Golf and Fitness Club.

The Barrie, Ont. native is entering his 23rd year in the golf industry and his experience ranges from turf management to pro shop management to junior golf instruction.

He started in the business at National Pines Golf Club near Barrie where he worked for two years in the turf department.

He also worked at Nottawasaga Resort in Alliston (turf and pro shop), and then in turf management and junior golf instruction at the Landings of Willow Creek in Barrie.

Other courses he has worked at include Quarry Lakes Golf Club in Bowmanville, Timberwolf Golf Club in Sudbury and Beaverton Golf Course.

At age 45 he went back to school at Georgian College in Barrie and graduated from the Professional Golf Management program in 2013. He has also been involved in coaching hockey for many years and is currently head coach of the Shallow Lake Crushers, who play in the WOAA Senior Hockey League.

He started at Stone Tree on May 15 and is just getting familiar with the operation but has been impressed with the positive feedback from both members and non-members.

Plans for the season include offering junior golf camps and two weeks in July are already fully booked.



**Randy Ellis**



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# Congrats from Lexi!

Hanover's Rachael Rier gets nice surprise from LPGA Tour star

**R**achael Rier had no idea how they arranged it, but she was definitely surprised and thrilled when LPGA Tour star Lexi Thompson announced on video that Rachael had won Georgian College's Female Athlete of the Year award.

"It was an amazing surprise. My birthday was the next week so that shout-out was the best early birthday present," she stated in an email to Golf BruceGreySimcoe.

"It's an honour to be acknowledged by one of my biggest idols growing up. Lexi is such an inspiration as a strong female athlete in a male-dominated sport. I've always looked up to her so I was definitely freaking out a little when I heard her announce my name!"



"I've always looked up to her so I was definitely freaking out a little when I heard her announce my name."

- Rachael Rier reacts to video from LPGA Tour star Lexi Thompson

Georigan was able to get Thompson make the video after the college made a donation to a charity she supports - the No Kid Hungry Foundation, which provides meals to U.S. children from low-income families.

Rier, a Hanover, Ontario resident who played on the Grey Bruce Junior Golf Tour, received the award April 30 during a virtual athletic banquet.

It came after a stellar season with the Grizzlies women's golf team.

Her individual accomplishments included:

- 1st at the Fanshawe Invitational
- 2nd at the Niagara Invitational
- 3rd at both the Georgian College and Lakehead-Orillia invitationals
- 4th at the Ontario Collegiate Athletic Association (OCAA) championship



- Team bronze medal at OCAA Championships
- 4th place finish as a team at CCAA National Championships
- 4th place individual finish at OCAA Championships
- 5th overall individual at CCAA National Championships
- Fanshawe Invitational individual winner
- 2nd place individual at the Niagara Invitational
- 3rd place at both the Georgian & Lakehead-Orillia Invitationals

- 8th - Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) championship

Team accomplishments:

- 4th at CCAA championship
- 3rd at OCAA championship

Rier's achievements at Georgian come after spending two years competing as a member of the golf team at Davenport University in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

During her final season there, the team broke team scoring records and made it to the final match play championship.

The decision to leave was based on academics and her passion for golf as she switched from Sports Management at Davenport to Golf Management at Georgian.

And so far it has worked out well for her.

"It's great to be recognized as Georgian's Female Athlete of the Year, and I'm so thankful for the path that's led me here. Everyone made my transfer to Georgian stress-free and it's a place I can really excel in. I plan to return in the fall and hopefully see even more success next season!"

Until then, she will be working at her summer job in the pro shop at Pike Lake Golf Centre - and working on her game, of course.

# Wounded Warriors event going ahead

Changes made to ensure the safety of participants and staff

**A** tournament that supports Canada's ill and injured Canadian Armed Forces members, veterans, first responders and their families will go ahead this season but the format will be different because of the COVID-19 restrictions.

Legacy Ridge Golf Club, along with The Block & Stone Resource Group, has scheduled the 7th Annual Wounded Warriors Golf Classic for July 23, 2020.

Wounded Warriors Canada offers a wide range of programming and more details can be found at [www.woundedwarriors.ca](http://www.woundedwarriors.ca).

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, this year's event has been revised to ensure the safety of participants and staff.

Instead of a shotgun start, it will be tee times throughout the day and participants will receive a boxed lunch to start along with a tee prize.

The Freedom Riders will be there to conduct the putting contest at the beginning of the round and there will be other surprises throughout the day!



**The Wounded Warriors tournament is set for July 23.**

Tournament chair Marc Brooks says they are also planning an online auction to assist in raising funds.

To date they have raised just over \$85,000 and are hoping to top the \$100,000 mark this year!

To register a team, contact Sam McEvenue at 519-376-1961 ext. 1.

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# Celebrating 100 Years

It's a milestone year for Legacy Ridge Golf Club near Owen Sound



**O**ne hundred years ago Stanley Thompson was in the early stages of a career that would eventually see him become one of the top golf course architects in Canada.

It was around this time that he was recruited to supervise the construction of a new 9-hole course along the shores of Georgian Bay.

The Glen-Airston farm property was purchased for \$7,800 on Aug. 29, 1920 and the Owen Sound Golf and Country Club officially came into existence on Oct. 14, 1920.

The course was built for \$4,600 and was open for play by May 24, 1921.

In that first year the club had 150 members and annual dues were \$35 for men and \$15 for women. Green fees were \$1 a day.

The official opening didn't take place until June 3, 1922, but it was an impressive affair.

The day included morning 4-ball matches, an afternoon medal competition, an afternoon tea and a dinner-dance in the evening.

**Cont'd next page**

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Guests included 8-time Canadian Men's Amateur champ George S. Lyon, who was described by the city's mayor as Canada's greatest and best loved golfer.

Lyon, who won a gold medal at the 1904 Summer Olympics in St. Louis, Missouri, was made the club's first honorary life member.

Also in attendance was H.C. Grout, general superintendent of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and well-known golfers Frank Thompson (an amateur champ), W.J. Thompson and B. L. Anderson, secretary of the Royal Canadian Golf Association.

Much has changed since then. Holes have been reconfigured and another 9 holes were added in 1975. The pro shop and clubhouse have been renovated, cart paths added and paved, tee boxes refurbished and the patio upgraded and expanded.

And that's not even the full list.

The club has also had some ownership changes in recent times (See Milestones section for more details) and in 2016 the name was changed to Legacy Ridge Golf Club to start a new chapter in the rich history of the club.

The current ownership group - consisting of President and Director of Operations Michael Todd, Course Superintendent Marc Brooks and local businessman Bert Leeder - has set forth on a path of constant improvement and the changes have been impressive.

Unfortunately, with restrictions on large gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the club isn't able to hold any special celebrations to mark the anniversary.

However, they are very aware of the historical significance of the milestone.

"We are so proud to celebrate 100 years of spectacular golf at this truly unique, beautiful property," said President/Director of Operations Michael Todd.



World-famous golf course architect Stanley Thompson designed the original 9 holes at Owen Sound Golf and Country Club, which is now known as Legacy Ridge Golf Club.

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# Milestones

1919 - A meeting was held of interested golfers, many of whom were existing members of the Sydenham Club.

1920 - Purchased the "Glen ~ Airston" estate for the market price of \$ 7,800. Hired course architect Stanley Thompson from the firm of Thompson, Cumming and Thompson to design and develop a 9 hole course. The construction for this project cost \$ 4,600. with Clubhouse renovation costs of \$ 2,400.

1921 - The course opens for member play on temporary greens. The Club consists of 150 members paying annual dues of \$35.00 while daily green fees were priced at \$ 1.00

1964 - The Club borrowed \$30,000 for an irrigation system and other course improvements. The new irrigation system was installed for greens, tees and fairways at a cost of \$21,500. The Club now boasts a membership of 513 adult members.

1965 - The Club sold its shore line property to the Public Utilities Commission for \$30,000.

1968 - The Club purchased 55 acres of property from the Frey family for the construction of an additional 9 holes at the cost of \$55,000.

1969 - The Club instituted a monthly assessment program of \$5.00 per member per month for Club improvements.

1973 - Construction begins on a new 9 holes. The Club hired course architect Robert Moote to complete this project.

1975 - The new Back 9 opened for play including a picturesque par 3, 17th hole.

1979 - The Club expanded its facilities to include tennis courts

1983 - Original holes #2, #3 and #4 were remodeled along with some modifications to hole #5. The Club now has an excess of 1,000 members.

1985 - Construction began on a new Golf Shop.

1990 - The Club purchased 193 acres of adjacent property at a cost of \$650,000 for future development. A master plan was designed by Golfplan, Steven Ward to feature 36 holes, practice facility and a new Clubhouse.

1997 - Construction began on a new 17-acre practice facility.

1998 - The practice facility opens for business.



**Here's one from the archives: Former Owen Sound Golf and Country Club pro Doug Wilson, left, with long-time member Bill Corbett Sr.**

2000 - Construction of a golf cart storage area attached to the Golf Shop.

2001 - The Club undertakes clubhouse renovations and re-pave the main parking lot.

2002 - The Club installs a new automated irrigation system at a cost of \$800,000.

2003 - Construction of a drainage retention pond behind hole #2 to slow the progression of run-off water. The Club constructs and opens a new halfway house facility attached to the Golf Shop and installs an automated ball dispensing unit at the practice facility.

2004 - The Club enters in to a Capital lease program for Greens Department equipment.

2005 - Major drainage work completed on holes #1, #10 and #18.

2011 - Club purchased by Kinsale Investments Ltd., a company owned by Kevin O'Brien of the Flesher-ton area and his three brothers who live in the Richmond Hill area.

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View from the 5th green at Legacy Ridge Golf Club, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.



The patio, which provides views of the 18th hole and Owen Sound Bay, was expanded and upgraded in 2019. It was shut down for the first month of the season as part of the COVID-19 restrictions but will re-open for business this Friday (June 12).

## Milestones

2012 - Club purchased by Balnar Management Ltd., the company that, at the time, also owned Stone Tree Golf and Fitness Club near Owen Sound. The name was changed that year to Legacy Ridge Golf Club and the clubhouse was renovated.

2016 - Club sold to a group including CPGA pro Michael Todd, who was the Director of Operations at

the time, Course Superintendent Marc Brooks, and local businessmen Bert Leeder and Don Desjardine.

2018 - New short game range created between the 4th and the 5th holes.

2019 - Patio completely renovated and expanded.

2020 - Record attendance (at least in recent times) for Men's League with 131 players participating.



# Celebrating 100 Years - Est. 1920



~ Welcome to Legacy Ridge ~

*Formerly the Owen Sound Golf & Country Club dating back to 1920, we are so proud to celebrate 100 years of spectacular golf at this truly unique, beautiful property...offering this and so much more!*

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**"The facility, staff and service are just superb." ~ Judy S.**

# Clingersmith moves to Horseshoe

Former Lora Bay pro now Director of Golf Operations at Barrie-area resort



The Golf Club in Collingwood opened over the winter but was forced to shutdown during the pandemic.



It has been quite the off-season for Nate Clingersmith. The former Head Golf Professional at the Golf Club at Lora Bay left the the Thornbury-area club in the fall to take a position as Director of Golf at a new indoor golf facility in Collingwood. His last day at Lora Bay was Dec. 13, 2019.

The indoor golf facility, called The Golf Club, opened earlier this year and operated for a short period of time before being forced to shut down in March due to the coronavirus.

And that left Clingersmith in a tough spot, with no job and no idea of when the indoor facility could re-open (it has yet to re-open).

That led to his move to Horseshoe Resort where he is the new Director of Golf.

Clingersmith spent 10 years at Lora Bay and found it a tough decision to leave.

"It is hard to believe that I have been with Lora Bay for all 10 seasons under the current ownership. I came to Lora Bay at a time when the golf course and community were in a state of transition and was given the opportunity to showcase what a great golf course and community Lora Bay has," he said in a news release at the time of his departure.

Taking over for Clingersmith at Lora Bay is Steve Moore, who has been an associate professional there for the past four years.



Nate Clingersmith

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# Changes at Saugeen

New General Manager and Director of Golf at Port Elgin-area club

Changes over the winter at Saugeen Golf Club include a new General Manager and a new Director of Golf.

Brad Young of Richmond Hill is the new GM and Robbie Oliver has returned to his home area to become the golf director.

Young has wide experience in golf course management in southern Ontario and Manitoba. He has previously worked as Head Professional at King's Riding Golf Club and Director of Operations at both Caledon Country Club and Portage Golf Club in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

During his time at these clubs, Young has focused on increasing membership numbers and providing junior lesson programs to sustain the popularity of golf.

"It definitely was not easy leaving a great situation at a prestigious club in the GTA, but this community assured me it was the right one to make," said Young.

"The Board of Directors and the many members that have reached out to me personally have made this transition to a new club and new town extremely easy. They have welcomed me with open arms."

He began work at Saugeen on March 16 - about the same time as the coronavirus was bringing about some major changes to life in the region.

"The first 6 weeks were definitely challenging with these crazy times and a pandemic on our hands," he said.

Besides putting practices in place to ensure the safety of its staff and members, the management team has developed several strategies that will enhance the member experience, the customer service and the overall feel of the club, Young said.

"I look forward to a wonderful 2020 golf season and getting to know all there is to know about this wonderful community that many have stated 'makes it impossible to leave.'"

He replaces Gary Glenister, who left over the winter and is now working as Director of Golf at

"The board of directors and the many members that reached out to me personally have made this transition to a new club and new town extremely easy. They have welcomed me with open arms."

-new Saugeen GM Brad Young



**Brad Young, left, and Robbie Oliver have joined the staff at Saugeen this season.**

Orchard Beach Golf and Country Club, a 9-hole Stanley Thompson-designed course in Keswick, Ontario.

Oliver comes to Saugeen from Grandview Golf Club in Huntsville where he was employed as the Assistant Golf Professional.

During his younger days, he played on the Grey Bruce Junior Golf Tour and then started his career at Saugeen.

He then went on to develop his skills at a number of clubs including Peninsula Lakes and Cobble Beach Golf Links before joining the professional team at Grandview.

"It was bitter-sweet to leave Grandview," Oliver said.

"I enjoyed the 3 seasons I spent building so many good relationships with the staff, and membership. It will always be a special place to me, however when I was given the chance to return to Saugeen where it all began for me in the golf industry, it truly felt full circle."

"We have an exciting season planned ... I look forward to working with the staff on continuing to grow the reputation of being one of the best golfing experiences in the area. I would like to thank the membership, and the public for being so understanding with the regulations we have had to face."

# Bill Stewart moves to Southampton

## Veteran pro excited about opportunity at new club

Long-time CPGA professional Bill Stewart is excited about his new role as Director of Golf Operations at Southampton Golf and Country Club.

Stewart comes to Southampton from Stone Tree Golf and Fitness near Owen Sound where he held a similar position from 2016 until recently.

In his previous position, Stewart was responsible for bringing back into operation the 18-hole course at Stone Tree which had been closed since 2015. It was re-opened in 2018.

During his time there he was successful in building the membership base, growing league play and special golf days and introducing junior camps and a Special Olympics program.

He also partnered with local schools to create a program to introduce Grade 5 students to the game of golf - something he would like to do at Southampton once schools return to normal.

Stewart is a huge proponent of Junior Golf, having been the Chairman of the CPGA Future Links program and Captain of Canada's Junior Team, (which included PGA Tour player Adam Hadwin).

And he wants to build a junior golf program, with free lessons at the club. Golf course owner Kevin O'Brien has committed to purchasing junior sets of clubs so kids can play even without their own equipment and see if they enjoy the game.

Stewart is also excited to build a women's golf program with free lessons for any women including non-members. "Hope Nights", a monthly golf event that raises money for cancer research, will continue this year.

These plans are all part of the approach both he and O'Brien want to take and that is to reach out to the community and develop a "sense of community" at the golf club.

They plan to partner with local charities and to this end, O'Brien has purchased and built garden plots for members of the course and the people from the community to plant and tend. Half of any food that is grown by participants will be donated to the local Food Bank with the rest of the produce going home with the grower.

Everyone is encouraged to start to grow with



### Bill Stewart, new Director of Golf Operations at Southampton Golf and Country Club.

Southampton Golf and you can obtain more information by calling Bill Stewart at 519-797-3684.

Stewart will be joined in his new position by Associate Golf Professional Stephen Bardswick, who comes from Cobble Beach Golf Links where he held a similar position.

### Meet the Pro - Bill Stewart

**Hometown:** Grew up as a caddy at the Islington Golf Club in West Toronto

#### Previous positions as a professional:

Director of Golf - Stone Tree Golf & Fitness, CPGA Assistant Professional – The Donalds Club, Toronto, CPGA Associate – Henderson Lake Golf Club – Lethbridge, Alberta, CPGA Director of Golf – Lethbridge Country Club – Lethbridge, Alberta CPGA Director of Golf, Waterloo Golf Academy, Waterloo, Ontario, General Manager - Fredericton Golf & Curling Club – Fredericton, New Brunswick, CPGA Teaching Professional - Golf Town – Brampton and Waterloo, Golf Professional – Kitchener Golf (Doon Valley Golf Course and Rockway Golf Course) – Kitchener, Ontario.

#### Best round (score or otherwise):

Score: 6 under 66 at Lethbridge Country Club, Islington & Port Grey in Vancouver. Any time I played with my Dad before he passed away at age 90.

**Best Moment in Golf:** Hole in One in the Kingdom of Fife St. Andrews, Scotland - Kingsbarns Golf Club – Hole 15.



# Loss to golf community

Blackhorse owner Doug Wilson Sr. known for his strong support of golf in region

**T**he BruceGreySimcoe golf community lost a key member this spring with the death of Doug Wilson Sr., who along with his son Doug Jr. developed BlackHorse into one of the premier courses in the region.

The course opened on July 1, 2003 with 13 holes in play and was fully opened in 2005.

Since it's opening, it has received numerous accolades including SCOREGolf magazine calling it one of the Best New Courses in Ontario and among the Best Value of all courses in the province.

Doug, who died April 6 in Kincardine Hospital, was a strong supporter of golf in BruceGrey-Simcoe and for many years was part of the region's golf marketing initiative.

His connection to Bruce County goes all the way back to his days as a youth when his parents would rent a cottage in Kincardine.

And his favourite past-time in those days was to play as much golf as possible at the Kincardine Golf Club.

The idea of building a golf course came while contemplating his future with his family after the



**Doug Wilson Sr. (left), is with legendary amateur golfer Ed Ervasti, who for many years attended "The Legends" Senior Invitational at BlackHorse. On the right is Doug Wilson Jr., who along with his father developed BlackHorse into one of the premier courses in the region.**

death of his wife Sandra in 1999.

He is survived by his son Doug (Cheryl) and daughter Tracey Wilson/McQueen (Stephan) and grandchildren Keyan, Bryson, Rhys, Cassie, and Kalyn.

A Celebration of Life and Golf Tournament are scheduled to be held July 26 at BlackHorse.

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# The Arnold Palmer Classic

Great chance to see pros in action before the COVID-19 crisis shut down the PGA Tour

We had no idea when we booked our tickets for the Arnold Palmer Invitational in March that we would be witnessing the last PGA Tour event before the COVID-19 shutdown.

It was a pretty special experience - one I was able to share with fellow Owen Sound resident Tom

Potter. But with everything that's happened since then, it makes me appreciate the experience even more. Following Bubba Watson for 9 holes of practice and seeing many high-profile stars up close was a treat. Here are some photos from the day.

- *Steve Harron, Golf BruceGreySimcoe publisher*



Tom Potter, left, and Steve Harron in front of the Arnold Palmer statue at Bay Hill Golf Club in Orlando.



Tom Potter, a member at Legacy Ridge Golf Club near Owen Sound, gets Sam Saunders, grandson of Arnold Palmer, to sign a souvenir flag on a practice day.



The beautiful par 3 17th hole at the Bay Hill Golf Club near Orlando.





The front flower gardens at Blue Mountain Golf and Country Club are something to behold when the flowers are in full bloom.

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**Theo Peckham of Legacy Ridge Golf Club.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

# Ex-NHLer wins \$5,000 with ace on final night

**W**hile this will be old news to Legacy Ridge Golf Club members, some golfers may not have heard about former NHL player Theo Peckham scoring his amazing \$5,000 ace at the Owen Sound-area club.

It took three years and thousands of attempts but on the final night of Men's League in 2019, Peckham aced #8 to win the capped prize of a \$5,000 gift card.

The former Owen Sound Attack and Edmonton Oilers player said it was one of the biggest thrills of his life and his celebration – witnessed by playing partners Zac Wiltzen and Coy Kulich – was quite animated with the noise heard by many golfers on the course and it even caused some concern in the pro shop.

The 6' 2" defenceman was a generous winner, providing free drinks in the clubhouse for those fortunate enough to be around.

Apparently the clubhouse managed to run up a tab of more than \$1,000.

# Baywest Toyota's Hole-in-One Club

**T**he popular Baywest Toyota Hole-in-One Club is back for another season.

If you or someone you know scores an ace please send the details to [harronmarketing@gmail.com](mailto:harronmarketing@gmail.com) Just need the basic details: Date, hole number, yardage, club used and names of not only the ace shooter but other members of the group.

June 8 - **Flo Leatham** on #6 at Walkerton Golf and Curling Club. She's 81 years old.

June 8 - Member **Graeme George** on #8 at Legacy Ridge Golf Club.

June 7 - **Ande Barr** with a 7-iron from 135 yards on #11 at the Club at Westlinks. His playing partners were Fred Plaethorpale and Terry Cannon.

June 5 - Member **Kathy Makcrow** on #17 at Legacy Ridge Golf Club. It was her 4th ace.

June 5 - Southampton Golf Club member **Rob Lorentz** on the 150-yard 5th hole with an 8 iron. It was his first hole-in-one for the 74-year-old who was playing with his grandson, James MacRae.

June 4 - **John Marchione** with a 5-wood on #6 on the Legends Course at Woodington Lake Golf Club.

June 2 - **Cathy Schwindt** on #8 on the Lake Course at Pike Lake Golf Centre.

June 1 - Legacy Ridge member **Roy Clements** on #8 during Seniors League play. It was witnessed by: Michael Rea, John Swallow and Bob Kanduth.

May 29 - Junior member **Cody Cox** on #12 at Legacy Ridge Golf Club. It was witnessed by playing partner Brett Warrilow.

May 21 - **Michael Fairney** with a 7-iron on #12 on the Legacy course at Woodington Lake Golf Club.



**Baywest Toyota**  
**Randy Ewart**  
General Manager



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