

# GOLF

Free Copy

Vol. 15, No. 1

BRUCE GREYSIMCOE

Spring 2019

## New course for region

The Nest at Friday Harbour Resort is a Doug Carrick design near Barrie



**GREG'S ROAD TRIP**  
Golfing with Hearn,  
first ace & fishing  
for sharks



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# Still having fun!

15th season for golf publication



Steve Harron

From the  
Publisher

Welcome to the 2019 golf season. The season was a little slow getting started but I'm hoping you've got some rounds in by now.

It's hard to believe but this is my 15th season of covering the local golf scene. And I'm still having fun - how about that? It's a privilege to work in the golf business and share with you all the stories from around the BruceGreySimcoe region.

Like most years, there has been a lot happening since we pulled the pins on the 2018 season.

There are new owners and managers at some local clubs and we also have - for the first time in about 12 years - a new golf course that has opened. You can read about The Nest at Friday Harbour and other exciting developments in this edition, which will be one of three this season.

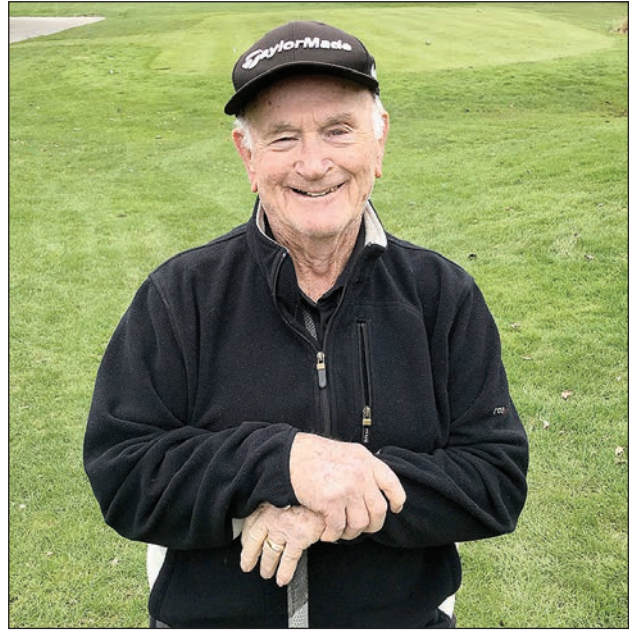
You can also find more golf news at [golfbrucegreysimcoe.com](http://golfbrucegreysimcoe.com), on Facebook (Brucegreysimcoegolf), Twitter (golfbgs) and Instagram (greatgolfinbgs).

One change this season is the Around the Clubs feature of local league and tournament results will now be made available online. This will keep the results more timely so please check our website for updates.

Have a great season! And please keep in mind your feedback is always welcome.

[harronmarketing@gmail.com](mailto:harronmarketing@gmail.com)

# Super Senior



JOHN GARVEY

John Garvey, at age 94, teamed up with his son Mike to win the C Flight of the Senior Men's 2-Man Scramble at Legacy Ridge Golf Club last fall. Now, at age 95, he plans to play three times a week - as he did last season - and maybe enter some tournaments. The Legacy Ridge member shot his age several times last season with his best score being an 86 - shot on his son Mike's birthday. He grew up in Sandwich, Ontario (just outside of Windsor), joined the Canadian Merchant Marines at age 16 and served in World War II. When he returned from the war, he started playing ball and became so skilled he was recruited by a U.S. team. He came to Owen Sound in 1967 to help build the industrial furnace at the CPI glass factory, which later became PPG Industries. He stayed on at CPI after construction was complete and during his time in Owen Sound was an umpire at local ball games for 70 years and a hockey referee until he was 80. He took up golf in his 40s and now plans to play "as long as my legs will hold out."

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Steve Harron  
Publisher/Editor

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The impressive driving range at The Nest at Friday Harbour Resort.

# Course part of \$1.5 billion resort

The Nest open every day for public play

It has been a long time - about 12 years, in fact - since BruceGreySimcoe has had a new golf course open.

So it's exciting to see The Nest - a Doug Carrick design on Lake Simcoe - open for its first full season. A soft opening was held last season but now, with the clubhouse also open for business, golfers can get the full experience.

The Nest is part of a \$1.5 billion 600-acre resort called Friday Harbour east of Barrie. The resort includes a 1,000-slip multiple canal docking area, boardwalk retail space and the master plan calls for up to 2,000 condos, townhouse, and hotel residences.

The golf course is semi-private and will be open for public play Monday to Thursday all day, before 11 a.m. on Fridays and after 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

The posted green fee rates (May 16-Sept. 30) are \$115 for 18 holes, \$60 for 9 holes and \$70 for Twilight (after 4 p.m.).

For more information, go to [fridayharbour.com](http://fridayharbour.com)





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# Greg's excellent adventure

Pike Lake pro tees it up with PGA Tour player, scores ace and catches a shark

Greg Shaw's original plan last November was to drive to Florida, stay for a few nights then fly home. But his road trip turned into a 16-day adventure that saw him golfing with a PGA Tour pro, scoring his first ace and fishing for five days in the Florida Keys.

The head golf pro at Pike Lake Golf Centre was scheduled to drive his parent's vehicle to Florida and be accompanied by a buddy - Omar Basic - in a second vehicle owned by his parent's friends. Together, they were to deliver the vehicles and then fly home.

But his parent's friends weren't able to make it to Florida and some golfing and fishing opportunities developed so Greg and Omar decided to turn it into an extended vacation.

On the way down they stopped for three days at Olde Mill Resort in Laurel Fork, Virginia and Greg met up with two buddies from his days on the golf team at Concord University in Athens, West Virginia.

They joined the friends - Bo Goins, the pro at Olde Mille, and former Sylvan Lake, Alberta resident Graham Laird, the pro at Blue Ridge CC in Galax, Virginia - for 18 holes at Olde Mill and 36 at Cross Creek in Mount Airy, North Carolina.

Then it was off to Florida where they visited Greg's parents for a couple of days in Zephyrhills, and his wife's grandparents in Sun 'n Lakes in Sebring.

The next stop was Boynton Beach to play 18 holes with PGA Tour player David Hearn, who has been one of Greg's friends ever since their junior days together at Pike Lake.

"I had sent a text message to him to see if he would be available because we were headed to the Keys for fishing," Greg said. "He was very happy to accommodate us because we haven't played a round together in over 20 years. He was exactly the same guy I grew up playing with at Pike Lake. He treated us to a complete day. Warm-up session at the range, full day on the course with Omar as well. We then had lunch at the club and then back to his house to visit with his family."

The course was Pine Tree Golf Club in Boynton Beach, which Greg described as "unbelievable," and Hearn shot a



From left are, Pike Lake Head Golf Professional Greg Shaw, PGA Tour pro David Hearn and Omar Basic of Pike Lake. They played 18 holes together at Pine Tree Golf Club in Boynton Beach.

"smooth 68."

But playing with a tour pro wasn't the only golf excitement for Shaw as he scored his first ace earlier on the trip. His Callaway representative set up a round for him at Cypress Run Golf Club, a private course in Tarpon Springs, and he aced the 8th hole.

After getting lots of golf in, they headed to Islamorada in the Florida Keys for some fishing.

"A guy Omar works with has a place there so he was our tour guide. It's a complete fishing community with great restaurants," Shaw said.

"We went out on charters during the day and then did night fishing for sharks and tarpon off our dock at our rental condo. I was able to bring in a 4.5-foot nurse shark at mid-night and Omar's best catch was a 4-foot barracuda. Amazing experience."

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# Housing planned for Homestead

Course to remain open but reconfiguration of holes planned for future

**A**lthough there are plans for a housing development at Homestead Resort near Durham, the golf course and restaurant will remain in operation.

The golf course property was sold earlier this year to H. Bye Construction, a business based in the Mount Forest area.

Under the terms of the partnership agreement, Jason Menaul will continue to operate the clubhouse restaurant and golf course for a minimum of five years.

Proceeds from the sale went to Jason's father Gary and Sharon Menaul, who had owned the resort for about 30 years.

The initial plan was for about 28 homes - many of them along Wilder Lake - on lots larger than one acre.

Plan approvals are needed before construction can begin.

As a result, the 5,508-yard golf course will remain 18 holes for the 2019 season and probably 2020 as well.

However, they are currently working on plans to reconfigure the course.



**Housing will be developed along Wilder Lake and that will necessitate changes to the layout of Homestead Golf Course near Durham.**

When the development goes ahead the resort will either be relocating the cabins by the lake or building some form of replacement lodging for guests.

And they will continue to offer Stay and Play packages.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>Ryder Cup</i>	WED. MAY 22
<i>Sr. Men's Scramble</i>	WED. MAY 29
<i>Pike Lake Open</i>	SAT. AUGUST 17
<i>Ladies Scramble</i>	WED. AUGUST 29

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# Strong finish for Rachael

Hanover golfer moves on after successful year with record-breaking Davenport team

Hanover's Rachael Rier has made the tough decision to leave Davenport University in Grand Rapids, Michigan and her position on the women's golf team to pursue studies in Ontario.

"My program wasn't what I hoped it would be academic wise, and as hard as it was to make the decision, I know I have to put my academics first," she states in an email to Golf BruceGreySimcoe.

"I'm going to be completing my degree in golf management at Georgian College (in Barrie) while I play for the Grizzlies ladies team. It'll be nice to be closer to home and pursue a degree more focused on my passion."

She had been studying Sports Management at Davenport.

The transfer to Georgian comes after a record-breaking year for Rachael's Davenport team, which wrapped up its season with a runner-up finish in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championship.

The Division II Panthers were ranked 102nd in the nation but made it to the final match play championship against the 10th-ranked Grand Valley State. And while Davenport lost all five matches in the final, all of them were decided by three strokes or less.

Rier, who was 17th in the stroke play portion of the tourna-



Hanover golfer Rachael Rier, left, with her teammates after the team set multiple school records and finished 2nd in the Lawrence Tech Heritage Hill Invitational in Shepherdsville, Kentucky in March.

ment, shot 80 in the finals and lost her match by just one shot.

In making it to the finals, the team set a 54-hole scoring record.

Coach Melanie Loughin was thrilled with the result.

"What an unbelievable weekend! We finished ninth in 2018 and second this year! Talk about improvement," she states in an article on the school's website.

"It's been our goal the entire year to make it to the medal match play. It feels so good to accomplish it. I'm beyond proud of this group."

For Rier, it was a strong finish to a great season with the team.

"My second year at Davenport was a huge success. I couldn't have asked for a better group of girls to play with, and I'm so happy we saw a little more success on the course this year. We actually broke every team record this year, so that's an accomplishment I'm so proud to have been a part of."

"I loved playing for Davenport, and I'm so grateful for the time I got to spend there, but I'm excited to see what the future holds for me at Georgian."

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# Five championships coming to area

Provincial events include Men's Amateur and resurrected Ontario Open

**F**ive provincial championships and four qualifiers will be held in BruceGreySimcoe this season.

The Ontario Men's Amateur Championship is July 11-18 at OslerBrook Golf and Country Club near Collingwood, the Junior Boys Championship July 16-19 at Tangle Creek Golf Club near Barrie and the Boys and Girls Pee wee Championship Aug. 26-27 at Marlwood Golf and Country Club in Wasaga Beach.

The Ontario Open, a storied championship whose past champions include Sam Snead, Moe Norman and George Knudson, has been resurrected after a long hiatus and will be played at Woodington Lake Golf Club in Tottenham.

It has been scheduled for Aug. 26-29. Woodington will also play host to the inaugural Ontario Disability Golf Championship from Aug. 23-25.

The qualifiers scheduled for the area include:  
 May 4 - Men's Better Ball, National Pines GC near Barrie  
 May 13 - Men's Mid-Am, Barrie Country Club  
 May 15 - Men's Mid-Am, Mad River Golf Club, Creemore  
 June 6 - Junior Boys, Blue Mountain Golf & Country Club near Collingwood



**Woodington Lake Golf Club in Tottenham will play host to two big events this season - the resurrected Ontario Open and the new Ontario Disability Championship.**

Tangle Creek will also play host to the Future Links Ontario Championship May 24 to 26.

It will feature male and female golfers between the ages of 11 and 18. Notable players who have gone on to experience success on professional tours include: Brooke Henderson, Adam Hadwin, Mackenzie Hughes, Nick Taylor, Maude-Aimee Leblanc, Anne-Catherine Tanguay and Augusta James.

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# Celebrating life of Keith Stein

## Event to pay tribute to golf course owner

Friends and family will gather on June 15 to celebrate the life of Keith Stein, a long-time golf course owner in the area who died March 31 at age 80.

The celebration is scheduled from 2-4 p.m. at the Southampton Golf and Country Club where Keith was a member for many years. Originally from Wheatley, Ontario, he bought Whispering Hills Golf Club in 1972 and operated the Hanover-area club until 1977. He also owned Holiday Golf Club in Port Elgin from 1986 until January 2018.



Keith Stein

He played his final round at Whispering Hills on his 80th birthday (May 27, 2018) with son Steve and Pike Lake's Herb Cowen, a lifelong friend in the golf business. Afterwards, a birthday celebration was held in the clubhouse lounge.

He remained close to the Day family after selling Whispering Hills to them in 1977. "He remained a great friend of the club and visited the club regularly and supported many golf tournaments over the past 40 years. He will be very sadly missed by all of us at Whispering Hills Golf Club," the Day family stated shortly after his death.

All four of his sons followed him into the golf business. John is superintendent at Southampton Golf and Country Club, Steve is superintendent at Pike Lake, Keith is Director of Golf Course Operations at Cinnamon Hill and White Witch golf clubs in Montego Bay, Jamaica and Ken (K.J.) is assistant superintendent at Sleepy Hollow Golf and Country Club in Stouffville.

Keith Sr. worked as a baker in the family bakery before getting into the golf business and was a top-level athlete in many sports. The family says he will be fondly remembered for his love and promotion of the game of golf and will be missed for his fun spirit and youthful attitude.

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Sam McEventue of Legacy Ridge Golf Club, left, with pro Tyler Torano, after Torano won the Bayonet Championship in California.

## Sam's 1st pro win as caddy

### Legacy Golf Operations Manager on bag for victory in California

Sam McEventue, Golf Operations Manager at Legacy Ridge Golf Club near Owen Sound, got his first professional win as a caddy over the winter.

He was on the bag for friend Tyler Torano, who shot -7 over three days to win the Bayonet Championship at Bayonet & Black Horse golf courses in Monterey, California. The event was held in February.

Sam also caddied for him during two qualifiers - the 2nd stage for the Web.com Tour in Mobile, Alabama last November and the PGA Tour Latinoamérica in Mazatlan, Mexico in January.

He wasn't successful with the web.com qualifier, finishing T-44 at -8, but did gain partial status on the Latinoamérica tour after tying for 22nd with a -10 total.

Last winter, Sam caddied for Torano in the PGA Tour's Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines Golf Club where Torano missed the cut by four strokes.

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## CHARITY GOLF CALENDAR

**May 18** - Royal Canadian Legion Branch 523 Victoria Harbour Spring Golf Classic, Bonaire Golf Club, 8:30 a.m. shotgun start, \$40 per person.

**May 31** - Big Brothers Big Sisters Traveling Road Show, Ainsdale Golf Course.

**May 30** - 5th Annual Charity Golf tournament in support of the Georgian College Scholarship Fund, Cranberry Golf Course at Living Water Resorts. Call the pro shop at 705-444-2699 or email mbradford@livingwaterresorts.com

**May 31** - Second Chance Kids tourney at Legacy Ridge Golf Club. For this tournament and others at Legacy Ridge contact Golf Operations Manager Sam McEvenue. 519.376.1961 ext. 305 or sam@legacyridgegolf.ca

**June 1** - Kinettes Breast Cancer Fundraiser tourney, Meaford Golf Course.

**June 7** - Owen Sound Hospital Charity Golf Classic, Legacy Ridge Golf Club.

**June 13** - Owen Sound and District Chamber of Commerce tourney, Legacy Ridge GC.

**July 13** - Third Annual Golf Fore Kids' Sake tourney in support of Big Brothers and Sisters at Scenic City Golf Course. Event includes 18 holes, BBQ, dinner, contests, silent auction, \$100 per person. Register online at bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/owensound or for more information contact Jeff Brick at jeff@rampromo.ca or 519-371-0096.

**June 14** - Zonta Ladies Golf Classic, Legacy Ridge GC.

**June 15** - Jim Millman Memorial, Legacy Ridge GC.

**June 20** - Keystone Child, Youth & Family Services, Legacy Ridge.

**June 21** - Kiwanis Golf Scramble, Stone Tree Golf and Fitness Club, \$125 per person. To register, contact warren.elder@rogers.com

**July 19** - Community Living Kincardine & District Charity Golf Classic, Ainsdale Golf Course.

**July 4** - Roxy Theater tourney, Legacy Ridge GC.

**July 5** - Ramoca Shrine Club, Legacy Ridge GC

**July 12** - Bill Georgas Memorial (Rotary Club), Legacy Ridge GC.

**July 25** - Wounded Warriors Golf Classic, Legacy Ridge GC.

**Aug. 3** - 2nd Annual Ainsdale Golf Classic, 1 p.m. shotgun start, 4-person scramble, \$500 per foursome, proceeds to Kincardine Minor Sports www.golfbrucegreysimcoe.com



Tom White tees off during the David and Goliath 2-Man Scramble at Legacy Ridge Golf Club on May 4. The event featured 9 "David" holes designed to play easier and 9 "Goliath" holes meant to be more difficult. The winners were Mike Blackburn & Nick Johnstone.

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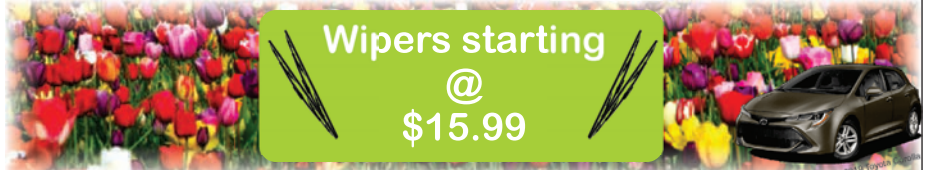
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# New owners at Woodington

Immediate plans are to enhance the golf course and prepare for two big championships

**W**oodington Lake Golf Club near Tottenham was sold over the winter and the new owners have ambitious plans for the 400-acre property.

The new owners are Toronto-area businessmen Joseph Chetti and Vincent Salvatore, who purchased the 36-hole facility from Harry and Winnifred Allard, owners of the property since 1994.

Immediate plans are to enhance the golf course, including bunker refurbishment, in preparation for two big events this summer.

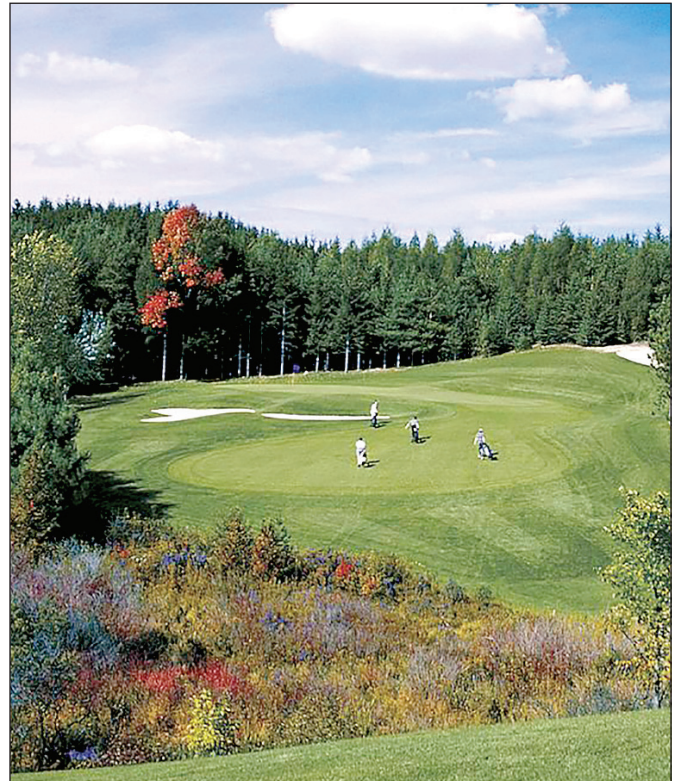
The club has signed a five-year deal to play host to both the Ontario Open, a resurrected event with a rich history, and the first-ever Ontario Disability Championship.

The Disability Championship will take place Aug. 23-25 while the Ontario Open, a storied championship whose past champions include Sam Snead, Moe Norman and George Knudson, is set for Aug. 26-29.

Besides course improvements, the new owners are also looking at several ideas to enhance the overall facility, including the possibility of an outdoor amphitheatre to hold concerts and a public use building that could be set up for various functions, like a farmers' market or skating.

They have also hired award-winning executive chef Ken Johnson from New York, who has more than 25 years of culinary experience.

Other new faces at the club are Domenic DiGironimo, who takes over as General Manager, and Phil Hidden, a CPGA professional who will be the Head Golf Professional and Pro Shop Manager.





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Check out our tour events for 2019. News and information is posted on our web site. If you are a member of a golf course in Grey and Bruce counties, don't miss out on a fun and affordable season of tour golf. Join some of your friends that are already signed up to play or make some new friends who enjoy golf as much as you do. The season starts in July, hope to see you then.

**GREY-BRUCE JUNIOR TOUR 2019 SCHEDULE:**

- July 3 10 A.M. Whispering Hills G & CC (qualifier)
- July 9 10 A.M. Scenic City Golf Course
- July 20 10:30 A.M. Stone Tree Golf & Fitness (Parent-Child event)
- July 24 10 A.M. Pike Lake Golf Club
- Aug. 1 10 A.M. Saugeen Golf Club
- Aug. 5 10 A.M. Meaford Golf Course
- Aug. 13 10 A.M. Legacy Ridge Golf Club
- Aug. 19 10 A.M. Ainsdale Golf Club
- Aug. 26 10 A.M. Cobble Beach Golf Links (Banquet)

**Kids Nights Golf & Dinner**  
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## Ainsdale

### Driving range upgrade, new superintendent

**A**insdale has a new Head Greens Superintendent this season. Al Zettler, also known as Zeke, has worked for more than 50 years in the golf industry.

He was manager/superintendent at the Walkerton Golf and Curling Club for some 35 years and was greens superintendent at both Somerhill and BlackHorse golf courses.



Al Zettler

Al has extensive knowledge and experience in turf management, reconstruction of new greens, tees and traps, he's trained in and has assisted staff in all facets of the golf club operation including greens, tees, fairways irrigation system, traps/bunkers.

He is a certified IPM agent and provides proper use of chemical applications (fertilizers and pesticides) in compliance with the IPM program, can operate all golf equipment and is known for maintaining

exceptional playing conditions on a day-to-day basis.

"Al is passionate about turf and happiest when out on the course, working his magic and having fun at the same time," the club stated in his appointment notice.

Personally, he holds a First Degree Black Belt in Martial Arts, enjoys playing guitar, horticulture, loves the great outdoors and campfires at his home on Bruce Beach.

### New Driving Range

Last fall the club began a new project on the driving range and work has continued this spring. They are moving the tee deck back to lengthen the entire driving range and hopefully prevent the loss of so many range balls through the end of the range. The other reason for doing this is to create one large and level teeing ground for everyone to enjoy.

The drainage and surface were prepared last fall and the irrigation and wiring was put in this spring.

The plan is to open the new driving range in the middle of May but golfers will be able to use the old front tee deck until it opens. The practice facility has been dedicated to course co-owner Taylor Candler's grandparents - Ron and Dahl Clarridge - who Taylor and her husband and co-owner Charles say have "supported us endlessly, loved us unconditionally, and cheered us on tirelessly from the very beginning."

It will now be known as the "Ron & Dahl Clarridge Driving Range at Ainsdale Golf Course."

## Stone Tree

### Club hires new course superintendent

**T**he club has a new greens superintendent who has previously worked in the region. John Chappell worked last season as assistant greens keeper at Monterra at Blue Mountain and before that was superintendent at Sauble Golf and Country Club. Back this summer in the pro shop is Josiah Dixon, who is a full-time student at the University of Guelph where he has been one of the top players on the men's golf team this season. Also back is Director of Golf Operations Bill Stewart, a member of the PGA of Canada since 1979.

## Cobble Beach

### Changes in pro shop this season



Mark Hughes

**B**ig changes in the pro shop at Cobble Beach Golf Links this season. Warren Thomas has taken on a new role as Executive Golf Professional and Ryan McBride has returned to the club and will assume the duties of Head Golf Professional, a position previously held by Thomas.

McBride worked at Cobble in 2015 and 2016 before taking a teaching position with GOLFTEC in Mississauga.

Thomas, in his new position, will be more involved in administration, communication and marketing but will still do some teaching.

Also joining the staff as an associate professional is Mark Hughes, who is originally from Scarborough but came to the area at age 12 when his parents moved to Sauble Beach.

He attended elementary school in Sauble and high school at West Hill in Owen Sound before enrolling in the Professional Golf Management Program at Georgian College in Barrie.

His first golf industry job was a college co-op placement at Bigwin Island Golf Club in the Muskokas, one of five top-50 golf courses in Canada where he has worked. The others are Westmount in Kitchener, Taboo in the Muskokas, Fairmount Banff Springs and Raven Golf Club at Lora Bay (now known as the Golf Club at Lora Bay).

His most recent positions were at Golf Town stores in Mississauga (Highway 401 and Mavis) and Milton and then Port Carling Golf and Country Club where he spent the past year as an associate professional.

Returning for his second year is associate professional Stephen Bardswick.

Not returning are pros Andrew Baines and Ryan Jackson. Baines, after 9 years at Cobble, is pursuing a career in real estate in the area and Jackson has moved on to an associate pro position with TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley.

## Cornerstone

### Tobermory club focusing on practice

**T**he Tobermory club has closed 6 of its 9 holes and is now a three-hole practice facility. The driving range will remain in operation as will the mini-putt course.

The tee deck capacity at the range has been expanded, new mats have been installed alongside the natural turf and more target greens and other targets have been added.

"We are looking to model our facility after the PGA (Golf Club) practice facility and learning center found just outside of Port St. Lucie, Florida," said owner Jeff Corner. (For more on the PGA Golf Club see story on pages 14-15).

Future plans include a new mini-putt theme park on the adjacent property. A consultant has been hired and they hope to start construction next year.

The club's Foot Golf course has been reduced to 9 holes from 18.

The moves are all part of adapting to the changing tourism trends on the Bruce Peninsula, says Corner.



## Northern Dunes

### Club returns to original management

The big change at the Hepworth club this season is it is back under the management of owner Lou Salvino. The club had for the past five years been managed by Golf North Properties but the company decided not to renew the lease in January 2019.

That has brought about a few changes, including a new website (northern.dunes.com) where you can book tee times online. And you can now call directly to the club instead of going through the Golf North central phone system.

Remaining at the helm is Clark Hepburn, who is General Manager and Chief Operating Officer. He will also oversee and assist with the grounds keeping at the course.

The club has a new fleet of power carts this season and has purchased a wood chipper, which will help with the big outdoor project of the year - trimming under trees along the fairways to improve the look and cut down on the number of lost balls. The trimming has started on the 16th hole but Hepburn expects it to take a full year to complete the project.

A new addition to the club's staff is sales and marketing director Shelley Partington.

Northern Dunes was established in 2000 by Salvino, who is also president and founder of a mortgage broker business in Vaughan.

## Southampton

### Susan Stein joins club as executive chef



John & Susan Stein

The club has hired Susan Stein as executive chef this season. She will join her husband John on staff as he is the course superintendent this season.

John and Susan operated Holiday Golf Club in Port Elgin for 16 seasons before the property was sold in January 2018.

Long-time club head professional John Schmidt has taken a new position as Director of Golf/

Head Golf Professional at Listowel Golf Club. Returning this season as Pro Shop Manager is Larry Pickett and his staff will include Mark Cunningham and Dan Silenzi.






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Sales Manager

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## The Club at Westlinks

### New pro shop manager and other changes at Port Elgin-area club

The Club at Westlinks has a new pro shop manager. His name is Spencer Young and he comes from Greenhills Golf Club, a ClubLink facility just outside of London in Lambeth.



Spencer Young

The London, Ont. native is a graduate of the Professional Golf Management at Humber College and he has eight and half years of experience at Greenhills - seven as Corporate Events Coordinator and one and a half years as Pro Shop Manager.

Another new face is Shawna "Big Mama" Harvey, who takes over as clubhouse chef. She is well-known in the area and has her own line of "Big Mama" barbecue sauces which are available at some local supermarkets and other locations.

Clubhouse hours have been changed to provide more flexible dining and another positive development is the clubhouse is now on town water and sewer services. Also joining the staff this season is Event Coordinator Anne Lemon.

Sandra Post, an 8-time winner on the LPGA Tour, will be returning to the club for two visits this season. She is a spokesperson for the club and has conducted golf clinics there for the past several years.

House construction at the Port Elgin-area club is well underway with 26 townhomes in the first phase and another 16 in Phase 2.

The Phase 1 townhouses will be occupied by this July and some residents have already moved in.

In addition, several single-family homes are also under construction, with occupancy scheduled for late 2019.

"We are excited to be marketing the 16 Phase 2 townhomes and to start construction on them in July. So, on the construction side, it will be a busy year," states club owner Rod Rice of Rice Developments in a recent update to members.

"When you turn into our driveway, you are going to see a bit of a detour that will stay in place until the road construction is completed in late June. Once the pavement is down, our golf course entrance will tie into the new road, aptly named Fairway Drive," he states.



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## Legacy Ridge

### Patio being expanded

The big capital project at Legacy Ridge this season is expansion of the patio. It will be expanded to the west with stamped concrete and the new area will include a gas firepit.

It will make the patio area about 50 per cent larger. You can also expect more paving of cart paths and some tee deck restoration.

The Owen Sound-area club has also launched a new website and its own "App."

The App will allow users to - among many other things - book tee times online, keep handicaps, and use it as an on-course GPS.

## Sauble

### Golf Town store inside golf shop

The club has been approved for Canada's first Golf Town store inside a golf shop. They can now provide all the major brands and you'll be able to demo drivers on the course. Products available include Titleist, Callaway, Ping, Taylormade, Cobra and Wilson.

They also have a good selection of putters, wedges, rescues and iron sets and all the major brands in soft goods.

The club says if they don't have exactly what the customer wants, they can get it in just a few days.

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# Destinations



Owen Sound resident Dave Cruickshank hits his drive on the beautiful 4th hole at the Ryder course at PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

## Best of both worlds

Ocean cruising and golfing in Florida - all in the same week

**By Steve Harron**  
Editor/Publisher  
Golf BruceGreySimcoe

**A**s I teed it up at the spectacular Pete Dye course at PGA Golf Club in Florida it struck me how cool it was that less than 24 hours earlier I had been swimming in the crystal clear waters of The Bahamas, dancing with my wife in the moonlight on the deck of a cruise ship and enjoying a Las Vegas-style show.

This experience was made possible through a unique approach to a golf holiday - combining golf at the PGA Village in Port St. Lucie with a short ocean cruise to Freeport, Bahamas. The geography works well for this combo as Port St. Lucie is only a 45-minute drive from the Atlantic Coast port of Palm Beach where Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line operates two-night cruises to Freeport, Bahamas.

And Freeport is only 70 miles (112 kilometres) from Palm Beach so you can enjoy a slow cruise through the evening, on-ship entertainment and activity and wake up in The Bahamas.

It's a fantastic way to enjoy the best of both worlds. And with cruises starting at \$139 U.S. per person, it's also a very affordable way to try cruising for the first time without the commitment of a week at sea. The cruise line operates two ships - The Grand Celebration and the Grand Classica - so there are plenty of dates to pick for your golf-cruising vacation.

The Classica, built in 1991 and refurbished in 2014, has capacity for 1,680 passengers. The Grand Celebration, built in 1986 and refurbished in 2014 and 2017, can carry 1,900 passengers.

Although smaller by today's standards, the ships still have the amenities you need for a two-day cruise. We cruised first before playing three rounds of golf at PGA Village but you could do it the other way around - and that could be your best option if you're like me and your body cries for a break and some R & R after three consecutive rounds.

But don't get me wrong. We still had a great time cruising first. And maybe the relaxing nature of the cruise actually helped my back and allowed me to play three days in a row without any issues (other than a terrible short game).

If you're thinking about this cruise/golf option here's what you can expect. You can board the ship around noon on the day of departure so you can take full advantage of the onboard activities even before departure around 5:30 p.m.

Our ship was the Grand Celebration and one thing that struck me right from the start was just how friendly and helpful the staff were. That really helped make the experience enjoyable.

And so did the onboard amenities, which include two swimming pools, three Jacuzzis, full service spa and salon, fitness centre, casino, sports bar and 10 different dining options.

I can highly recommend the fine dining option after enjoying one of the best meals I've eaten in a long time as we sailed out to sea. The food and service were both outstanding and, with a spectacular view of the ocean, it was an unforgettable experience. It's an extra charge but it's sooo worth it!

After-dinner options include several lounges and the top-notch entertainment of a Vegas-style show in the 750-person Legends Grand Theatre. But you'll eventually want to grab some sleep because you'll be waking up in The Bahamas.



# From Bahamas to PGA Village

Cont'd from previous page

Our day in Freeport was the highlight of the trip, with the "Best of Grand Bahama Island" shore excursion giving us just the right amount of culture, sightseeing and relaxation. Stops included a souvenir and candle-making shop, the Rand Nature Centre National Park, Port Lucaya Marketplace and an exclusive Beach Club.

The beach experience was amazing with the beautiful white sand and calm and clear ocean creating a stunning setting.

It was hard to leave but when we did we had a few things to look forward to: more great food and entertainment on the ship. It turned out to be a beautiful moonlight night and as we cruised out to sea with the lights of Freeport dotting the horizon we danced on the ship's upper deck. It was all kind of romantic!

Then it was off to another excellent night of entertainment in the Grand Theatre (a different show than the previous night). By morning we were back in Port Palm Beach and ready for our next adventure - three rounds of golf at PGA Village and two nights at the Hilton Garden Inn.

It was my first visit to the PGA Golf Club, which is operated by the PGA of America, and have to admit I was a little awestruck. The clubhouse alone is worth the trip, with a PGA Gallery showcasing iconic trophies and artifacts from the past 100 years. I could have wandered around the gallery for hours but we had 54 holes of golf to play in three days so I only got a glimpse of this "mini hall of fame."

In addition to three courses designed by the legendary Tom Fazio and Pete Dye, the club has a state-of-the-art 35-acre PGA Learning Centre which is open for public use. It includes:

- More than 100 full-swing practice stations
- Five acres of private instruction & practice ground
- Dedicated pitching and chipping practice & instruction areas
- 7,000 square-feet of USGA-certified putting greens
- Discover Golf Course – a 3-hole teaching course
- A modern, full line equipped custom golf shop
- Equipment testing & fitting facility.

The first course we tackled was the Dye course, arguably the toughest of the three. It's highly playable from the right tees but you will get a real taste of what Dye is known for - risk/reward holes.

While there's generally lots of room off the tee, you will also see a lot of sand - 126 bunkers in total. Some of these are strategically-placed traps in the fairway, forcing you to think hard about your next shot. And many are waste bunkers running along the edge of the fairway, creating a dramatic look.

The cool thing about the design is you are given options, including some split fairways. And if you're smart and execute well, the course will not eat you for breakfast.

Next up was the Wanamaker course designed by Fazio. The course is named after Rodman Wanamaker, who in 1916 inspired the birth of the PGA of America. It could be the prettiest of the three courses with some holes that are downright breathtaking.



One of the beautiful beaches in Freeport, Bahamas.

The par 3 sixth hole is a stunner with elevated tees, water surrounding the green and bunkers protecting the front and back of the green. The par 4 8th hole is another beauty with water down the left side and a massive bunker in front of the green.

And the par 4 18th is a great finishing hole, a dogleg right with a pond down the right side all the way to the green. It usually requires a shot over water to get to the green and that's always a fun little challenge to end your round.

The third course is another Fazio design called the Ryder, named after Ryder Cup founder Samuel Ryder. It has a Carolina feel to it with majestic pine trees and pine straw rough and is known as the friendliest course, although you could not tell that from looking at my scorecard.

This course also includes probably my favourite hole of all three courses - the 4th, a gorgeous par 5 that plays about 420 yards from the standard tees. It's a dogleg right with a large



The 18th hole on the Wanamker course at PGA Golf Club.

pond running all the way from in front of the tee box to the green. The more aggressive your line, the better your position for your second shot.

And at 420 yards, a gutsy tee shot over the water could put you in position to get on in two. So much strategy, so much fun!

Altogether, the three courses provide a superb variety of golf holes. All three have

been recognized on various "Top Courses in America" lists including Golf Digest's Top Public Courses in Florida. And the resort is rated by Golf Digest as one of the top 75 golf resorts in America.

The resort benefits from having incredibly friendly and accommodating staff who, among many other things, managed to keep smiles on their faces while rescuing our playing partners who mistakenly drove their power carts into the parking lot (the carts shut down automatically when this happens).

For the record, we did the same thing but managed to get ourselves out of the predicament on our own.

Five properties are available for Stay and Play and one I can recommend based on personal experience is the Hilton Garden Inn, a beautiful facility just minutes from the PGA Golf Club.

The lobby is spectacular, the outdoor pool has the warmest water I've experienced in a swimming pool, and the Sam Snead restaurant is located on the premises and is loaded with golf memorabilia.

For Stay and Play in info go to: [pgavillagegolf.com/hotels](http://pgavillagegolf.com/hotels).

More Info: PGA Village - [pgavillage.com/](http://pgavillage.com/)  
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Scott Van Gerwen scored the first ace of the season at Somerhill Golf Club. It came on April 28 at the 9th hole.

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April 29 - **Dave Madder** on the 180-yard 11th hole at Stone Tree Golf and Fitness Club. It was Dave's first ace in a long golf career and the first one of the season at Stone Tree.  
 April 28 - **Scott Van Gerwen** on #9 at Somerhill Golf Club. First ace of season for Somerhill.

Good luck!

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