

SPECIAL EDITION

THE BEST OF

GOLF

Vol. 17, No. 1

BRUCE GREYSIMCOE

Spring 2021

Your guide to
**GREAT
GOLF**
in the region

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New junior tour in Simcoe

Local pros offering competitive opportunities for young golfers

A new tour for junior golfers will operate in Simcoe County this season. The Simcoe County Junior Golf Tour was created by CPGA pro Terry O'Brien to give local golfers an opportunity to compete without travelling great distances.

O'Brien, who runs Terry O'Brien Golf Academy out of Cedar Links Golf Centre in Barrie, will be assisted by fellow pro golfer Ryan Curran.

The tour kicked off June 6 at Brooklea Golf and Country Club.

The other events are:

- June 13 – Duntroon Highlands GC
- July 7 – Settlers' Ghost GC
- July 20 – Innisfil Creek Golf Course
- July 25 – Simoro Golf Links
- July 26 – Brooklea Golf & CC (Area Championship)
- Aug. 5 – Orr Lake Golf Club
- Aug. 17 – Springwater Golf Course
- Aug. 22 – Tangle Creek Golf & CC (Simcoe Cup championship)
- Sept. 5 - Simoro Golf Links

Assisting with promotion of the tour is former LPGA Tour pro Stephanie Sherlock, who is from the Barrie area.

The tour will be part of the newly-launched Junior Golf Pathway by Golf Ontario, an initiative to bring key stakeholders together to deliver benefits in three key areas:

- To provide clarity in the current competitive junior golf space
- To outline a clear path through the junior golf pathway for aspiring competitive junior golfers.
- Connect young golfers and their families with training & competitive opportunities best suited to their skill levels.

All competing players will receive Golf Ontario order of merit points.

The Grey-Bruce Junior Golf Tour, which has operated for many years, is also planning a full tour schedule subject to provincial government orders.

Scheduled Events

- June 30 - Whispering Hills Golf & CC (qualifier), Hanover
- July 6 - Scenic City Golf Course, Owen Sound
- July 14 - Pike Lake Golf Centre, Mount Forest area
- July 20 - Legacy Ridge Golf Club, Owen Sound
- July 26 - Ainsdale Golf Course, Kincardine
- Aug. 2 - Meaford Golf Course, Meaford
- Aug. 17 - Cobble Beach Golf Links, Kemble
- Aug. 23 - Saugeen Golf Club, Port Elgin



BRAESTONE CLUB

Orillia area 705-325-0678

braestoneclub.ca

QUICK FACTS:

- Par 71
- 6,389 yards
- New clubhouse opened in 2020

This 18-hole course with its long wide fairways, water hazards and elevated tee offers a perfect playing balance of challenge and pleasure. The entire golf course has undergone a rejuvenation. On the front nine you will be challenged with a layout that hugs the perimeter of the land. As the back nine heads inward you will find yourself once again enjoying the sweeping vistas and natural water features. Truly remarkable!

From the Publisher

Special edition focuses on area's awesome golf offerings

Welcome to this special edition of Golf BruceGreySimcoe - a publication that celebrates the region as a terrific golf destination. We have lots to celebrate and it's worth noting the events and efforts that have gone into making this one of the most desired golf destinations in the province.

It all started back in 2006. That was the first year golf courses from the Grey-Bruce region banded together to promote local courses at golf shows in London and Toronto.

I remember from those first shows how little golfers knew about our region. I recall one golfer in London getting confused about the name of the region, saying "Grey Goose, is that where the vodka comes from?" To say we didn't have much name recognition was an understatement. Fortunately, we benefited big time from what was happening around the same time - some awesome golf courses were being constructed in our region. High-profile courses Cobble Beach Golf Links and The Raven at Lora Bay were preparing to open. And other great golf courses like BlackHorse, the Ferns, The Links at Piper's Glen were coming on the scene as well.

In 2015, our marketing efforts were expanded to include Simcoe County which became part of the newly-designated provincial tourism region of BruceGreySimcoe.

This gave us more than 50 additional golf courses for the region, meaning we now have 85 courses in total.

All these developments have combined to give us a tremendous boost to our marketing efforts. And now when we attend golf shows golfers know us and rave about their experiences visiting our beautiful area.

It has been a rewarding experience and I can't help feeling proud of our golf courses and tourism partners who have joined together to make us such a desirable golf destination.

Enjoy the edition and have a great golf season! And know that your feedback is always welcome!

- Publisher/Editor Steve Harron harronmarketing@gmail.com

* * *

A few housekeeping items. This special edition will be the only print edition this season. A digital edition will be available in July with a July 1, 2021 deadline for advertising and editorial content. To keep up to date on local golf news, you can sign up for our regular e-newsletter at golfbrucegreysimcoe.com

Steve Harron
Publisher/Editor

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NO ARTIFICIAL FLAVOURS OR COLOURS

New

TROPICAL COCONUT PINEAPPLE SMOOTHIE

New

RED RASPBERRY SLUSHIE

New

PINK LEMONADE SLUSHIE

Local restaurants: 1015 10th Street W., Owen Sound 278 Goderich Street, Port Elgin 334 Sykes St., Meaford

COBBLE BEACH GOLF LINKS

Georgian Bay's Extraordinary Golf Resort Community
Minutes north of Owen Sound
cobblebeach.com 519-370-2713

The words "links" and "links-style" are often misused in contemporary golf, but they meet their true expression in Doug Carrick's design. This semi-private course presents the pleasurable excitement golfers associate with such seaside sites as St. Andrews, Pebble Beach, and Ballybunion. Over land that tumbles and rolls, rising to present shoreline views and cascading to the bluffs above the water's edge, Carrick has laid out a par 72, 7,100-yard challenge that will test the finest players, with four sets of tees to accommodate golfers at all levels of skill. The Nantucket-style clubhouse offers sweeping views of the course and the bay. The upper floors of the clubhouse feature a boutique-style Inn with 10 luxury suites, guest lounge and meeting room. The Sweetwater Restaurant is also found within the clubhouse and offers a dining room, bar and a patio. Just north of the Clubhouse there are 5 private cottages, each complete with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living area with a queen size sofa bed, wet bar and stunning views of Georgian Bay. The course and club are the centrepiece of a planned lifestyle community with a variety of options for those who want to call Cobble Beach their home.

- Best New Course in Ontario (2007)
- Best New Clubhouse in Ontario (2007)
- Top 100 course in Canada
- Luxurious Accommodations with views of Georgian Bay
- Growing golf community now selling Phase 2

Fun Fact: While the renowned Doug Carrick was responsible for the award-winning design at Cobble Beach, he got some help in shaping the green at the spectacular 17th hole. Albert Manthorne, a golf course shaper from Evans Golf Corp., came up with the idea of a triple-tiered green with an area on the right that dips dramatically. In fact, that right-side area is known as Albert's Tonque in recognition of the bulldozer operator's contribution to the design.



SAUGEEN GOLF CLUB

Port Elgin area saugeengolf.com 519-389-4031

Located near the shores of Lake Huron, only minutes from terrific beaches, the club has, for almost 100 years, offered an outstanding golfing experience. Known for its tree-lined fairways and bunkers of sparkling white sand, the 27-hole course had legendary Stanley Thompson as the architect on the original Legacy nine-hole layout. The club also offers a beautiful and modern clubhouse, driving range and practice facilities and a fully-stocked pro shop.



QUICK FACTS: Saugeen played host to the Ontario Junior Boys Golf Championship and two Toronto Players Tour (TPT) events in 2020. The club received rave reviews from the players and was rated favourite facility on the TPT Tour. The club has also been chosen as the host site for the 2024 Canadian Senior Men's Golf Championship.



LEGACY RIDGE GOLF CLUB

Owen Sound area 519-376-1961 legacyridgegolf.ca

QUICK FACTS:

- Par 71
- 6301 yards (from the tips)
- Originally designed by the legendary Stanley Thompson
- Known for its excellent course conditions and spectacular views of Georgian Bay

Nestled along the shores of Georgian Bay just north of Owen Sound sits Legacy Ridge Golf Club, one of Ontario's premier golf destinations. The club offers a unique mix of picturesque scenery, rich history and experienced, hospitable staff. These ingredients come together to make this club a must-play destination for visitors from across the globe. Legacy Ridge acts as a fantastic destination for those across Ontario from areas including Barrie, Sauble Beach, Wiarton, and all along the Saugeen Shores. Golfers have loved the course since it first opened in 1920. The course was originally designed by famed golf course architect Stanley Thompson. The course layout manages the difficult double task of challenging experienced players while helping rookies relax as they learn this classic game.



PIKE LAKE GOLF CENTRE

Mount Forest/Harriston area pikelake.com 1-800-265-2551

Pike Lake Golf Centre, nestled in the quiet countryside of rural Ontario, has proudly evolved from a small beginning in 1961 with just a 9-hole golf course, lodge and motel into one of Ontario's largest family-owned resorts. Located minutes from the quaint towns of Mount Forest and Harriston, Pike Lake offers 27 holes of golf, full-service practice facility, 20-room motel, cottage and trailer rentals, clubhouse restaurant, seasonal campground, overnight camping, and year-round living all encompassed around our privately owned, mile-long spring fed lake with beach and catch & release fishing. We strive to improve our facility with the hope of making lasting memories for all our guests. Whether Pike Lake is your permanent four-season home, vacation property or your weekend getaway, we are honoured to share our facility with our guests!



Fun Fact: Did you know PGA Tour player David Hearn learned to play golf at Pike Lake? His parents had a summer home nearby and he spent countless hours at the club's driving range and on the course. He is shown in photo at right with Head Pro Greg Shaw during a visit to the club in 2016.



QUICK FACTS:

- 27 Holes of Golf
- Stay & Play packages (Golf View Motel, rental trailers & houses)
- Permanent Living & Seasonal Camping
- Encompassing 500 acres, spring fed lake, private beach.

Senior Ryder Cup returns

17 clubs from the region competing this season

Seventeen golf courses in the BruceGreySimcoe region are participating this season in the Senior Ryder Cup (SRC). The competition began June 7 and will continue until the championship on Sept. 14 at Whistle Bear Golf Club in Kitchener. The season-long competition, featuring a variety of different Ryder Cup-style formats, involves teams that compete within their own division.

The regional playoffs will be held in August with the top teams advancing to the championship. The regional playoff for the BruceGreySimcoe area is scheduled for Aug. 16 at Barrie Country Club.

The Ken Dunlop division – named after the Saugeen Golf Club member who has been active on the SRC board for several years – consists of Saugeen, BlackHorse, Kincardine and Legacy Ridge.

Division P includes BGS course Ainsdale and one non-BGS course – Seaforth.

Division R includes BGS courses Borden Golf Club, Brooklea Golf & Country Club and Settlers' Ghost. The fourth is Cedarhurst just outside the region in the Beaverton area.

Division S includes Harbour View Golf & Country Club near Bradford and Silver Brooke Golf Club near Barrie and two Muskoka courses – South Muskoka Curling and Golf Club and Oak Bay.

Division 1 includes Bonaire Golf Course and Simoro Golf Links and two Muskoka courses – North Granite Ridge and Muskoka Highlands.

The Phil Stevens Division includes Barrie Country Club, Heritage Hills, The Club at Bond Head and The Briars, which is just outside of

Simcoe County in Sutton.

Division X includes Tangle Creek G & CC, Vespra Hills and two non-BGS courses – Shelburne Golf & CC and Orchard Beach G & CC.

In total, there are 151 courses participating this season.

The SRC noted on its website in late May that some adjustments to the schedule may be required due to the COVID-19 shutdown that delayed the start of the 2021 season.

The 2020 season was cancelled due to the pandemic.



The Senior Ryder Cup Championship was played at Saugeen Golf Club in 2018.

NOTTAWASAGA RESORT

Alliston 705-435-5504 nottawasagaresort.com

Experience a true test of golf surrounded by the natural beauty of the Nottawasaga Valley. Considered to be a golfer's paradise, the Nottawasaga Resort is home to two courses that offer challenging fairways and dramatic elevation changes, the perfect combination for both serious and recreational players. Known for its twists and turns, the 27-hole Nottawasaga Course features tight fairways that will test the accuracy of your swing as you negotiate your way through mature trees and the winding banks of the Nottawasaga River. The 18-hole Ridge golf course features spectacular elevation changes, tall trees, and large undulating greens offering a demanding but fair challenge to all golfers.

QUICK FACTS:

- 27-hole Nottawasaga Course
- 18-hole Ridge Course
- 269 spacious hotel rooms
- Amenities include restaurant, ice rink, fitness facilities, swimming pool & many more

MARKDALE GOLF & CURLING CLUB

markdalegolfandcurlingclub.ca

519-986-2690

QUICK FACTS:

Par: 35

Length: 2,777 yards

Signature hole: Par 3 7th

Email: markdalegcccinfo@gmail.com

Established in 1964 in beautiful Markdale, Ontario, the Markdale Golf & Curling Club features a challenging 9-hole golf course that is located minutes from the Beaver Valley in Grey Highlands. The course offers a unique golf experience in a natural setting with mature greens and manicured fairways that have been built for golfers of all skill levels. The staff are committed to providing you with customer service that will make your golf visit memorable. Let them show you why the Markdale Golf & Curling Club is one of the best kept secrets in Ontario!



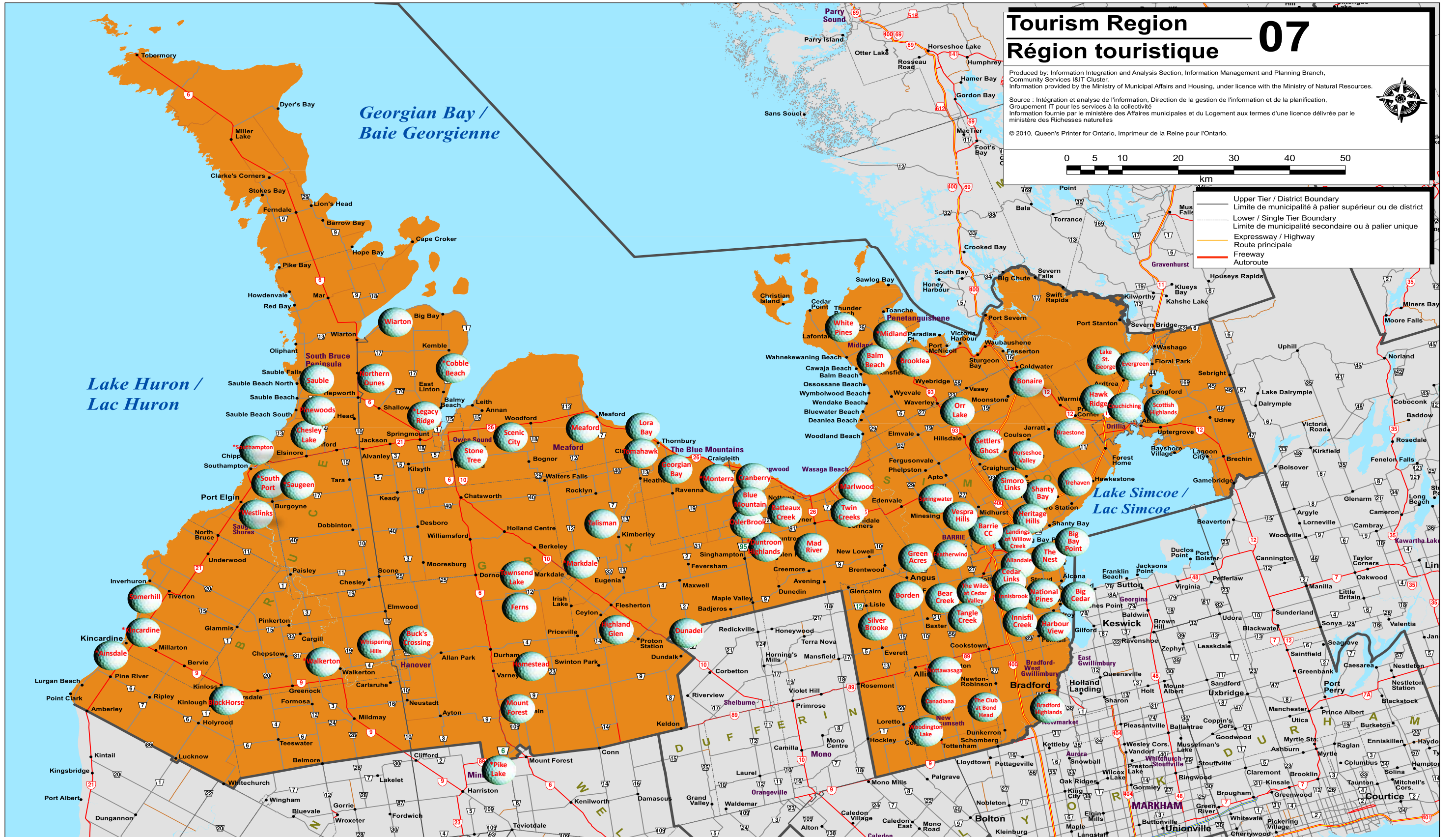
9th hole



7th hole

Courses of BruceGreySimcoe

* indicates course is member of GOLF BGS Marketing Group

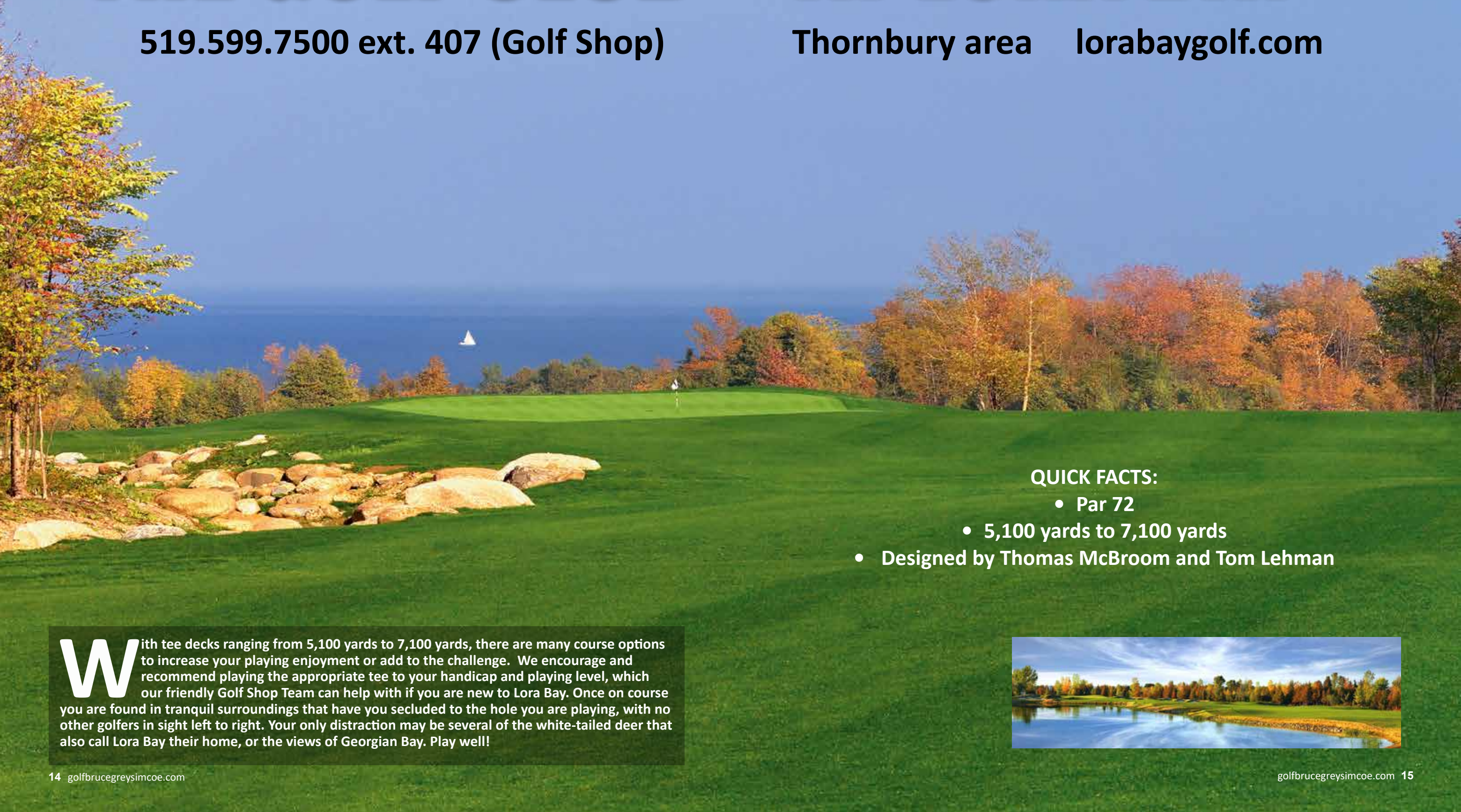


THE GOLF CLUB

AT LORA BAY

519.599.7500 ext. 407 (Golf Shop)

Thornbury area lorabaygolf.com



QUICK FACTS:

- Par 72
- 5,100 yards to 7,100 yards
- Designed by Thomas McBroom and Tom Lehman

With tee decks ranging from 5,100 yards to 7,100 yards, there are many course options to increase your playing enjoyment or add to the challenge. We encourage and recommend playing the appropriate tee to your handicap and playing level, which our friendly Golf Shop Team can help with if you are new to Lora Bay. Once on course you are found in tranquil surroundings that have you secluded to the hole you are playing, with no other golfers in sight left to right. Your only distraction may be several of the white-tailed deer that also call Lora Bay their home, or the views of Georgian Bay. Play well!



MONTERRA GOLF

at Blue Mountain Resort

877-445-0231

bluemountainresort.ca/golf

QUICK FACTS:

- Par 72
- 6525 yards from the tips
- Designed by top Canadian golf architect Tom McBroom



Challenge yourself with a round at one of Ontario's most popular resort courses - Monterra Golf. Designed in 1989 by Tom McBroom, Monterra Golf is a formidable challenge for golfers and is one of the many recreation experiences to be found at the four-season resort and the Village at Blue Mountain. A traditional links course, it encompasses rolling bent grass fairways, razorback mounding, 86 bunkers, seven lakes, ravines, and spectacular elevated tee shots. In addition to the course itself, Monterra Golf offers a full service golf shop, deli and bar and an 18,000-square-foot practice area. The course has received numerous awards and recognition, including certification by the Audubon Society's Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

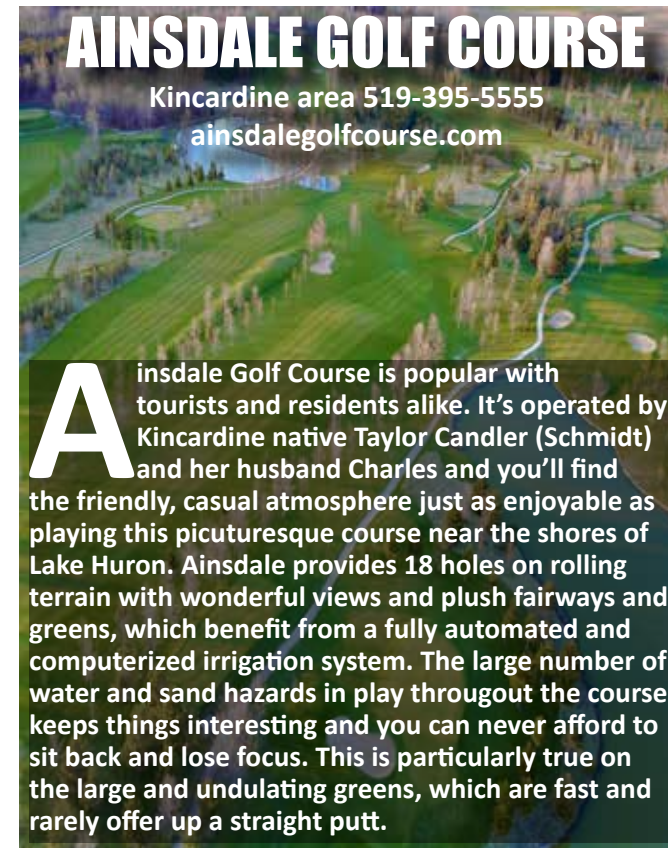
SOUTHAMPTON GOLF & CC

Southampton 519-797-3684 southamptongolf.ca

QUICK FACTS:

- Par 72
- 6,300 yards (from the tips)
- Designed by Robbie Robinson
- Minutes from Lake Huron beaches

Southampton Golf and Country Club is located in the heart of one of the most popular vacation spots in Grey-Bruce and is only a short drive from the fabulous beaches of Southampton, Port Elgin and Sauble. The Robbie Robinson-designed course has gently rolling fairways lined by mature trees, large greenside bunkers and numerous gardens, creating a beautiful park-like golf setting. Recognized for its immaculate greens and challenging hole layout, at 6,300 yards and with three sets of tee blocks, the course is a fair test of golf for all skill levels. In addition to a fully-stocked pro shop, the club has a unique clubhouse named Hampton Hall. It is a popular venue accommodating large groups up to 150 for golf tournaments, banquets and wedding receptions.



AINSDALE GOLF COURSE

Kincardine area 519-395-5555

ainsdalegolfcourse.com

Ainsdale Golf Course is popular with tourists and residents alike. It's operated by Kincardine native Taylor Candler (Schmidt) and her husband Charles and you'll find the friendly, casual atmosphere just as enjoyable as playing this picturesque course near the shores of Lake Huron. Ainsdale provides 18 holes on rolling terrain with wonderful views and plush fairways and greens, which benefit from a fully automated and computerized irrigation system. The large number of water and sand hazards in play throughout the course keeps things interesting and you can never afford to sit back and lose focus. This is particularly true on the large and undulating greens, which are fast and rarely offer up a straight putt.

WALKERTON GOLF & Curling Club

Just west of Walkerton 519-881-0709

walkertongcc.com

Walkerton GCC's beautifully landscaped grounds incorporate the natural beauty of meadows, forests, natural foliage along with a pond and creek on 50 acres of land. Designed and groomed to excite every level of golfer, you can enjoy the challenge playing one of Ontario's finest 9-hole courses.

Honouring Mike Doyle

Toronto Players Tour renames Tour Championship

This fall the Toronto Players Tour (TPT) will honour a well-liked and respected man who played a pivotal role in establishing Cobble Beach Golf Links as one of the top golf courses in the country.

The tour has decided to rename its championship to the Mike Doyle Tour Championship.

The event is scheduled for Oct. 5-6 at Cobble Beach.

Mike was the first Director of Operations at Cobble Beach, which is annually ranked among the top 100 golf courses in Canada (21st in 2020).

He died March 17 at age 80 after his fourth battle with cancer. He was a proud grandfather of TPT player Keaton Jones and the tour said in a statement after renaming the championship that they cherished Mike's values.

"His love of golf, family and treating people the right way, is what Toronto Players Tour prides itself in trying to be," they stated.

Besides the love for his family, he enjoyed all sports, playing golf wherever his travels took him, was an avid scotch collector, entrepreneur and leader to many.

He started his own business, Concept Metals, in 1971. This evolved into a career in the stainless steel industry where he was President of Avesta Sheffield in Canada and the US from 1984 to 2000.

He was involved in the ownership and direction of Dundee Country Club. He oversaw the family business for 17 years before its sale in 2000. Mike retired in 2000 and moved to the Bruce

Peninsula and spent his winters at his home in Florida.

During "retirement" Mike devoted his time to the development of the Cobble Beach from 2006 to 2010.

From 2011 until his death, Mike consulted on the development of Drayton Ridge and was working on his vision of The Agrihood and Golf Academy.

"We adore you with all our hearts," the family stated in his obituary notice. "We will miss you in each moment and smile at the joy of being loved by you. It's so hard to let you go so we will just keep you close to our hearts."



Mike Doyle in front of the 9th green at Cobble Beach Golf Links.

Horseshoe moves to 12-hole course

New layout incorporates holes from former front 9

Horseshoe Valley Resort has a new look for its golf course this season. Last year, it operated a 9-hole championship course on the south side and a par 3 course on the north side.

This year, it will offer a 12-hole course which will make use of the existing 9-hole layout plus three holes from the par 3 course.

The par 3 course was developed last year by modifying the former front 9 layout from the 18-hole Valley course.

So the new holes will actually be a return to the original holes:

- Hole 10 – a par 5 - is the former #2
- Hole 11 – a par 4 - is the former #8
- Hole 12 – a par 3 - is the former #9

The 12-hole course includes 6 par 4s playing from 287 to 379 yards, 3 par 5s playing from 458 to 523 yards and 3 par 3s ranging from 160 to 191 yards.

Director of Golf Nate Clingersmith said the 12-hole concept has been well-received by members.

"Time is of the essence and with so many other activities on the resort it gives them the chance to play in less time and then go mountain biking or go to the beach," he said.

Last year there was high demand for replays on the championship 9-hole course so the extra holes will help golfers get more holes in without having to do another full 9.

The new configuration also means the unused portion of the former front 9 layout is available for future housing development.

BONAIRE GOLF COURSE

Coldwater 705-835-3125
bonairegolf.com

Bonaire Golf Course offers 18 holes of well-manicured golfscape and true playable greens. Though it's only 25 minutes north of Barrie, golfing at Bonaire feels like playing in a protected park. It is renowned for its quality greens and interesting layouts that create a challenge for all levels of golf. Enjoy the beautiful view from the clubhouse and patio overlooking five tees and four greens.

SOUTH PORT GC

Port Elgin area 519-832-5650
southportgolfcourse.com

South Port Golf Club is a 9-hole facility between Port Elgin and Southampton, Ontario. It was purchased by Rick Elliott and Scott Bowman in 2016 and they wasted no time in making improvements. The clubhouse has been completely renovated and course conditions and landscaping have both been upgraded. The result is a picturesque 100-acre golf course that winds through mature forests and beautiful wetland areas. It's relatively flat land so it's a great course to walk. And it has a driving range and practice green so you can get your game tuned up prior to teeing off.

THE CLUB AT WESTLINKS

Port Elgin area 519-832-4653
theclubatwestlinks.com

Golf course designer Jason Miller harnessed the character of Scottish golf to create an inland links masterpiece that meanders between fescue-covered mounds and sod-walled bunkers. In the Scottish game one must contest the wind, face the challenges that lie before, and enjoy a game that is playable for all. The 12-hole layout offers the option of playing, 6, 9, 12 or 18 holes - each round returning players to the clubhouse area. The generous fairways and four tee decks provide a challenge to all ages and skill levels. The course rewards the well-struck golf shot and is designed to be fair to all while punishing the poor shot.

MIDLAND GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

705-526-5822 midlandgolfcc.com

Midland Golf & Country Club can only be described through its heritage. James Playfair, a local businessman, established the club in 1919. The golf course was designed by Nicol Thompson, the older brother of famous Canadian architect Stanley Thompson. In 1923, the club was purchased by the membership and governed by a Board of Directors with James Playfair as the Board Chairman. Doug Carrick, a student of Thompson's, was hired in the early 1990s to begin a long-range plan for capital golf course improvements. Mr. Carrick exceeded everyone's expectations by capturing the sense of heritage and classic design that was established in 1919. The club has one of the friendliest memberships you will ever come across. Eighteen holes of classic golf architecture allows for an enjoyable challenge for both the casual and advanced golfers.

South of Collingwood
705-445-3554 duntroongolf.ca

DUNTROON HIGHLANDS

Duntroon Highlands is known as the Jewel of South Georgian Bay. The club is nestled in the Niagara Escarpment, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. It's breathtaking views of South Georgian Bay, dramatic landscape features and relaxed atmosphere have made it a favourite place for locals and visitors. Located just south of Collingwood and The Blue Mountains, it offers up Ontario's highest golf course, a cafe inspired by the region's rich farming history, extensive trails including access to the Bruce Trail, as well as a unique setting for retreats and special events.

AROUND THE CLUBS

What's new at area golf courses

Ainsdale Golf Course Patio upgrade, new carts

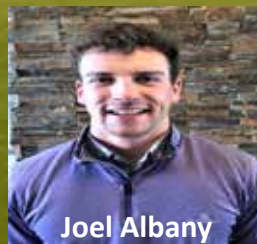
Among the changes this season is a new look for the patio with retractable sun shades. Also new is a fleet of 60 E-Z Go golf carts – all with USB ports for charging your phone or plugging in a speaker for tunes on the course. The club has also implemented a new self-serve club and cart storage system.

Cranberry Golf Resort New instructor at Collingwood club

Connor McQueston has joined the Collingwood club as an in-house Golf Instructor. He has extensive experience at several prestigious clubs across Canada. Having started his career at Magna Golf Club, he has since spent seasons in the pro shop at Beacon Hall Golf Club and as an Assistant Professional at Bigwin Island Golf Club. Before returning recently to Ontario, he spent three seasons as a teaching pro at Whistler Golf Club.



Graham Perry



Joel Albany



Paul Snider

Blue Mountain Golf & CC New head pro, assistant and course superintendent

Some big changes at the club this season. They include Graham Perry taking over as Head Professional and Manager of Golf Services. He has been a Blue Mountain staff member for 37 years, starting off in the back shop at age 14 and turning pro in 1991. He played on the Emerald Coast Winter Tour in Florida in the 1990s and other mini-tours up to five years ago. He replaces Rob Weiss, who has retired. He'll be working with new Assistant Professional Joel Albany, who moves over from OslerBrook Golf & Country Club. Joel attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia on a golf scholarship and turned pro in 2018. He specializes in competitive junior development and on-course instruction. Also joining the club this season was Paul Snider, who takes over as Course Superintendent. His most recent position was at Batteaux Creek Golf Club but he has also worked at the former Owen Sound Golf and Country Club (now known as Legacy Ridge GC) and was part of a team that did irrigation projects at Weston, Westmount Golf and Country Club, St. George's, Sutton Creek and Credit Valley. He has also served as president of the Georgian Bay Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Homestead Golf Resort Clubhouse renovations

The clubhouse at the Durham-area club was going through some extensive renovations this spring. The club says the project is coming along nicely and they were hoping to have the clubhouse back open by mid-June. The course remains open and a temporary registration area has been set up.

Markdale Golf & Curling Club Expanded patio and new carts

Improvements this season include an expansion of the patio overlooking the 9th hole and a new fleet of 20 power carts. The interlocking stone patio will be about three times larger and will include new outdoor furniture. The club has recently sold off 90 acres of a 140-acre parcel that had been purchased previously to allow for possible expansion to 18 holes. The land, which is north of the course along the first hole, will be used for a housing development. The sale has put the club in a better financial position to make improvements to the course, club facilities and amenities over the next few years, says board president Jeff Wilkinson.

Mad River Golf Club Carl Penfold takes over as head pro

Carl Penfold is the new Head Golf Professional at Mad River Golf Club, a private club near Creemore. He comes from Earl Grey Golf Club in Calgary where he was head pro. Prior to that, he worked at Toronto Golf Club, Eagles Nest, Hockley Valley Resort, Credit Valley, and Deerfield. He will be working with associate pro Myles Bradford, who many will remember from his days working at Cranberry Golf Resort. Myles joined the club last season.

Kincardine Golf Club New pro shop manager

Shelley Gauthier has retired from running the pro shop after 9 years and taking over is Lindsay Shewfelt. Darren Fritz is returning as superintendent with his team to keep the course in great shape. The course is going to look different in spots now due to many trees being removed around the 6th, 7th and 8th holes in preparation for a neighbouring housing development. Julia Connelly is returning as clubhouse manager with a new menu for grab-and-go options and hopefully for dining-in on the patio when the rules allow.

Duntroon Highlands Pond work, new carts and renos

Upgrades this season include rehabilitation of the pond between the 2nd and third holes, renovations at the Starter Shack and Caddy Shack, resurfacing and reshaping of the driveway, doubling of the size of the #3 tee and the introduction of 30 new power carts. The club has also improved the cart path up to the 9th tee and upper Practice Range. Details on the projects can be found in a clever YouTube video featuring General Manager John Marshall.

Tangle Creek Long-time golf instructor retires

Murray St. Onge has retired from his position as Head Teaching Pro at the Thornton-area club. The 69-year-old Orillia native started teaching golf in the mid-1980s at Shanty Bay Golf Club and among his many students were Stephanie Sherlock, who went on to compete on the LPGA Tour, and Drew Nesbitt, who was played in several PGA Tour events and has won once on the PGA Tour Latinoamerica where he currently competes.

Big events coming

Ontario championships scheduled for region

While the pandemic has affected some plans for the 2021 season, it was expected at press time that three Ontario amateur championships will still be coming to the area this summer. Golf Ontario had not released its revised provincial championship schedule by late May but the original schedule had the following events planned:

Ontario Disabilities, July 20-21 at Woodington Lake Golf Club near Tottenham
 Ontario Junior Boys Match Play, Aug. 17-19, Tangle Creek Golf and Country Club near Barrie
 Ontario Junior Girls Match Play, Aug. 18-19, Tangle Creek G & CC

The NextGen Ontario Championship had originally been planned for May 28-30 at Saugeen Golf Club near Port Elgin but had to be cancelled because of the pandemic.

Several provincial championship qualifiers had originally been scheduled for BruceGreySimcoe courses and some of those have been cancelled.

Three other big events scheduled to take place this season are:

RBC PGA Scramble:

Aug. 11 - Regional Qualifier at The Nest Golf Club near Barrie

Pro Championship:

Oct. 5-6 Toronto Players Mike Doyle Tour Championship at Cobble Beach Golf Links

Amateur Tour Players Championship:

Oct. 15-16 at Cobble Beach Golf Links



Did you know?

Big Bay Point GC designed by Stanley Thompson

The Big Bay Point Golf Club near Barrie was designed by the legendary Stanley Thompson. In the late spring of 1926, Thompson helped build the 9-hole course. The beginnings of the course had already started a few years earlier when several local cottagers cleared many rocks from the farmland owned by one of them. First there were 3 holes, followed by 5 holes the next year and then Thompson was hired to take over and design the whole layout. The way the greens fit into the mounds at Big Bay Point is a characteristic feature of the Thompson courses. Narrow, mature tree-lined fairways lead you into Thompson's signature raised greens surrounded by grass mounds and bunkers.

Meaford Golf Course
408 Ridge Rd.

Check out our
New Layout!
Now a par 70!

meafordgolf.com
519-538-1400

Baywest Toyota's Hole-in-One Club

The popular Baywest Toyota's Hole-in-One Club is back for another season. If you or someone you know scores an ace please send the details to harron-marketing@gmail.com Just need the basic details: Date, hole #, yardage, club used and names of playing partners. While it's still early, we have a few members of the club already this season.

- June 4 - Kim Abraham with a 7-iron from 101 yards on #8 at Cobble Beach Golf Links.
- June 2 - Jimmy Richardson on #11 at The Wilds of Cedar Valley.
- June 1 - Brian Peters with a 9-iron on #7 at Settlers' Ghost.
- May 24 - Tony Pereira with a 4 hybrid from 151 yards on #8 on the Lake course at Pike Lake Golf Centre.
- April 15 - Sylvain Laramée on #16 at Settlers' Ghost.
- April 14 - Ryan Spataro with a 9 iron from 162 yards on #11 at Settlers' Ghost Golf Club.
- April 8 - Barry Cunningham with a 7-iron from 164 yards on #6 at Northern Dunes Golf Club.

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PATIO PARADISE

Some of our favourite places for apres golf

Cobble Beach Golf Links near Owen Sound: Large outdoor patio that wraps around the Nantucket-style clubhouse. Spectacular views of Georgian Bay and the 9th and 18th holes. Patio was expanded by 2,100 sq. ft. this season by taking down the Marquis Tent on the north side of the clubhouse.

Bonaire Golf Course near Coldwater: Clubhouse/patio overlooks 5 tees and four greens, providing a beautiful setting for a post-round beverage.

Braestone Club near Orillia opened its new clubhouse last season and its patio has a sensational setting overlooking the course and Horseshoe Valley.

The Golf Club at Lora Bay near Thornbury: Stunning patio views are of the 18th hole and Georgian Bay. A first class vista at one of the area's premier courses.

Saugeen Golf Club near Port Elgin: The patio received an upgrade in 2013 when the clubhouse underwent a major renovation. The spectacular setting offers up great views of both the course and those famous Lake Huron sunsets.

Legacy Ridge Golf Club near Owen Sound: The patio was enlarged and improved dramatically in 2019. It offers an outstanding view of the 18th hole, partial view of the 1st hole as well as Georgian Bay to the east.



Canadian championship

Senior Men's national event planned for Saugeen in 2024

Saugeen Golf Club has picked a fine way to celebrate its 100th Anniversary. The Port Elgin-area club has been picked as the host club for the Canadian Senior Men's Golf Championship in 2024.

The event will be held from Sept. 12-16 and will coincide with the celebration of Saugeen's centennial.

"The board and management of Saugeen are very excited to host this prestigious event," the board stated in an email announcing the event.

Famed golf course architect Stanley Thompson worked on the original 9 holes and in more recent years Canadian golf course designer Graham Cooke modified the layout, which is now 27 holes.

Earlier this spring Cooke, a multiple winner of the Canadian Senior Men's Championship, sent out an email to give fellow senior golfers an idea of what to expect at Saugeen in 2024.

Here is a copy of that email:

"The Saugeen Golf Club is a wonderful venue for the Canadian Senior Amateur.

I was fortunate enough to work on some fun and expressive Saugeen Course modifications over a number of years. I looked forward to each and every visit as this course was very expressive, the membership totally welcoming and the clubhouse atmosphere was warm and friendly. They will make you feel like part of their family.

The Saugeen course has three excellent nine-hole loops and each nine has an old world charm. The golf holes have tremendous variety and it takes nerves and focus to negotiate your way around ponds, forests and unique golf green settings. Make sure you get

"Golf courses need to put a smile on your face. Saugeen does that."

- Canadian golf course architect Graham Cooke

a practice round or two under your belt as there is a lot of course character you need to understand before that opening round drive. Senior golfers will simply love these challenges. You don't need to be the longest hitter but you will need a good putting touch and be ready to take on some fine risk/reward shots to attain success.

The Saugeen Golf Club has long achieved a fine respect for the amazing course conditioning they seem to achieve year after year. Seniors will enjoy the pace of the greens and the tight smooth lies they will find in the fairways. Getting some good rollout on the close mown fairways will certainly please the accurate drivers. Hey, Seniors never hit wayward drives, right? All kidding aside, this course is very memorable and has so many scenic golf holes that you will all return with fine memories.

Golf courses need to put a smile on your face. Saugeen does that. The course will gladly let you score and celebrate good shots. The course is located in an attractive rural area of Ontario, a short scenic drive northwest from Toronto. The course rests in the country all by itself, no housing, no noise. From Stanley Thompson to Freddie Hulls and Dave Moote and then to myself we have all added our touch to this lovely property.

"Put this date on your calendar and meet up with old friends and experience a fine course and Saugeen hospitality."

KINCARDINE GOLF CLUB

519-396-2112 kincardinegolfclub.com

QUICK FACTS:

- One of Canada's oldest golf clubs (opened in 1906)
 - Par 36
 - 3000 yards

One of Canada's oldest golf courses, Kincardine Golf Club is a semi-private, 9-hole course steeped in tradition. The course measures about 3,000 yards and offers a challenge for all levels of golfers. If you are a golf history buff it is a must play. The club has a very active membership and is a hub of community activity. Green fee players are welcome. It's not only the oldest golf course in the area, but probably the friendliest as well. Visit the club's website or check them out on Facebook.