

GOLF

BRUCE GREYSIMCOE

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Fond memories of Toby Keith

Ainsdale Golf Course owners got to know famous country singer during their time in Oklahoma. And he even had a role in them getting together. Pg. 4-6



Local golfers show their support at Masters

See pg. 10-13



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New management for National Pines

PurposefulGolf to take over in November 2024

PurposefulGolf has entered into a 21-year lease agreement to manage National Pines Golf Club near Barrie, effective November 2024. The announcement follows Purposeful's 2023 acquisition of The Ridge at Manitou in McKellar, Ont. National Pines will continue to operate as a private, member-based club, and Ridge at Manitou will transition into a member club incoming years.



"National Pines has a rich legacy as a great member club with a course that was long regarded as one of the best in the country," says Chris Gale, founder of Purposeful Group Ltd., the parent company of Purposeful Golf. "We are excited by the opportunity to manage this exceptional course and are pleased to be partnering with an ownership group who share our vision for the future."

Additional membership details for both National Pines and Ridge at Manitou will be provided in coming months. Both The Ridge at Manitou and National Pines were designed by award-winning Toronto-based golf course architect Thomas McBroom. National Pines opened in 1993 and was tested as the host venue for the 2007 and 2008 season-ending PGA Tour Canada Tour Championships.

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From the Publisher

Wow! Can it be 20 years since I first started publishing this golf magazine? It's incredible to think it was two decades ago that I took a leap of faith and launched this regional publication.

The decision came after 25 years in the newspaper business as a reporter and editor. It was a great career but it was time to move on and do my own thing. Only this time instead of covering community news I would focus on what I truly love - golf!

I knew very little about selling advertising, which is the key to making a publication viable. And I knew nothing about running my own business.

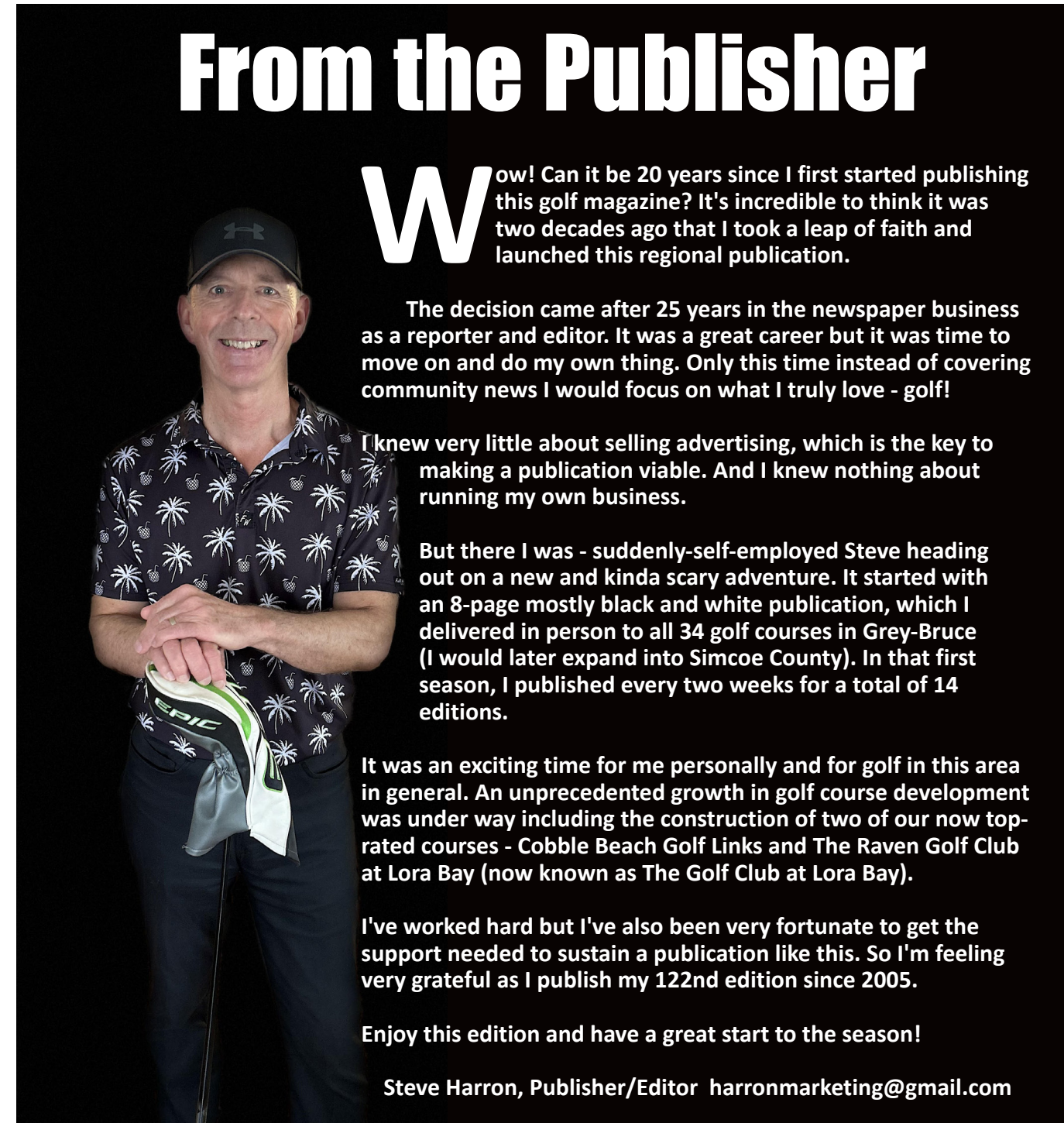
But there I was - suddenly-self-employed Steve heading out on a new and kinda scary adventure. It started with an 8-page mostly black and white publication, which I delivered in person to all 34 golf courses in Grey-Bruce (I would later expand into Simcoe County). In that first season, I published every two weeks for a total of 14 editions.

It was an exciting time for me personally and for golf in this area in general. An unprecedented growth in golf course development was under way including the construction of two of our now top-rated courses - Cobble Beach Golf Links and The Raven Golf Club at Lora Bay (now known as The Golf Club at Lora Bay).

I've worked hard but I've also been very fortunate to get the support needed to sustain a publication like this. So I'm feeling very grateful as I publish my 122nd edition since 2005.

Enjoy this edition and have a great start to the season!

Steve Harron, Publisher/Editor harronmarketing@gmail.com



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The Toby Keith connection

Famous country singer had role in bringing together current owners of Ainsdale Golf Course near Kincardine. And he made their first date pretty spectacular.

Among the many people grieving the death of country singer/songwriter Toby Keith earlier this year were Charles and Taylor Candler, who own Ainsdale Golf Course near Kincardine.

The two of them had a special connection to Keith, one of the most successful country music artists of all time.

Shortly after Keith's death was announced, Taylor posted on Facebook a tribute to the man who she got to know during her time in Norman, Oklahoma.

She also agreed to share in a Q & A with Golf BruceGreySimcoe additional details about her connection with the country music legend including his role in her meeting her future husband Charles.

Q: Could you explain how you and Chuck met and what your role was with the women's golf team at that time?

A: In 2013 I was fortunate enough to be working with the OU (University of Oklahoma) women's golf team as a Graduate Assistant coach. During that year, I met Chuck out at Belmar Golf Club where he was working as the GM.

Q: I understand the university had a connection with the Belmar course. Was it used as a practice facility?

A: Yes, the University of Oklahoma used Belmar as one of our "home" golf courses for practice and play. We have an on-campus golf course as well, but in addition to that, we were fortunate enough to be out at Belmar as well. It's a beautiful track and practice facility.

Facebook Post by Taylor Candler on Feb. 7, 2024
The world lost a good one. Toby Keith, sir, I sure owe a lot to you. Not only were you one heck of a country music star but you were a phenomenal mentor. Some of you may not know, but Toby's golf course in Norman, OK is where @chuckster25 and I met. He was the GM and I was OU's grad assistant at the time. Had Toby & Trish not brought Chuck to Norman from Florida, we would never have met. Toby & Trish gave opportunities to Chuck to grow in his role and learn so much in the golf industry. Fast forward to today, we now have a course of our own with 3 young kids. Toby, thank you. Thank you for the memories, the best first date Chuck could ever pull off (thanks to Toby) and thank you for the endless music we will forever get to listen to. The world will miss you and we're comforted knowing you're no longer in pain. One heck of a fighter and one heck of a man. Rest easy Toby. Thoughts are with Trish, their family, & the Belmar family.

Q: I also understand Toby was a big Sooners fan and supporter of varsity golf. Can you provide a few more details about this?

A: Toby was a huge supporter of all of collegiate athletics, but especially the Sooners. He had a true passion for golf which made him close with both the men's and women's programs at OU. He was at so many football and basketball games, where you'd see him sitting courtside or standing on the field. He proudly sported the crimson & cream and every student athlete at OU knew how much Toby loved the Sooners. Cont'd on page 6.



Country music star Toby Keith with Kincardine native Taylor Schmidt (Candler), who got to know him while she was working as an assistant coach with the University of Oklahoma women's golf team.

Q: How closely did Toby work with Chuck and what was he like to work for?

A: (CHUCK): He was great to work for. He gave me the autonomy to be able to make decisions and run the business which I think is a great quality of an owner to have. He did a lot of juggling between his music and golf and family and all the other businesses he owned so it was good to be able to view that because that's what we do now (minus the music of course!)

Q: Can you provide a few more details on your famous first date with Chuck?

A: Our first date was one of my most favourite days - it was one of those "out of a movie" things! Chuck had asked me if I wanted to go to the horse races one Friday night. We went to Remington Park in OKC (Oklahoma City) to watch the races. Little did I

know, it was in Toby Keith's personal box...cheering for his horse. I was star struck when I walked out of the elevator and saw him standing there, all 6 ft. 3 inches of the country music legend. He said "Well hello there Miss Taylor" after Chuck introduced me. So we're watching the race and of course, his horse wins. Toby is fist pumping and raising his red solo cup! He invites everyone from the box down to the finish line to be in pictures with him and his horse. I was in disbelief. I remember texting my family like "OMG THIS ISN'T REAL!" Because of the big win, Toby invited those who wanted to go out to come to his restaurant in downtown OKC, Toby Keith's I Love This Bar & Grill (even though it was closing time!). Not thinking the night could possibly get any better but he grabs his guitar and heads up on stage for a mini private concert. I'll never forget this night, the way he made people feel not only through his music, but just by being the warm and inviting person that he was.

Q: How well did you get to know Toby and his wife Tricia during your time there?

A: We both got to know them very well, just in different ways. I got to know Toby through the

"playing" side of things, whereas Chuck obviously got to know them more so through work. Tricia was heavily involved in the Schooner Fall Classic collegiate golf tournament that OU hosted yearly at Belmar. She knew what the female golfers wanted to see, experience, and what would leave them with the "wow" factor when remembering the tournament each year. I got to experience that with her and watch her moves when I was working for OU as the grad assistant. She is very detail oriented and incredibly organized and

intelligent. Toby was sure to make you laugh whether it be on the course, with his guitar around the fire, or while he "hit a few nuggets" to get loose on the range.

Q: I heard Toby played to a 4 handicap. Did you ever get to play with him? He's got a song called Shitty Golfer. Is he being a little modest in the song or did he just write the song for the rest of us golfers?

A: Yes I had the privilege of playing with him. Chuck has a number of times as well. That song is accurate!!! He is a jokester, doesn't take himself too seriously, but would definitely try to improve his game. The song is definitely one that not only he relates to, but a lot of us golfers around the world.

Q: How often was Toby at the golf course?

A: He was at the golf course a lot. Obviously my time in Norman, OK was only from 2009-2014 so I didn't get to see him prior to then or after, but when I was there, I definitely saw him a lot. He did a phenomenal job of balancing his time and energy in MULTIPLE different areas of his life. His family was always #1 - which is something I admire maybe the most of all about him. He's this incredibly famous country music legend and multi-business owner, yet his family always remained #1. I relate to this so much with what we're doing here at Ainsdale. Obviously Chuck and I care so much about our business, but our family will always be #1 to us. You'd never ever want to hear us sing, so instead, crank Toby up loud and raise your red solo cup up for an absolutely legendary man.



Taylor and Charles on first date in 2013.



Simcoe course closed

Major drain project forces Innisfil Creek Golf Club to permanently shut its doors

Some sad news out of Simcoe County as Innisfil Creek Golf Club in Cookstown announced earlier this year that it will be permanently closed.

Owner Nick Torkos says the closure is a result of the Town of Innisfil's ongoing South Innisfil Creek Drain reconstruction project. The purpose of the project is to reduce flooding in the Town of Innisfil, specifically in the surrounding area and including the golf course property.

Construction on the golf course property is to start in June, in the middle of the golf season, and would have shut down the course indefinitely. As well, the anticipated damage to holes 6, 9, 13 and 14, along with dirt excavations, would be cost-prohibitive for the course, Torkos said.

As part of the project, the course would be responsible for paying to tear down and replace four bridges on the course that run over the creek,

which will be widened by 30 feet and deepened by an additional three feet. Torkos estimates that cost at between \$1 million and \$1.5 million.

The town considers the project necessary and has been in talks with Torkos over the matter for several years.

The main municipal drain covers almost 10 kilometres, with a watershed of more than 80 square kilometres, and it collects runoff from about 800 properties in Innisfil and Bradford West Gwillimbury.

The golf course property has been a part of the Torkos family since 2004 when Nick's parents, Tom and Sophia, purchased it from the original owners.

It opened in 1997 and last year had 165 members and nearly 100 league players.

32nd annual Crime Stoppers event

When: June 6, 2024

Where: Saugeen Golf Club near Port Elgin

Amount raised to date: \$600,000+

Proceeds to: Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce

Sports celebrities expected to attend: Former CTV & TSN sportscaster Rod Black, former Leaf & Owen Sound Attack coach Todd Gill, former NHLers Les Binkley & Paul MacDermid and NHL referee Kendrick Nicholson.



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Canuck support at Masters

Three Walkerton Golf & Curling Club members and a former Walkerton resident got to meet their Canadian golf heroes during the 2024 Masters. From left in red shirts are, Dan Teeple (03), Joel Poechman (92), Ryan Craig (72) and Corey Poechman (59), who now lives in Kitchener-Waterloo. Numbers on the shirts represent Weir's Masters win in 2003, Conners birth year - 1992, Taylor's 72-foot putt to win the Canadian Open and Hadwin's 59 he shot on the PGA Tour. Behind from left are, Mike Weir, Corey Conners, Nick Taylor & Adam Hadwin.



Local golfers cause quite a stir (in a good way) at the Masters

Customized shirts supporting Canadian golfers draw positive feedback and lead to free tickets to the Presidents Cup in Montreal

Editor's note: Three golfers from Walkerton and one from Kitchener-Waterloo found a great way to show their support for Canadian golfers at the Masters this year. One of them, Ryan Craig, agreed to share the experience with Golf BruceGreySimcoe readers.

Q: How did you get tickets?

A: Joel Poechman applied through the lottery as he has been doing for the last few decades and he won 4 tickets to the Tuesday practice round in the lottery.

Q: Whose idea was it to create the customized shirts?

Dan Teeple decided we should get custom T-shirts and then it was a group effort between the 4 of us to decide on what should go on the back. The process of getting to the final numbers involved many ideas but we finally settled on the players' names and trying to have a significant number for each Canadian golfer.

Q: What kind of reaction did you get from Masters patrons?

A: The reaction was incredible. Given it was obvious we were Canadian we were stopped by many other Canadians who congratulated us on the great shirts and led to all kinds of great conver-

sations about where we were all from in Canada and conversations went down lots of roads about golf, how incredible Augusta was etc. Even Americans were commenting with a lot of "Looks good, eh" or singing of "O Canada". The shirts were

certainly a great conversation starter and we probably had at least a few dozen people want photos with us (or with our shirts I should say)!

Q: What kind of reaction did you get from Weir and company? Did they make any comments about the shirts?

We met the 4 Canadian golfers on the 8th green.

We were waiting in the grandstand on the 8th hole as we knew they were coming up and a contingent of people commented that we had great shirts with a lady mentioning she loved our shirts but especially mine (I was wearing Taylor 72). After chatting with the people for a few minutes about where we were all from in Canada I was advised that the lady I was speaking with was Nick Taylor's mom and family. They were all wonderful people and we had a great talk with Nick's mom saying we needed to show the guys our shirts. Once we showed Nick and the guys our shirts, Nick tossed me the ball he was using, Conners and Hadwin gave thumbs up and Weir asked us if we were going to the Presidents Cup in Montreal? As they continued one of Mike Weir's friends who is a GM at a golf club in Ontario advised us we were getting free tickets to the Presidents Cup on condition that we cheered twice as loud. We said that would not be a problem.



From left, Joel Poechman, Ryan Craig, Dan Teeple and Cory Poechman at 12th hole at Augusta National Golf Club.

Cont'd from previous page

Q: Tell me how Corey Conner's mother-in-law ended up taking the photo?

A: After the interactions on the 8th hole we went to the 9th green to watch the Canadian golf group play hole 9. A member of our group, Joel Poechman (wearing 92 Conners) said you must be Corey Conners' mother-in-law as he could see the resemblance to Corey Conner's wife. She was super nice and got chatting with us. Being from the Listowel area we told her we were from Walkerton. When I mentioned my name, she asked if I was from Craig, McDonald Reddon Insurance Brokers as she was good friends with a work colleague of mine, Steve McConnell and his wife Julie. We had a great chat and while chatting she said she liked our shirts and we should get a picture with the guys. We said that would be great but she may have more pull than us getting them to stop as we did not want to bug the guys or know if it was appropriate to ask them to stop. Fortunately, she asked them to stop for a photo and it was Hadwin and Weir who were walking up first so she got them to stop and then Taylor and Conners came up and she orchestrated the photo that will be framed in all of our livingrooms. And she even had the good sense to make sure we lined up with each golfer matching the name on our shirts with each golfer. This all occurred just off the 9th green and it was fortunate as two of the golfers went in the clubhouse afterwards while two more went on to the back 9 to golf.

Q: Was it your first Masters and what did you and your friends think of the experience?

A: For two of us, Dan Teeple and myself, it was our first Masters experience. Joel and Corey Poechman had been once previously. The experience was incredible and hard to put into

words. You know it is spectacular and magical seeing it on TV but it is even more incredible in person. It really is hard to explain and something if you're fortunate enough you just have to experience. The beauty of the course is surreal. We also found TV does not do justice to the beauty but also to the elevation changes and the fact that there are no flat lies on the course. You gain a new appreciation not just for the beauty of the course but the difficulty. I would still like the opportunity to play it even though I am confident it would be a dishonest 120 on the scorecard!!

Q: It seemed like your photo got a lot of attention on social media. Did you get much reaction from friends or others as a result of this?

A: Yes, there was a lot of disbelief or more asking how did that happen. There were lots of positive comments on the great shirts – we laugh and say it was probably the best \$16 we ever spent! The reaction has been to want to hear the story of how the photo came to be and we get lots of advice that we need to get that photo framed, which we are all doing!

Q: Do all four of you play out of Walkerton Golf and Curling Club?

A: Three of the four of us are members at the Walkerton Golf & Curling Club as we live in Walkerton or surrounding area. Corey is from Walkerton but now lives in the Kitchener-Waterloo area so he golfs down in that area. We all love golf and get out whenever our schedules allow. We try to make Thursday Men's Night a regular part of our summer routine and any other time I am not being a taxi driver for my kids or working!

Championships coming to BGS

This is going to be a big year for golf in BruceGreySimcoe.

Three provincial championships and one Canadian championship are scheduled to be played at courses in the region.

The fun kicks off with the Champion of Champions event on May 14 at The Club at Bond Head.

This event will be played on the North and South courses at Bond Head and will feature club champions in all divisions – Men’s, Senior Men’s, Women’s, Senior Women’s, Junior Boys and Junior Girls.

Next up will be the Ontario Senior Women’s Championship at The Golf Club at Lora Bay, which is set for Aug. 6-8 at the Thornbury-area course (pictured here).

A third provincial championship – the Ontario Public Amateur Championship for men and women – is set for Aug. 29-30 at Tangle Creek Golf & Country Club.

The national event – the Canadian Senior Men’s Championship – will take place Sept. 11-15 at Saugeen Golf Club near Port Elgin.

Much is planned for this event, which will feature most of the best senior golfers in the country as well as some from other countries (See next page for more)

In addition to the championships, these qualifiers for provincial events are scheduled for BGS courses.

They are:

May 13 – Cobble Beach Golf Links for the Ontario Men’s Mid-Amateur

May 23 – Blue Mountain Golf & Country Club for both the Senior Men’s and Men’s Match Play championship

June 18 – Tangle Creek Golf & CC for the Junior Boys Match Play championship

Sept. 9 – Vespra Hills GC near Barrie for the Men’s and Senior Men’s Better Ball championships

Sept. 17 – The Nest at Friday Harbour for Men’s and Senior Men’s Better Ball Championship.

Canadian Senior Men's Championship

When: Sept. 11-15, 2024

Where: Saugeen Golf Club near Port Elgin

What to Expect: Competitors will be among the best senior golfers in Canada, Great Britain and the U.S.

What local organizers have planned: Golf Fest is a Thursday-Sunday event featuring a huge tent in the front parking lot housing interactive games, a golf simulator, sponsor displays, beer garden and silent auction. Outside there will be disc golf, putting, chipping and hole-in-one contests. The tent will feature ongoing live entertainment including the 18-piece Canadian Big Band on Friday evening. Committee chair Ken Dunlop expects 500 to 1,000 people per day.

Volunteers: Organizers require 200 volunteers and anyone interested can drop into the Pro Shop or go to the club website saueengolf.com



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Around the Clubs

Ainsdale

The Kincardine-area course has completed all continuous gravel cart paths on the front 9 and work has begun on #10. They are hoping to get all of the back 9 done this year. The course had no cart paths when Taylor and Charles Candler took over in 2017.

Cranberry Golf Course

The Cranberry Golf Course at Living Water Resorts in Collingwood is undergoing a “refresh” to be launched in July. The refresh features an 18-hole par 71 course with yardage remaining over 6,000+ yards. The key changes will occur around mid-July and will involve reconfiguration of several holes including the conversion of the 19th hole into the 18th hole. General Manager Errol Smith said the investment in the refresh and course enhancements are designed to deliver what Cranberry’s golfers value: “Less time, more fun.” “Working with Canadian golf course designer David Moote over the past two years, the changes to the course will continue to provide a balance between a true test of golf skills and expansive fairways for the rest of us,” Errol said.

Northern Dunes

The Hepworth-area course wintered well and was open in March. GM Clark Hepburn says there are plans to build new tee boxes between the reds and the white tees which will give golfers a total distance of around 5,500 yards. Also in the works is a plan to introduce an indoor golf simulator this winter. It will be installed in the restaurant area and plans are to keep the restaurant open to serve golfers all year round.

South Port

The Port Elgin-area 9-holer wintered very well and the course is happy to have Superintendent Scott Maue and his staff back. New this year is chef Hailey Ashton. The club is working on updated menus and a return to the popular buffet nights. Renovations include clubhouse flooring improvements and a patio extension.

Vespra Hills Golf Club

The Barrie-area club is now a member of the ClubLink organization. The club, established in 2003, is in Springwater Township, just 10 minutes from downtown Barrie. The 27-hole private club will be a fully integrated, Gold-level Member Club managed by ClubLink. Membership in ClubLink gives access to 44, 18-hole equivalent championship and 2, 18-hole equivalent academy courses, at 34 locations in two separate geographical Regions - Ontario/Quebec (including two managed properties) and Florida.

Monterra Golf

Monterra is celebrating its 35 anniversary this year. The development of this championship course took more than 10 years of planning and over \$3 million to complete. Designed by Tom McBroom, it opened in 1989. Monterra is holding the RBC PGA Scramble qualifier on Thursday, July 25, 2024. Open to all golfers, the scramble focuses on camaraderie, collaboration and teamwork. You can sign up online: <https://rbcpgascramble.com/local-qualifiers/>



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Celebrating 20 years

Some highlights from first season of Golf BruceGreySimcoe magazine (or Grey-Bruce Golf as it was known originally)



Phil Carleton won the 5th Annual Stone Tree Amateur.



Scholarships were handed out at the conclusion of the 2005 TNT/Clarica Junior Golf Tour. From left are, recipients Chanse Regier, Kyle Kirkland, Jenilee Clark, Mike Myatt, accepting on behalf of his son Andy, & Dane Buttenaar.

What was happening 20 years ago:

- Cobble Beach Golf Links and The Raven at Lora Bay were both under construction.
- New clubs that officially opened in 2005: Ferns near Markdale, BlackHorse near Kinloss (full 18 holes), The Links at Piper's Glen and Buck's Crossing near Walkerton (9 holes).
- Local junior golfers Andy Myatt, Chanse Regier, Brett Abbotts and Mike Rocca all received golf scholarships at U.S. schools
- Mike Hanna of Owen Sound Golf & Country Club (now known as Legacy Ridge) scored an ace by cutting the corner on the 381-yard par 4 11th hole.



Director of Operations Mike Doyle during construction of Cobble Beach Golf Links near Owen Sound. In background is what is now the par 5 7th hole.



PGA Tour veteran Tom Lehman (centre) and co-designer Tom McBroom, left, during construction of The Raven at Lora Bay (now known as The Golf Club at Lora Bay). The club would open in 2006.



The team from Stone Tree won the Sixth Annual Harold Sutherland Junior City Challenge. Front row from left: John Nixon, John Ewasko, Spencer Turbitt & Brady Welsh. Middle row, from left: assistant coach J.P. McEvenue, Nate Johnson, Curtis Gibbons, Steven Morrow, Dean Nixon and Drew Quinlan. Back row: Steven Crone, Kyle Hom, Garrett Potter & coach Steve Barber.

Meet the Pro

Glen Barnett

Sauble Beach resident is teaching pro at Pinewoods Golf

Q: When and how did you get started in golf and was there a particular person who helped with your introduction to the game?

A: My dad played a pivotal role in introducing me to the game of golf. From my earliest memories, he would take me along to the course, patiently teaching me the fundamentals and sharing his passion for the sport. His guidance, encouragement, and countless rounds together not only taught me how to swing a club but instilled in me a love for the game that has lasted a lifetime.

Q: Where did you play as a youngster, and did you compete in junior events?

A: When I was 8 years old my parents got me a membership at the course up the street from our house, Streetsville Glen G.C. For many years during the summer my dad would drop me off at the course at 6 a.m. to be first off the tee, then would return to pick me up at dinner time as I was ending my 3rd round! While I didn't compete extensively in junior events, I did participate in many local tournaments, which provided valuable experiences and the opportunity to play at some exclusive golf courses which also helped me refine my skills on the course.



Q: At what point did you decide to become a golf professional and what steps did you take to make that happen?

A: The decision to pursue a career as a golf professional was a culmination of my passion for the game and the desire to immerse myself in the wonderful world of golf. It was a gradual realization rather than a single moment. I think countless hours on the range. I sought out reputable coaches and mentors who helped me fine-tune my skills and provided the necessary tools to become a successful instructor. I earned my licence with the CGTF (Canadian Golf Teachers Federation) and CGPA (Canadian Golf Psychology Association) in 2021. I am constantly refining my technique and mental approach to the game to provide high quality instruction.

Q: What was your first job in the golf industry and where else have you worked as a golf professional?

A: My first job in the golf industry was working in the back shop at Streetsville Glen, where I cleaned and re-gripped members' clubs, and had a blast in the tractor picking up range balls. It was a hands-on introduction to the inner workings of a golf facility. Prior to moving to Sauble Beach year-round, I worked my day job (condo renovation business in Toronto's Harbourfront) and taught evening and weekend lessons in Toronto at the Centennial Park Golf Course.

Q: What led to your decision to provide golf instruction out of Pinewoods?

A: The decision to run my business golffready.ca out of Pinewoods Golf at Sauble Beach stemmed from a combination of factors that aligned with my career aspirations and personal values. We bought our home in Sauble in 2019 and moved up full time in 2022. Since then I am full time, year round into golf, even with Rotary. I am spearheading a new fundraising golf tournament being held at Pinewoods this Sept 8.

Q: What's your role at the golf course and how much of your time is spent teaching?

A: I have the privilege of running my business golffready.ca out of Pinewoods Golf at Sauble Beach where I am fully dedicated to teaching and instruction. I work closely with golfers of all skill levels to improve their game and achieve their goals on the course. Whether it's one-on-one lessons, group clinics, or specialized programs such as our Summer Youth Camps, I'm committed to providing comprehensive and personalized instruction to help players maximize their potential.

Cont'd on next page

Q: I'm sure it's hard to pick a favourite, but is there a particular golf experience you've had that is most memorable to you? (If you can't pick just one, maybe the top 3)

A: 1. It was the day my dad first took me out golfing when I was 5. It serves as a reminder of the profound impact that parents can have on their children's formative years when passions begin to take root.

2. One of the most memorable golf experiences I've had was attending the Sunday round of the Masters at Augusta National on April 8, 2007. Being at Augusta National, during the final day of such a prestigious tournament, was a truly unforgettable experience. The atmosphere was thrilling as we walked the grounds of Augusta, surrounded by the iconic landmarks that define the course. Witnessing the world's top golfers competing at the highest level, battling it out for the coveted green jacket, was a surreal sight.

3. One of the most memorable golf experiences for me occurred during the summer of 2017 when I had the incredible privilege of playing the newly-opened Cabot Cliffs and Cabot Links in Cape Breton with my good friend Scott Mitchell. Cabot, renowned for its spectacular coastal views and world-class courses, was an exceptional



Glen teaching at the Pinewoods driving range.

bucket list golf experience and an unforgettable day on the links.

Q: Outside of golf, what are your interests and hobbies?

A: I have a diverse range of interests that bring balance and joy to my life. One of my passions is volunteering with Rotary, where I'm actively involved in community service projects aimed at making a positive impact locally and globally. I also cherish beach time with my family and friends, accompanied by our two beloved golden retrievers (Louie and Vinnie).



There's something truly magical about the sun and sandy shores of Lake Huron.

Q: What's your dream golf foursome?

A: My dream golf foursome would be with golf legends Jack Nicklaus, Fred Couples, and Tiger Woods.

Celebration of Life

For Legacy Ridge member John Garvey

A Celebration of Life for long-time Legacy Ridge Golf Club member John Garvey will be held at the club on May 11 from 2 p.m.-5 p.m. He played golf well into his late 90s and was featured as a Super Senior in the Spring 2019 edition of this magazine. At that time he was 94 and playing three times a week. In the previous season, he shot his age several times and teamed up with his son Mike to win the C-Flight of the club's Senior Men's 2-Man Scramble.

John was also well known for his work as an Owen Sound-area umpire and hockey referee for many years. He died Feb. 21, 2024 at age 100.

Eleven carts stolen

Police are investigating after 11 power carts were stolen from Settlers' Ghost Golf Club in the Horseshoe Valley area. The theft occurred April 19 about 2 a.m. and was captured on video surveillance equipment. Watch the TV report: <https://barrie.ctvnews.ca/video/c2912865-opp-investigating-11-stolen-golf-carts>

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New logo for Saugeen Golf Club

Rebranding takes place as club gets set to celebrate 100th Anniversary

Saugeen Golf Club has lots of reasons to celebrate this season.

The Port Elgin-area club turns 100 years old on June 4, 2025 and is commemorating the centennial year, starting this June, with the launch of a new brand.

"We're extremely thrilled about the launch of our new brand to help commemorate 100 years in business. June 4, 2025 will mark our 100th birthday and big plans are in store to showcase the past, present and future of what makes Saugeen Golf Club an exceptional golf experience," said General Manager Brad Young.

"We're also excited to host a national amateur event in September of this season when we play host the 2024 Canadian Senior Amateur Championship."



New logo for Saugeen

Horseshoe going back to 18-hole layout

The Valley Course at Horseshoe Resort is transitioning from 12 holes back to an 18-hole layout this July. The project is being led by Chris Goodman, of Muskoka Bay Resort.

The changes include the current hole 10 becoming the first hole and the new front nine will be a mix of revitalized designs and past favourites, including the current holes 11 and 12 as the new 8 and 9 for the 18-hole course.

The current front 9 will be flipped to the back 9.

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Orr Lake becomes First Tee location

Golf Canada youth development program creates opportunities for local children

Orr Lake Golf Club near Elmvale has been designated as an official First Tee - Ontario location by Golf Canada. First Tee is Golf Canada's youth development program that provides children with life-enhancing experiences through golf. First Tee - Ontario offers accessible and inclusive programming at golf courses, schools, and community centres, striving to ensure that the sport of golf reflects the diversity of Canadians.

Orr Lake Golf Club is well aligned with First Tee's mission of breaking down affordability and accessibility barriers to introduce more children to golf. Aside from offering First Tee - Ontario, Orr Lake Golf Club has made significant efforts in the junior golf space:

- Sponsoring 5 local schools (Hillsdale, Our Lady of Lourdes, Huronia Centennial, Wyevale and St. Antoine) to participate in school day programs followed by at-the-course days, where students are bused out to the course at no cost to the school or kids.
- The offering of a 3-hole Par 3 course which kids and adults can play for \$5
- A "Kids Play Free" program with a paying adult on

our main course, offered 7 days a week between 1-3 p.m. and after 5 p.m.

- Golf Professional Sue Westwood's success in building a pathway for beginner golfers through to the competitive stream by offering a Pepsi Titleist Junior Team and hosting top-tier Golf Canada Junior Skills competitions.

So what does this mean for our community? Well, with the financial, equipment, administrative and training support from First Tee - Ontario, it allows Orr Lake Golf Club to expand its network to reach more children and make a bigger impact. With the addition of First Tee - Ontario programming, Orr Lake Golf Club will connect with more schools and community groups, introducing more children to golf, especially those who would not have otherwise had the opportunity.

The club says to stay tuned for more information coming very soon through Orr Lake Golf Club's Facebook Page, website (<http://orrlakegolfclub.com>) and email distribution.

To learn more about First Tee - Ontario, visit firstteeontario.ca.

Bill and Robyn Martin of Shallow Lake spent 4 days at the 2024 Masters. Robyn shares the highlights:

- Talking with baseball great Fred McGriff for about an hour before realizing who he was (he signed Robyn's hat), got to see his Hall of Fame ring
- Talking with Jim Nance about the Canadian Open, Nick Taylor and how much Jim will never forget making the call on Nick's winning putt and that he loves Canada
- Knuckles from Corey Conners
- A wink, smile and thank you from Nick Taylor, when I complimented his drive
- The gusting winds on Thursday and Friday, sitting on the 18th green, getting sandblasted out of the traps

Four Days at the Masters

- Meeting and chatting with people that work the fairways and meeting Mr. Stokes, who worked for Augusta National for 55 years, aerating the course and cutting the #12 green
- Just watching the golf in general, listening to conversations between players and caddies
- Oh yes, and almost getting knocked down by Sergio Garcia, as he rushed passed me to the player's washroom! lol

Baywest Toyota's Hole-in-One Club

The Hole-in-One Club is back for another year. Just one ace to report at this point in the season but we can expect many more in the months ahead. If you fire an ace this season or you know someone who has, please send the details to harronmarketing@gmail.com

May 1 - Brian Acton with an 8-iron on #8 on the Legacy 9 at Saugeen Golf Club.



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