

GOLF

BRUCE GREYSIMCOE

Vol. 19, No. 1

Spring 2023

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Women's Try Golf Series

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The association provides loaner clubs, balls, tees and a glass of wine though its own budget and sponsorship. The cost is \$25 walking or \$35 for riding.

The website to register is <https://www.gao.ca/womens-golf/>

The events in our region are:

Friday, May 27th Brooklea Golf Club

- Monday, May 30th Simoro Golf Links
- Monday, June 6th Woodington Lake
- Tuesday, June 7th Shanty Bay
- Tuesday, June 14th Harbour View
- Monday, June 27th Innisfil Creek
- Sunday, July 10th Duntroon Highlands
- Tuesday, July 19th The Island Course at Hawk Ridge GC
- Thursday, August 11th Big Cedar
- Wednesday, August 17th Orr Lake Golf Club



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From the Publisher

Welcome to the 2023 season and the Spring Edition! Hope you had a good off-season and are enjoying some great spring golf.

I'm pleased to launch the 19th season of my magazine and I look forward to covering the local golf scene in the months ahead. It's hard to believe I've been producing the magazine for almost 20 years but - as the saying goes - time flies when you're having fun!

During that time I've had the pleasure of meeting some great people who work in the golf industry. Among them is Warren Thomas, a golf pro I've known ever since he joined the staff at Cobble Beach Golf Links in 2007. I thought I knew him pretty well after all those years but there's nothing like a Question and Answer feature to bring out some interesting stories from his younger days and during his career, including a chance encounter with star golfer Fred Couples. Check it out on Pages 4-7.

Some other stories you'll find inside are staff changes at local clubs, major events coming to area, Senior Ryder Cup update, Champion of Champions results and, of course, the popular Baywest Toyota Hole in One Club.

Also included is a feature on Bucket List Golf and a request for your Bucket List (Page 10-11).

Hope you enjoy this edition and please keep in mind that your feedback is always welcome!

- Publisher/Editor Steve Harron
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Q & A WITH Warren Thomas

Executive Golf Professional, Cobble Beach Golf Links

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: *When I was around 11 years old, my mom and dad would take me to play, which started my interest. They would take me to the course with them to play nine holes, and from there, I was hooked on the game. A few years later, I would bike 5 miles to hitch a ride to the course with an employee that worked there. I would golf all day while he worked.*

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

A: *I competed on the Grey Bruce Junior Tour and a few other tours in southern Ontario. The biggest event I played in was an AJGA (American Junior Golf Association) event at Bethpage Black in New York in 1989. It was a fantastic experience, but it is the most challenging course I have ever played at to this day.*

Q: I understand that you set the course record at Sauble Golf and Country Club. Can you tell me when that was, what you shot and any other details you can remember from that day?

A: *When I was about 18 years old, I worked 6 days a week and played 36 holes every Tuesday. In my first round that day, I shot 69 and figured that would be the best score. I was way off! I birdied 9 of the first 11 holes at Sauble and proceeded to post 64. I have never beaten that score, but my next best round was 3 years ago at Cobble Beach when I had a 66 with no bogeys.*

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

A: *I received a partial scholarship to Sam Houston College in Texas but ended up attending Laurentian University in Sudbury for my Economics degree. I was going to be a stockbroker, and for some reason, I chose not to pursue that career. I got on as an Assistant Golf Professional with Master Professional Tony Evershed, and that was the beginning of my club pro career.*

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

A: *I worked with Tony Evershed at the Idylwyld (a private club) in Sudbury from 1992 to 2000. From there, I headed to York Downs for the 2001 golf season. Ian Crebbin was the Head Golf Professional there, and I learned so much from him. Ian is currently running the Oakdale Golf Club, where the Canadian Open takes place this year.*

Continued next page

Continued from previous page.

A: I worked at York Downs for 3 seasons and then took my first Head Professional job at the 36-hole Horseshoe Resort Facility. Unfortunately, Horseshoe had some financial issues, and I was only there for one full season. I decided to teach primarily juniors the following summer, which was quite rewarding. The next season in 2006, I took an associate job at Thornhill and worked with Tim Moore. Again, I learned a lot from him, which set me up to get the job at Cobble Beach in 2007. Interestingly to note, when I applied at Cobble Beach, the person hiring was Mike Doyle, and his best friend was a member at Yorkdowns. His accountant was also a member at Thornhill Golf Club, and I had taught both of these gentlemen, which certainly helped me get my job here at Cobble Beach!

Q: You've been in a good position to watch the progression of Cobble Beach from the beginning until now. How would you describe what you've witnessed over the years and how gratifying is it to be part of it?

A: We opened in 2007, right before the 2008 economic crisis; the market for golfing was terrible. For the first 6 to 8 years, it was tough. The course struggled to get enough golfers, and the home sales were slow. However, the company was persistent, and word-of-mouth began to spread about the gem of a golf course on Georgian Bay. The owners have continued to push Cobble Beach and the region through major events, such as the Cobble Beach Concours d'Elegance and the International Auto-Show. These events have helped cement the Cobble Beach name and increase awareness of our beautiful golf community. Now people know Cobble Beach. The community is growing, with over 200 units on-site. We have consistently ranked a top 100 Canadian golf course and have received significant recognition through partnerships like TSN and Golf Talk Canada.

Q: Your job has changed in recent years to Executive Golf Professional. Can you describe how your job is different now and what aspects you focus on more now in that position?

A: Cobble Beach has grown to a point where we needed to expand our team to provide guests and



Cobble Beach Golf Links Executive Golf Professional Warren Thomas with his wife Kim and children Cameron and McKenzie.

members with the experience they deserve and expect from us. BJ Oliver is our Head Golf Professional and helps me so much day-to-day. His primary focus is retail, which is a full-time job in itself. He also helps in the day-to-day operations, allowing me to focus on a few other key things. One is sales, which has been a key focus as we always need to be selling. This winter, selling was one of my major tasks, and I succeeded as we are very busy with Play and Stay guests early this season. Another focus is increasing membership and working with the new homeowners to get them signed up as golf members at Cobble Beach. The onboarding process of a new golf member is so important to make their experience great.

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: I remember when I was 15 years old, and I was golfing in South Carolina near Hilton Head. It was the last day of our trip, and I was hitting range balls while waiting for my ride. A fellow on the range said I had an excellent swing and wondered if I played competitively. I said, 'yes, and I was here with my family on a golf trip'. He said I had a great swing and to keep at it. Well, about 3 weeks later, I was watching the Masters on TV and guess what? It was Fred Couples that spoke to me on the range. It was fantastic to see! This happened before Freddie was famous and before he ended up winning the Masers. Still a cool experience!

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

A: There is not much time outside of work, but when there is, you can find me at the hockey rink. I have coached hockey for roughly 9 years and have thoroughly enjoyed helping to develop these young players. Currently, I am coaching an AA Maitland Ice Shark Spring team. I also enjoy fishing, hunting and travelling.

Q: What's your dream golf foursome?

A: This is a tough one...however, Jack Nicklaus, my dad and mom would be the dream foursome.



Stephen Bardswick

New head pro at Stone Tree

Stephen Bardswick takes over after three years at Southampton Golf & Country Club

Stephen Bardswick is the new Head Golf Professional at Stone Tree Golf & Fitness Club near Owen Sound.

He moves to Stone Tree after three years at Southampton Golf and Country Club – two of those as Head Pro and General Manager. Before that, he worked three years at Cobble Beach Golf Links as an associate golf pro.

His experience also includes seven years at Kaneff Golf, which owns six golf courses in Ontario.

In other Stone Tree news, a Ryder Cup-style event called the Stone Tree Cup will be held July 22-23 and the men's and ladies club championships have been set for the Aug. 19-20 weekend.



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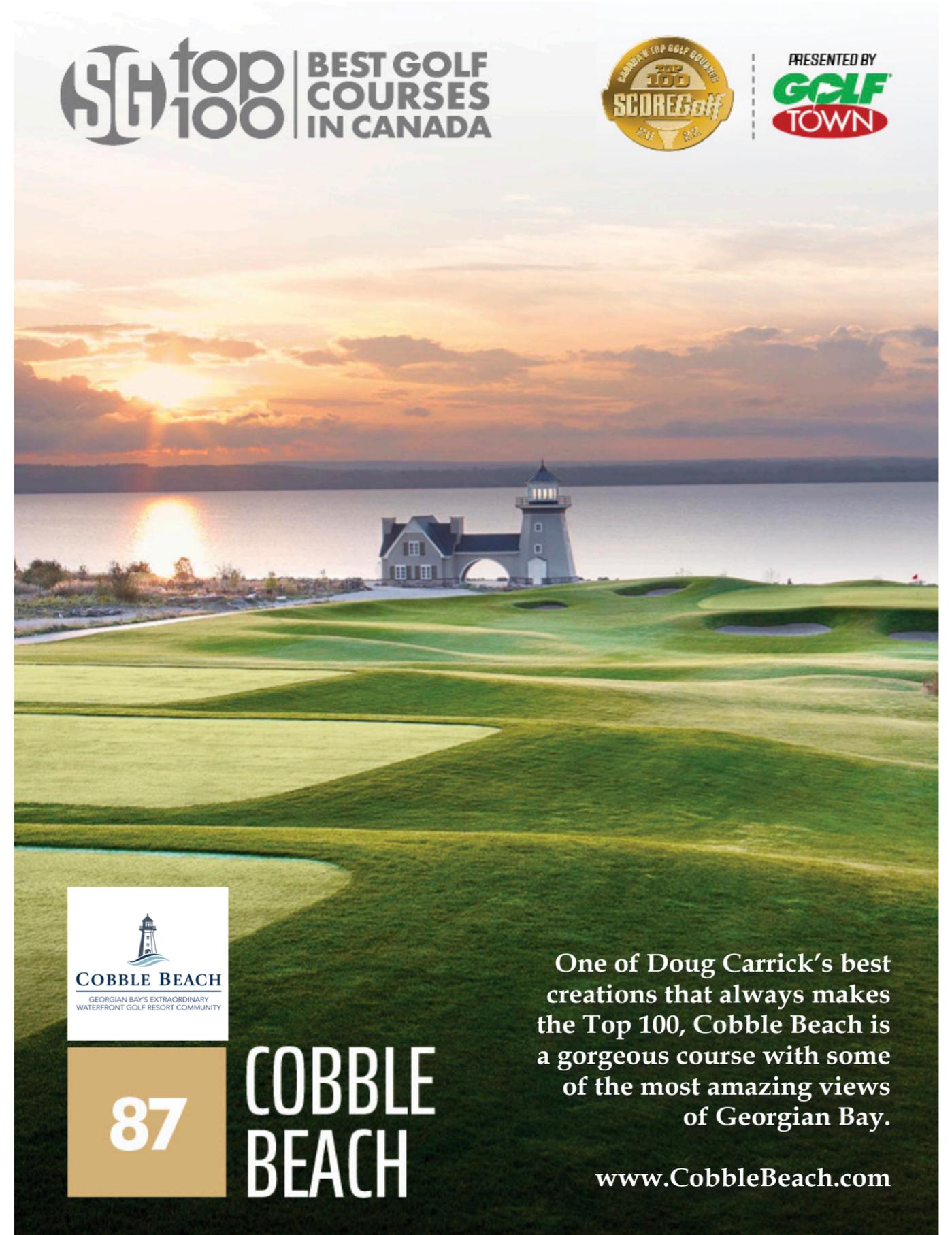


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Bucket List Golf

What courses are on your list?

My Bucket List (A work in progress)

1. TPC Sawgrass, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
2. Bay Hill GC, near Orlando, Florida
3. PGA National (Champions course) in West Palm Beach

Palm Springs area

4. Mission Hills
5. Rancho Mirage Country Club
6. La Quinta Golf Resort
7. Indian Wells Golf Club
8. PGA West
9. Silver Rock Resort in La Quinta

Las Vegas area

10. Wolf Creek Golf Club near Mesquite, Nevada
11. Reflection Bay, Henderson, Nevada,

12. Pebble Beach, California

13. TPC Scottsdale
14. Banff Springs
15. Jasper Park Lodge
16. Teeth of the Dog, Case de Campo, Dominican Republic.
17. St. Andrews (Old Course)

18th hole, TPC Sawgrass

By Steve Harron
Golf BruceGreySimcoe

It was March 2021 and we were in one of many COVID-19 lockdowns. With little else to do, I sat down and watched almost every minute of coverage of The Players Championship. And one of the truly remarkable things was that I loved every single hole on the TPC Sawgrass layout.

Other Bucket List destinations may have three or four iconic or spectacular holes but there was just something about the entire TPC layout – as seen through the television lens - that really appealed to me.

I think at least part of it is I like water, sand and palm trees on a golf course. I know that's kinda crazy for a golfer to say as those are the obstacles to posting a good score. However, I've always been partial to the aesthetics of a course.

With this in mind, I have to rank TPC Sawgrass as one of the top courses on my Bucket List. (My full list is on the adjacent page. And please note that it's skewed toward North American courses because there is a better chance of me getting there than to many of the amazing courses in Europe).

But what about your Bucket List? What courses are on it? I'd love to see your list and publish the results in my Summer Edition.

Just send your name, where you live and your list to harronmarketing@gmail.com

Maybe some of your courses will be added to my list. Thanks.

New bridge among improvements at Legacy Ridge

Course improvements during the off-season at Legacy Ridge Golf Club include a new bridge on the 7th hole. The new structure should improve pace of play as it takes walking golfers on a significant shortcut through the woods to the fairway.

The bridge is not designed for power carts and they will still have to be driven around the path that loops around to the west before heading back toward the fairway.

The club has also added interlocking stones to a section of the gravel cart path just to the south of the 5th tee. This is to prevent against the path being washed out during heavy rainfalls.

Some tree management was done throughout the late fall and late winter and further course improvements planned for this season include forward tee restorations and turf stoning the path through the gully on #5 to the short range.



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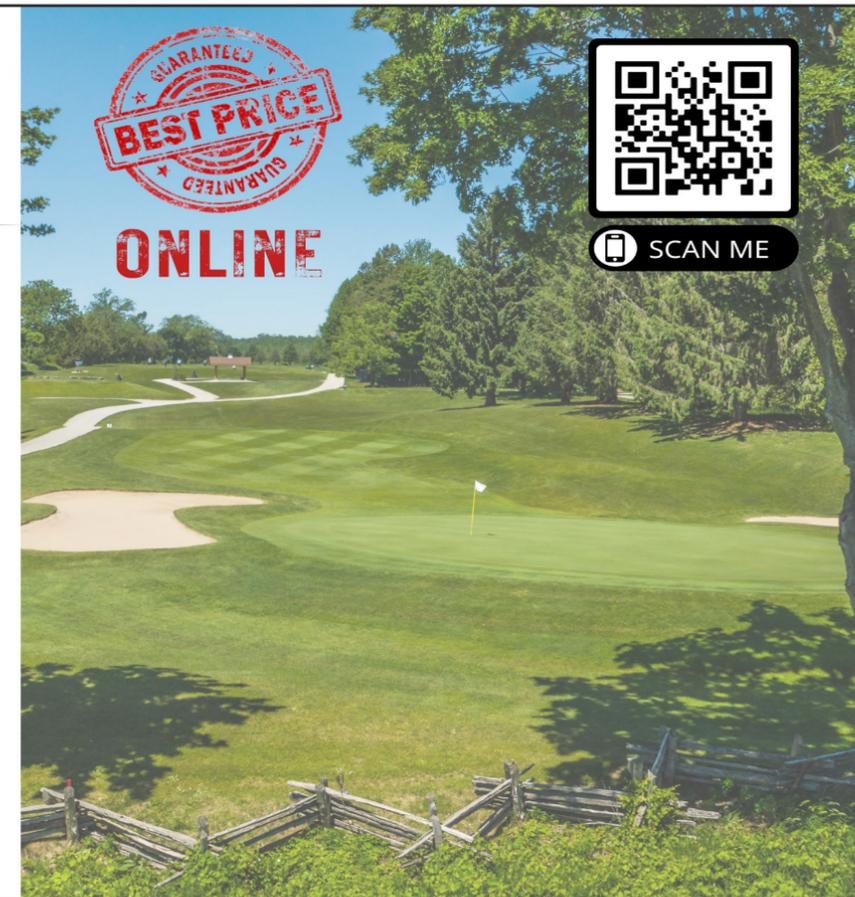
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New super at South Port

Scott Maue previously owned Wiarion Golf Club



Scott Maue

Former Wiarion Golf Course owner Scott Maue is the new course superintendent at South Port Golf Course near Port Elgin.

Scott has been a practising superintendent for more than 30 years and owned and operated the Wiarion course for 17 years before selling it 2 ½ years ago.

He is the son of legendary Canadian PGA Golf Professional Gus Maue and in his younger days caddied for both of his brothers, Danny and Mark, both of whom were accomplished golfers. Danny won the Ontario and Canadian junior championships and Mark played on the Canadian Tour.

Scott, who loves to hunt and fish, has two daughters, Katie and Kylie, who are currently enrolled in university.

Photo Flashback



Corey Feenstra won the junior championship at Stone Tree Golf & Fitness in August 2008. More recently, he won the Men's Championship at Legacy Ridge Golf Club in 2022.

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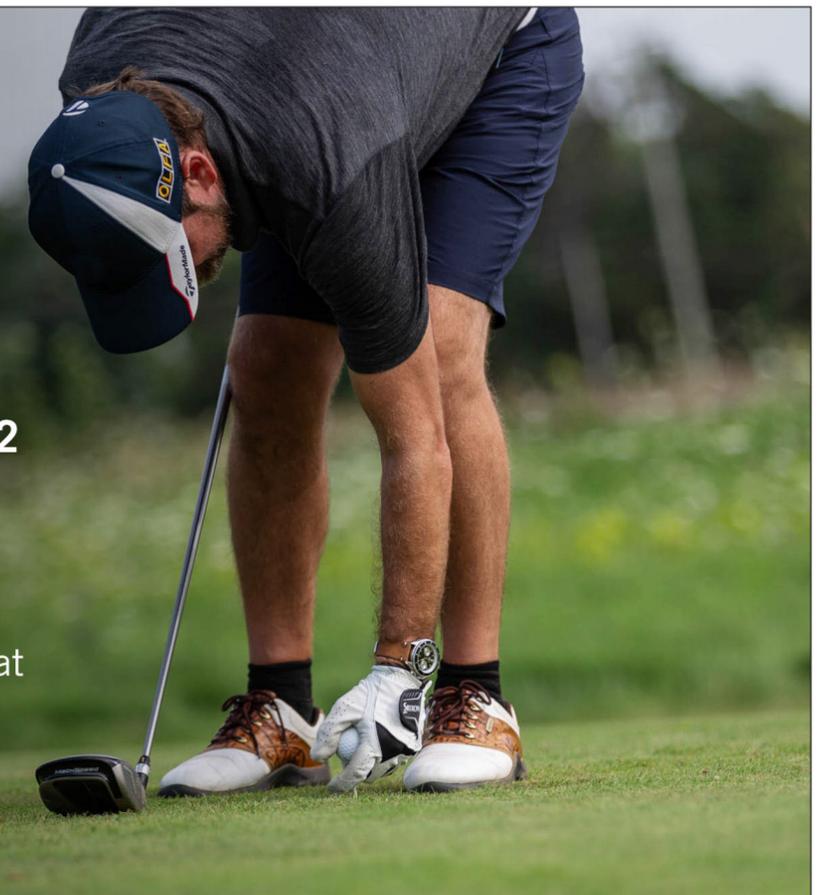
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Local clubs compete in Senior Ryder Cup

Golf clubs from the BruceGreySimcoe region will once again compete this year in the Senior Ryder Cup, Canada's largest senior men's team golf competition. The team events will take place over the summer with the regional playoffs for local teams are as follows:

Central Region - Blue Springs Golf Club - July 31

Georgian Region - North Granite Ridge Golf Club - Aug. 8

The championship is set for Brampton Country Club Sept. 18-19.

The participating BGS clubs and the dates they are playing host to events are as follows:

Central

Doug Wilson Sr. Division

BlackHorse - July 12

Saugeen #2 - July 24

Division K

Midland G&CC - June 5

Georgian

Division M

Kincardine - May 29

Ainsdale - June 19

Division N

Blue Mountain G&C - TBA

Barrie CC - June 14

Division O

Vespra Hills - May 31

Heritage Hills - June 19

National Pines - June 13

Legacy Ridge - July 18

Division Q

Tangle Creek - June 27

Bonaire - TBA

Ken Dunlop Division

Borden - June 5

Saugeen - June 27

Sauble - July 10

Phil Stevens Division

Brooklea - June 19

Settlers Ghost - TBA

Full schedule at
seniorrydercup.com/divisions.php

Major events coming to BruceGreySimcoe

The BruceGreySimcoe region will once again be in the spotlight this season as it plays host to three provincial championships and one national championship.

The championships kick off June 6-9 at Tangle Creek Golf and Country Club west of Barrie with the Men's and Senior Men's Match Play Championship.

The Ontario Junior Boys Championship will be held July 4-7 on the South Course of The Club at Bond Head in south Simcoe County.

The Ontario Senior Women's Championships is scheduled for Aug. 14-17 at Vespra Hills Golf Club in the Barrie area.

The Canadian Women's Mid-Amateur Championship will be held July 24-27 at Mad River Golf Club, a private course near the Simcoe County village of Creemore.

Mad River is ranked among the top 100 courses in Canada.

The champion of this event will automatically qualify for the 2023 U.S. Women's Amateur, the 2024 Canadian Women's Amateur and the 2024 Canadian Women's Mid-Amateur.



Mad River Golf Club (shown) will be the site of the Canadian Women's Amateur Championship.

Champ of champs results

Tangle Creek golfer tops among all men's champs

Club champions from across the province competed May 15 in the Ontario Champion of Champions event at Deer Creek Golf & Banquet Facility near Ajax. Bradley Greenside of Tangle Creek G & CC had the best result among BruceGreySimcoe golfers, winning the men's division. Results of all BGS golfers and the winners in each division are listed below:

Men's

Winner: Bradley Greenside, Tangle Creek G & CC (70)
 4th Mitchell Brassard, Barrie CC (72)
 T-15th Lucas Ross, Midland G & CC (77)
 T-31st Kevin Johnstone, Blue Mountain (82)
 T-46th David Moser, Georgian Bay Club (86)
 57th Luke Cowen, Pike Lake Golf Centre (96)



Bradley Greenside

Senior Men

Winner: Rob Gibson, Cedar Brae GC (73)
 * won in a playoff
 T-3rd David Greenaway, Barrie CC (74)
 T-24th Jim Greenside, Tangle Creek G & CC (79)
 T-36th Danny Brown, Georgian Bay Club (81)
 T-36th Randy Robbins, Midland G & CC (81)

T-47th Herb Cowen, Pike Lake Golf Centre (82)
 T-58th John Alpaugh, Vespra Hills GC (85)
 T-58th Charlie Pittock, Cobble Beach (85)
 T-65th Steve Mesters, Blue Mountain G & CC (89)

Senior Women

Winner: Nancy Vamvakas, Beacon Hall GC (80)
 16th Kim Dubeau, Midland G & CC (90)
 T-19th Carolyn Davies, OslerBrook G & CC (92)
 27th P.A. Irwin-Allen, Mad River GC (95)
 28th Elaine Hiscox, Blue Mountain G & CC (96)

Women

Winner: Julia Champion, Cedar Brae GC (76)
 * won in a playoff
 7th Kristy McLaughlin, Mad River GC (84)
 11th Elizabeth Doneathy, Legacy Ridge GC (87)
 T-12th Patty Vance, Blue Mountain G & CC (88)
 T-16 Mackenzie Czaplá, Midland G & CC (93)
 T-18th Kim Legge, Saugeen GC (94)

Junior Boys

Winner: Nathan Freure, Sawmill GC, (74)
 26th Damen Boose, Blue Mountain (92)

Junior Girls

Winner: Julia Alexander-Carew, Credit Valley G & CC (72)
 18th Abbey Boose, Blue Mountain G & CC (105)

Full schedules for junior tours

Events run from May 21 until Sept. 3 in BruceGreySimcoe

Two local tours for junior golfers are gearing up for the season.

The Simcoe County Junior Golf Tour kicks off May 21 at Settlers' Ghost while the Grey Bruce Junior Tour starts with a qualifier on July 5 at Whispering Hills Golf Club.

The full schedules are as follows:

Simcoe County Jr. Tour

May 21 - Settlers' Ghost
 May 28 - Heritage Hills
 June 4 - Midland
 June 11 - Simoro
 July 9 - Orr Lake
 July 21-22 Brooklea
 (Championship partner with CJGA)



July 25 - Innisfil Creek
 Aug. 5 - Shanty Bay
 Aug. 16 - Bear Creek
 Aug. 27 - The Nest at Friday Harbour
 Sept. 3 - Tangle Creek

Grey Bruce Jr. Tour

July 5 - Whispering Hills (qualifier)
 July 11 - Scenic City
 July 18 - Pike Lake
 July 25 - Legacy Ridge
 Aug. 7 - Meaford
 Aug. 14 - Cobble Beach
 Aug. 21 - Saugeen
 Aug. 27 - Cobble Beach (Junior Invitational)
 Aug. 28 - Ainsdale (Banquet)



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After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Toronto Golf and Travel Show returned and Golf BruceGreySimcoe was there to join in the fun. The Feb. 3-5 show attracted about 20,000 golfers and the Golf BGS booth was buzzing for most of the show with people lined up for a spin at free golf. The show is part of a year-long marketing campaign coordinated by Harron Marketing. This year, 16 clubs from the region are participating.



**Shorts in mid-April?
You bet!**



Dave Cruickshank of Owen Sound tees off at the 16th hole at Scenic City Golf Course on April 14 - a day when golfers enjoyed temperatures in the mid-20s Celsius. The 16th tee box was moved to this location because spring run-off created a temporary water hazard on the hole and prevented play from the normal tee.

Crime Stoppers tourney June 1

Peter Mahovlich, shown with tournament organizer Evan Hayter in 2014, will return to the Crime Stoppers event, this year.



Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce will hold its 31st Annual fundraising golf tournament this year on June 1 at Saugeen Golf Club.

Among the celebrities scheduled to attend is former NHL star Peter Mahovlich. He will be joined by ex-NHLers Pat Hickey, Les Binkley, Paul MacDermid and NHL referee Kendrick Nicholson.

Organizers state in a news release that they are delighted to announce a new roster of

title sponsors for 2023. "Bayshore Broadcasting, Germania Mutual Insurance and MacLean's Ales have all committed to perpetuating this highly successful and important event."

"Outgoing co-sponsors Trillium Mutual Insurance and Waterloo Brewery are to be commended for helping to raise nearly \$600,000 in the first 30 years. The Tournament Committee wishes to thank both organizations for their past support."

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Did You Know?
G.W. King of the Academy at Georgian Bay Club shot 74-74 & placed 9th at the Ontario PGA's Zone Spring Championship. The winner was Keir Smith of The National Golf Club of Canada, who shot 71-70. It was held May 15-16 at Whitevale GC.

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Doug Kukurudza, left, with his playing partners Tom Bruce & Gil Graham.

It's still early in the season, but we've had a few aces already.

May 16 - Tom Mitchell on #11 at Northern Dunes.

May 15 - Doug Kukurudza with an 8 iron on #8 at Ainsdale Golf Course. He was playing with Tom Bruce & Gil Graham. It was the first ace of the season at Ainsdale.

May 9 - Member Brent Davidson on #2 at Legacy Ridge Golf Club. Brent was playing alongside his wife Kim, and Gord & Donna Engel.

If you or someone you know scores an ace please send the details to harronmarketing@gmail.com Just need the basic details: Date, hole #, yardage, club used and names of playing partners.



Brent Davidson had the first ace of the season at Legacy Ridge Golf Club.



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