

SAUGEEN GOLF CLUB PRESENTS:

LINKS

MAGAZINE



Your Guide to the
2021 Season

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The Mayor's Message

From Town of Saugeen Shores

Welcome to Saugeen Shores – the fastest growing community in our region and a hub for innovation on the frontier of Canada's green energy sector. The people here are friendly, the air and water are clean and the sun always seems to be shining.

Saugeen Shores, which includes the communities of Port Elgin and Southampton, is a place where spectacular sunsets over Lake Huron frame a relaxed cottage life of golfing, sunbathing, fishing and trail riding mixed effortlessly with cutting edge businesses, high-end retail, quality dining, arts and culture.

With miles of shoreline and acres of open wilderness, Saugeen Shores is a virtual paradise. Whether you prefer an active existence or a slower pace, this community has exactly what you need;

Our Rail Trail is popular among those who walk, cycle, and jog. Covering the eight kilometre distance between Southampton and Port Elgin, the former railway bed has been converted into a green corridor for all to enjoy.

The all-season McGregor Point Provincial Park is a delight to visit, with its complex eco-system.

Enjoy a walk through silver maple swamps and cattail marshes in search of wildlife, or explore seven kilometres of waterfront.

The Saugeen River is a number one destination for canoeists and kayakers from across Ontario. Stretching 102 kilometres from Hanover to Southampton, the Saugeen River is wide and slow moving in spots, with rapids and eddies in others; it provides a full range of experiences.

Fishing is a favourite pastime in Saugeen Shores. Take a boat out on Lake Huron or wade into the Saugeen River to catch salmon, trout, pickerel and whitefish.

Saugeen Shores and boating are synonymous. Sailing or power boating, whichever you prefer, our harbour can accommodate you. Or, if you are looking for a more relaxing visit to the waterfront, check out one of our many beaches to soak up the summer sun.

And, of course, we are the proud home of the Saugeen Golf Club. This outstanding facility has been supporting our community through fundraising tournaments, providing networking opportunities to our residents and offering a first class golf experience for almost a century. I hope that everyone reading this enjoys their time on the links!

Visitors are drawn to our growing community; attracted by an unparalleled quality of life and available amenities. I welcome you to our community as a visitor and perhaps as one of the growing number of people who are choosing to call Saugeen Shores home.



Mayor Luke Charbonneau



Looking Back at 2020

A year like no other at Saugeen with plenty of challenges



As the 2021 season draws near, we want to reflect on the crazy 2020 season that has come and gone.

It goes without saying that 2020 was a year like no other. And while we all know it came with significant challenges for everyone, we also know that there were diamonds in the rough in 2020 and golf was one of those bright spots. Quite simply, golf was an important release both physically and mentally for both existing golfers, and equally importantly, new players to the game."

From the second golf courses were allowed to open back up on May 16, 2020, protocols were put in place that made golf courses one of the safest places to be throughout this pandemic. These safety measures allowed people to enjoy this great game like never before. Saugeen Golf Club was no different as we saw an increase in members, guests and play in general.

As we maneuvered through the season, changes were made to allow some form of play for Women's Day, Women's Night and Men's Night. All three of these leagues had an incline in participation both new and old. Despite these leagues seeing modifications to allow play, our Wednesday Senior League was forced to watch from the sidelines due to the need to maintain shotgun play.

As the season progressed, both club and corporate events returned with alterations: fields decreased in size, shotgun starts became three-teed starts, and prior and post gatherings were a thing of the past.

Many positives came from this roller coaster season. The main one being the new exposure we received. Our volunteers put on an amazing show, wooing Golf Ontario, the Junior Boys and their parents alike. The feedback was simply amazing and quite frankly, left me speechless.

We also had the pleasure of hosting two Toronto Players Tour events leading to Top Host Club with a whopping 78% majority of the votes as voted on by the players. The positive publicity continues to lead to new possibilities and future events held by Saugeen Golf Club.

With everything that went on during the pandemic, we couldn't have done it without all the support from our staff, board of directors, certificate holders, members, new players and guests. Thank you to all and we look forward to a wonderful 2021 season.

*Brad Young,
GM and COO*





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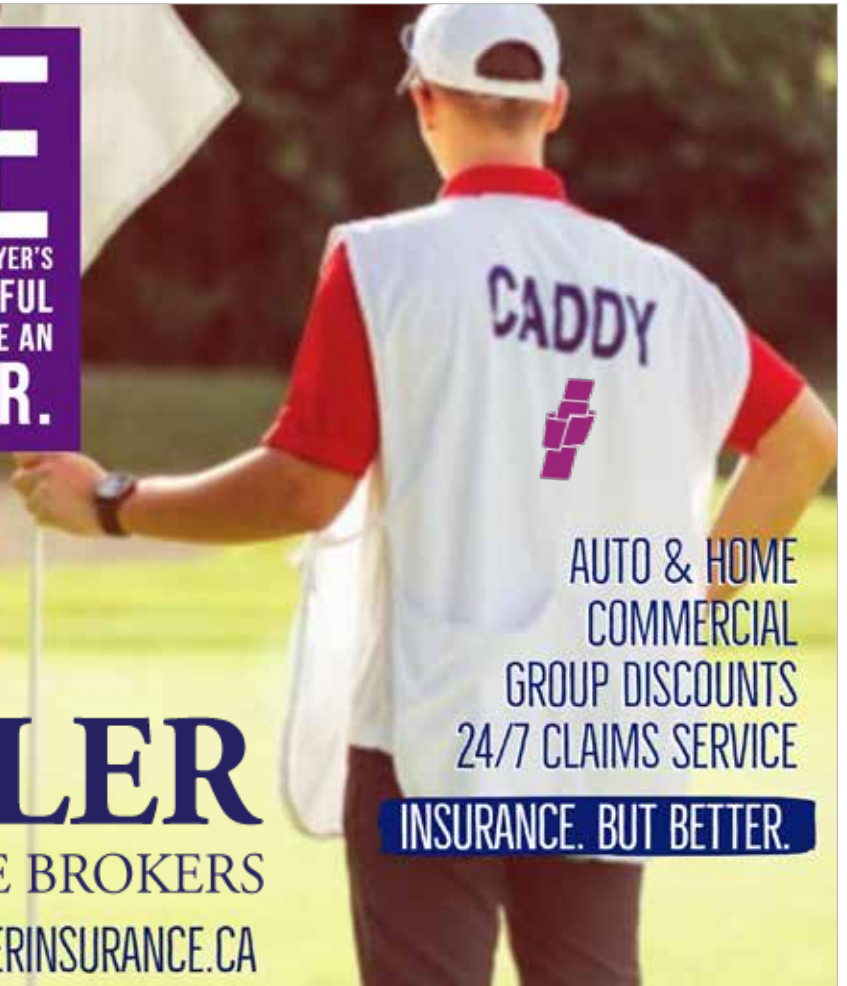
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President's Message

Our goal: every time you leave, you can't wait to come back



After a very long winter, while under the Province's Stay at Home Order, Saugeen Golf Club is happy to re-open and with the hard work of our team, Saugeen Golf Club will once again be recognized as one of the premier golf courses in Ontario. Thank you for all the hard work, dedication, and pride our staff puts into their work every day.

The past year was a great success with course conditions considered as some of the best in the province. This was evidenced by the Saugeen Golf Club being rated the #1 stop for the Toronto Player's Tour with 96% of the players saying the overall event was amazing.

This spring you will enjoy our brand-new fleet of Yamaha golf carts to assist with your golfing pleasure. There are also a number of projects to be carried out going forward such as the removal of designated trees that are near or at end of life. The retaining wall between legacy 2 and 8 is to be removed and the wall at the end of the pond on Sunrise 6 is to be re-built. Projects like these are in place to increase the appearance and playability of the Saugeen Golf Course.

We are very excited to once again be hosting the 2021 NextGen Tournament and to be included in the Toronto Player's Tour as well as the Canadian Junior Golf Association Tournament (60 players) and a one-day Senior Golf Ontario qualifier.

As long as the COVID-19 measures remain as is, our Foresight Simulators that have become a real hit by those that have taken the opportunity to play them will stay in place for your playing pleasure on those rainy or bad weather days.

I would like to thank our current board members for their forward thinking, dedication and hard work. They are always trying to find ways to make your golf club a more enjoyable experience every time you visit.

It is my goal that every time you leave us you just can't wait to return.

As always, do not hesitate to bring ideas or suggestions to myself or any board member. We are here to serve the membership in whatever way we can.

Wishing you an enjoyable 2021 golf season!

*Doug Freiburger,
President*



NextGen coming to SGC

Saugeen to host some of Canada's best young golfers in May 2021

Following the success of hosting the 2020 Ontario Junior Boys' Championship, Saugeen Golf Club was selected as the host for the 2021 Golf Canada NextGen Ontario Championship.

The event—scheduled to take place between May 28 and May 30, 2021—will feature some of the best young talent within Canada.

As Golf Canada writes on their website, their NextGen program aims to support and develop Canada's next wave of future Team Canada ath-

letes. Past participants of the program include current professionals like Brooke Henderson, Corey Connors, Mackenzie Hughes, Nick Taylor and many others.

This event will certainly be an opportunity for Saugeen to showcase our pristine playing conditions, friendly members and staff and further prepare our club for the big stage as we look ahead to hosting a national championship in 2024.

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A Bright Future for Saugeen

Brad Young, General Manager



One of General Manager Brad Young's top priorities is to get the word out about all that Saugeen Golf Club has to offer.

"Mike Pellerin and his crew have done a tremendous job in providing us with a golf course that's a real gem," Brad says. "The praise from players who took part in the 2020 Golf Ontario Junior Championship and their parents has been unbelievable. The Toronto Players Tour visited twice last year and named Saugeen their course of the year."

"I've been talking to Golf Ontario and they would certainly like to bring more events to Saugeen in the future and we're looking forward to showcasing Saugeen during the CGAJA event in May." COVID-19 posed an unexpected challenge for Brad during his first year at Saugeen. "A week after I started, the first lockdown was put in place," Brad says. "Coming to a new course, you are trying to learn the systems and meet the members and the staff. It was a little hectic."

"I am very appreciative of the support I had from the Board of Directors during that time and my financial administrator, Donna Dollmaier, really helped me get to know the ins and outs."

"Last year, I looked at the operation from 30,000 feet to see how everything worked. That's not my style, so this year I intend to be out of the office more, whether it's talking to people on the first tee or getting to know folks on the patio." Brad would also like to be more active in the local community. "I want to promote the club locally through organizations like the Saugeen Shores Chambers of Commerce or service clubs," he says. "That's another thing I'm really looking forward to."

Also affected by the COVID-19 lockdown is the use of two golf simulators upstairs in the club-

house. "They are there and ready to go," Brad says. "It's a great atmosphere. We have couches and TV screens to show sporting events and a bar. We're just waiting for the lockdown to end."

Brad hails from Marathon, Ontario and grew up playing just about every sport going. Eventually, he got into golf and loved it. He progressed to competing in high profile tournaments and made the decision that he would make golf his career.

Brad got his diploma in golf business management from Niagara College. His first job was at a club in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba where he eventually became head professional and later general manager.

Returning to Ontario, Brad spent a year as general manager of Caledon Country Club before moving on to become the head professional at King's Riding in Aurora. Brad had played in two spring scrambles at Saugeen and he loved the course and the area.

Rod McDonald



Thank you Volunteers!

Saugeen members earn high praise for their efforts

Whether it is pitching in at a major event or helping take care of the golf course, Saugeen Golf Club's member volunteers are gaining an excellent reputation beyond the club's gates.

Look no further than the 2020 Golf Ontario Junior Boys Championship.

"Over my 20-year career as a Tournament Director, Saugeen Golf Club is one of the most exemplary hosts for national and provincial championships I have ever dealt with," says John Lawrence, Manager, Rules and Competitions, Golf Ontario. "In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, the numerous course volunteers did a fantastic job in their assigned roles." And the junior golfers' parents have a similar view.

The 50 or so Saugeen volunteers worked a total of 466 hours during the tournament's four days, including those who worked two to three hours each night filling divots.

"I cannot recall a tournament where we felt more welcome, and the players more appreciated than our visit to Saugeen Golf Club," says John Weber whose son, Michael, played in the event. "On every hole I had the pleasure of chatting with one of the numerous volunteers who were all so proud of their club and appreciative of the level of golf being played.

"Without exception, every single volunteer was pleasant and fun to talk to," says Weber. "They

made the week for the players and their parents a memorable experience."

Then there are the member-tended gardens, which add extra beauty to many of the holes. "I have never heard of this being done anywhere except Saugeen and it's very cool," says Russell Budd of the Toronto Players Tour.

Then there is work that volunteer members do to keep the course in shape. "Member help is certainly essential when it comes to the extra work that we do around the golf course," says Superintendent Mike Pellerin. "Filling divots in something they help us with before big events and before we put the course to bed for the winter. They have also helped us with the aeration of the course in the past."

"Our volunteers have gone over and above in everything they do," says General Manager Brad Young. "That's one important reason why Saugeen is getting the notoriety that it deserves."

Rod McDonald



Notice to Golfers - a new starter program will be in place for the 2021 season. More communication to follow prior to opening day

Calling all Leagues!

New signs needed to help identify the three nines

For years now a constant finding on the annual survey has been that the three nines at Saugeen Golf Club are difficult to find and are not easily identified. Newcomers to Saugeen and green fee guests express frustration and confusion on where to go to start and when making the turns.

In an effort to help cure this situation and to better identify our nines we are proposing to purchase three distinct signs to be located at the first tee area of each nine. The signs will be large enough to ensure the nine is easily distinguished by all, and make getting to the correct nine easier.

Each year our different leagues generously donate some of their fundraising efforts towards worthy causes both in our community and here at the course. For example, leagues helped promote the junior program, donated to the local hospital, sponsored our local junior curling team on their quest for their national title, was purchased to direct people away from areas they should not be while on carts, purchased a large barbecue as well as many other projects.

This would be a great way to get all members, Men, Women and Juniors involved in a project and help make Saugeen Golf Club that next level facility we are all striving to reach. We are asking the leagues to consider committing to purchasing one of the three signs or joining other groups to donate to the cause.

Possible designs and costs will be available in the near future. For more information and to sign up,

please contact Brad Young at +1-(519)389-4031 ext. 100, or gm@saugeengolf.com.



The AVS Tournament

In Memory of Art Van Santen



Despite obstacles created by the coronavirus pandemic, in July 2020 the Art Van Santen (AVS) Memorial Golf Tournament went ahead, safely and responsibly, with its third annual event at the Saugeen Golf Club. The tournament is organized by the family and close friends of Art Van Santen – husband, father, and long-time Saugeen Golf Club member who passed away in 2017. The tournament's perseverance in the altered circumstances of the 2020 season was to the great pleasure of both tournament participants and the wider Saugeen community, which has been deeply involved with the event since its debut in 2018. The outpouring of support for the event over the past three years has been equal parts astounding and heartwarming.

The tournament burst onto the local scene in 2018, staging Saugeen Golf Club's largest tournament of the year fielding 216 golfers along with 75 additional attendees. The tournament was made possible by the extraordinary generosity of Saugeen Shores residents and businesses, along with individuals and organizations from across the province, that made donations, enlisted as sponsors, and provided support in countless other fun and creative ways that helped quickly turn "the AVS" into a community-favourite event. Each year, the Queen's Bar and Grill has cooked a savoury lunch of ribs, served mid-round to golfers on Sunrise 5, while local DJ Braeden Mackenzie has offered his melodic services out on the course to add to the lively and energetic atmosphere. In 2019, Rabbit Dash provided coffee before the round and local celebs of The Lulu's

Roadhouse Band were also in the lineup, setting the mood post-round for participants to dance into the evening and raise a glass to Art Van Santen. In 2020, The Wismer House's brewery, Three Sheets Brewing, set up a tent to add to the revelry (if not to help lower scores).

In the tournament's first year, it raised \$7,500 each for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada and the Southampton Memorial Hospital Foundation. In its second year, the list of beneficiaries was expanded to include Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph. In 2020, the tournament adapted to the abrupt shift in the public health situation, reducing the number of participants by half to permit social distancing, and purchasing prizes, rather than seeking donations, from local businesses that supported the tournament in years past but, like so many others, have felt the pinch that has accompanied our "new normal." Even in the trying conditions of 2020, the tournament succeeded in raising \$3,000 donated in equal amounts to Heart and Stroke and the Saugeen Memorial Hospital Foundation.

Planning has already begun for 2021's highly anticipated fourth installment of the AVS Memorial Golf Tournament, which, circumstances permitting, will be back, bigger and better than ever.

Jessica Smit



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Start Entering Those Scores

Golf Canada introduces new Handicap System for 2021

Saugeen Golf Club is excited to announce that a new handicap system will be available to all members for the 2021 season. The system, being provided by Golf Canada, conforms to the new World Handicap System (WHS), and is the official tool of Golf Canada for maintaining an accurate handicap for use in tournament play.

For several seasons, members of Saugeen have been left without a dependable handicap system. While not all golfers rely on a handicap, it is a useful metric for creating a fair and equal playing field for your matches. Further, the Handicap Index is the ultimate performance indicator of your skills and abilities as a golfer. Many dedicated players use the Handicap Index as a goal to strive towards, where others will use the Handicap Index to ensure that sufficient strokes are being provided on their weekly skins game. Whatever you use your Handicap Index for, the most important element is accuracy.

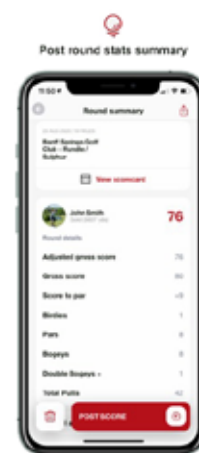
With the Golf Canada handicap system, golfers can rest assured that accuracy is at the core of the product. Conforming with the new WHS, your Handicap Index can now be compared against any golfer in the world. So whether you are playing a friendly match in your weekly league, or taking on an Australian, a Scot and American in a competitive Wolf Hammer match, you can be confident that the game can be conducted on a level playing field using your Handicap Index.

Members are sure to love the ease of entering scores into the handicap system. By using the free Golf Canada app, golfers can enter their scores after the completion of the round, or use the live scoring feature to track hole-by-hole scoring throughout the round. In addition to providing an accurate Handicap Index, the app provides performance statistics that can be useful for game improvement.

The handicap software is provided to all members of Saugeen Golf Club for the 2021 season, and with your participation comes a number of the supplemental benefits, including:

- Use of GPS based scoring app with integrated handicap and stats tracking.
- Use of Golf Genius™ for league play, tournament scoring and events—featuring live score tracking, contests and challenges.
- Additional insurance protection of carts, sheds & other property stored at Saugeen.
- Insurance protection up to \$2500 for lost or stolen golf clubs.
- Equipment identification labels for your set of clubs.
- Opportunity to host educational seminars about scoring, rules and etiquette at no cost.
- Course ratings when requested.

Saugeen members will all receive a welcome package from Golf Canada with their membership this year that will outline in further detail all the great benefits with being a Golf Canada member.



Continued on next page...

New Handicap System

Golf Canada introduces new Handicap System for 2021

What is the World Handicap System? (WHS)

In 2020, the World Handicap System (WHS) was created to unify six existing systems into a single system that will:

- Enable golfers of different abilities to play and compete on a fair and equal basis, in any format, on any course, anywhere around the world.
- Be easy to understand and implement, without sacrificing accuracy.
- Meet the varied needs and expectations of golfers, golf clubs and golf authorities all around the world and be adaptable to suit all golfing cultures.

Old vs. new - what is the difference between CPGA and WHS?

There are some key differences between the CPGA handicap system and the new WHS, including:

- Players will be able to establish a Handicap Index with as little as three scores.
- A player's Handicap Index will be calculated using the best 8 out of their last 20 rounds (this was previously the best 10 of their last 20).
- The maximum hole score for all handicaps is net double bogey.
- A "Playing Conditions Calculation" identifies and accounts for abnormal course or weather conditions.
- Safeguards limit the extreme upward movement of a Handicap Index and reduce a Handicap Index when an exceptional score is submitted.
- Meet the varied needs and expectations of golfers, golf clubs and golf authorities all around the world and be adaptable to suit all golfing cultures.



Take a Swing with Jerry

Jerry Noga, Director of Instruction - PGA of Canada



Jerry Noga has spent a long time watching, listening, learning and developing. That is how Saugeen Golf Club's teaching professional put together his philosophy of how to swing a golf club, which he passes on to his students every summer.

"I definitely convey the proper theory of how the golf swing is to be understood and how it's to be applied," Jerry says. "Every one of my students is going to get the same information from me. There has to be an understanding of how the swing is delivered in order to make it work to its full potential."

Over the years, Jerry has developed an understanding of how individual students receive information. "It's up to the teacher to discover how each student learns and applies, in order to progress," Jerry says.

There were a number of great players & teachers who influenced Jerry's thinking on the golf swing but perhaps none more so than the late George Knudson. Known as one of the best ball strikers of his day, Knudson won seven times on the PGA Tour and finished second, one shot behind George Archer, in the 1969 Masters.

"I had the opportunity to attend one of his seminars and was able to meet and talk with him," Jerry says. "This was in 1988. I think his basic philosophy was definitely on the right track. He was such a fine player that I think his abilities proved his point about his swing theories."

Others, Ron Sisson of Real Swing Golf, and Terry Carter of the National Golf Academy, whom Jerry worked with, also had influence on his teaching.

"Ron in particular had very consistent methodology to teaching golf which I was very much in tune

with and admired," he says.

Growing up in Grandview, a small Manitoba town, Jerry got the golf bug early in his life and his first instruction book was by legendary Scottish golfer Tommy Armour. His mother used to drop him off at the golf course on summer days where he would stay and often play 36 holes.

By the time Jerry went to the University of Manitoba he had another passion: music. Jerry played guitar in a rock-and-roll band around town while attending classes.

After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology, Jerry went on to work in the oil and gas business in Calgary for several years. The introduction of The National Energy Program caused an upheaval in the oil and gas business and Jerry moved to the west coast where he got a job as Assistant Professional at the Richmond Golf and Country Club, one of Greater Vancouver's top private courses.

While in Vancouver, Jerry got to sharpen his playing skills by playing in a yearly mini assistant's tour around town with the professionals from other clubs. Later, he became Head Teaching Professional at Green Acres Golf Course - a public layout in the city of Richmond and in 1991 he won the PGA of BC Pro-Executive Championship at the Chilliwack Golf Club, Chilliwack BC.

Eventually, Jerry returned to Calgary and began teaching at Elbow Springs Golf Club and later at the National Golf Academy in Calgary. Bringing his life and career up to the present, he will rejoin the staff at Saugeen Golf Club in 2021, beginning his 4th season at Saugeen.

Rod McDonald

Jerry's Spring Tips

Flexibility is key for a great start to the new season

The COVID-19 pandemic has kept many of us at home this past winter so exercise may have been limited. With the 2021 golf season we hope that will change.

After a long time away from the game, regaining the flexibility needed to make a good golf swing is a priority. Exercise has become fundamental to playing good golf so anything you can do to stay limber will be a benefit.

That could include things you can do at home like stretching, riding your bicycle, aerobics or yoga. If you have the space, swinging a golf club is absolutely beneficial.

One great tip is to get two small weights, or something similar, and hold them together, one in each hand in front of you like you are addressing a golf ball. Then make the swinging motion for the back swing and the through swing to your finishing leg. Repeat several times and then try this exercise the opposite way or opposite hand. This will help loosen stiff muscles, improve strength and help you with the all important, balance and symmetry in your swing.

I will be holding my annual "Spring Tune-Up Sessions," so sign-up for those soon.

Jerry Noga



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Behind the Greens

Mike Pellerin, Superintendent of SGC



When it comes to the excellent condition of Saugeen Golf Club's 27 holes, Mike Pellerin gives plenty of credit to the hard work of his staff.

"It's a team effort," says Mike, Saugeen's Course Superintendent. "Many of the team members have been with us for a while and they certainly understand their role in customer service and what they need to do to make sure people enjoy themselves when they visit Saugeen. They take the job very seriously and take great pride in their work."

The days during golf season starts for the crew before 6 a.m. as they fan out to get the course ready for the day's play. The remainder of the day is spent working on special projects, doing line trimming, bunker weeding and some of the finer points of maintenance.

Hosting events like the Senior Ryder Cup, the Ontario Junior Championship and hosting a Golf Canada event this year have given the course a higher profile outside the club.

"For our department, hosting those kinds of events gives us an extra incentive to do our work well and focus on bigger goals for the season. We will be focusing on getting the course ready for the Golf Canada event in May," Mike says.

Since the course closed in early November, a great deal of work has been done to remove many ash trees that were infected with the ash borer.

"They are dying back rather quickly, especially on Sunrise Nine, so members will be noticing a dramatic change in the tree line," Mike says. "We applied chemicals to the fairways on the Sunrise 9 and the Legacy 9 which should help the fairways winter better and should result in mid-summer conditions during the spring."

There will also be work done to repair the wall at the end of the left pond on Sunrise 6, which has been collapsing.

"We want to thank the Board of Directors for approving the purchase of two new tractors this year," Mike says. "It will certainly make a big difference in our efficiency."

Mike is one of only 11 master course superintendents in Canada. He started golfing in high school at the Onaping Golf Club near Sudbury and later worked on the grounds crew. Finding his passion, he began working on the grounds crew and Idylwyld Golf Club in Sudbury.

A few years later, he became assistant superintendent at Lionhead Golf Club in Brampton and was asked to finish the grow at the newly built Royal Ontario Golf Club in Milton.

Returning to Northern Ontario, he spent nine years as superintendent at the North Bay Golf Club. From there, he spent a year as head grounds keeper at Cambrian College in Sudbury. But he missed the golf business so, five years ago, he came to Saugeen. Mike took courses at both Cambrian and Canadore colleges. He later completed a turf management course at the University of Guelph.

Rod McDonald



Reminder - the driving range and practice facility is closed for maintenance on Thursdays!

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A L A I R





27-hole Spring Scramble
May 8th

Men's Night Calcutta Auction
May 14th

Men's Night Opener
May 15th

**Golf Canada NextGen Ontario
Championship**
May 28th-30th

Senior Ryder Cup
June 15th

CJGA Juniors
June 25th-26th

Golf Ontario Qualifier
June 27th

Canada Day Member Social
July 1st

Toronto Players Tour PRO/AM
July 6th-7th

Ladies Member/Guest
July 13th

Club Championship
August 7th-8th

Ladies Scramble
August 13th

Senior Men's Club Championship
August 18th-19th

Senior Scramble
August 26th

Men's Member Guest
September 7th

Men's Night Closing
September 12th

Sr. Day Closing
September 15th

Members Day Social
September 19th

27-hole Fall Scramble
September 25th

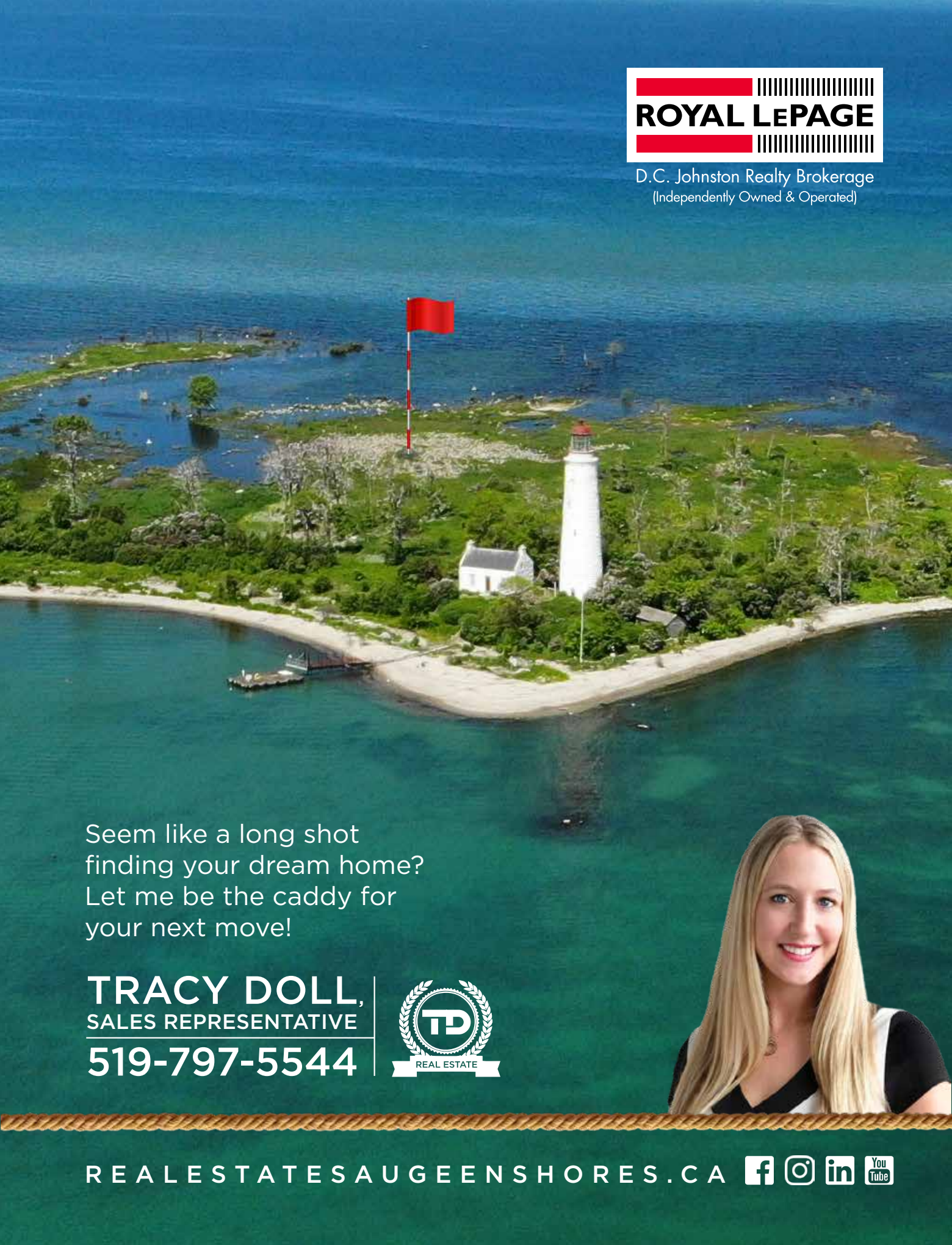
**Toronto Players Tour Practice/
Skins**
October 7th

Toronto Players Tour Scramble
October 8th

Golf Course Closure
October 31st



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A New Direction in Golf

Robbie Oliver, Director of Golf



Robbie Oliver feels he has come full circle. Growing up in nearby Walkerton, Saugeen Golf Club's Director of Golf previously worked in the club's back shop while he was in high school.

"It was fun to have many of the Saugeen members recognize me from my previous time here," he says.

Robbie picked up a golf club at the tender age of four and had a membership at age six. He loved the game and just happened to live right across the street from the Walkerton Golf Club.

"It was pretty cool to walk across the road and be on the first tee," Robbie says. He and his brother, B.J., once managed to get around 72 holes in one day.

COVID-19 was an unwelcomed obstacle during Robbie's first year at Saugeen. After the lockdown, which delayed the spring opening, restrictions placed on operations made it difficult to have a complete golf program.

"I want to thank all the members for being understanding and patient under the circumstances. I know these have been difficult times for many of us," Robbie says. "All returning staff are looking forward to making improvements."

Saugeen's Golf Shop has had some major improvements over the winter. The Golf Canada handicap system will be ready to go.

"We will now have everyone in the same handicap system and players going to outside events will no longer have to verify their handicap because they are in the system," Robbie says. "There are many benefits and I'm excited to show the system to everyone."

There is also a new tournament scoring software that can be customized and will allow actions like online registration and live leaderboards.

"This will help golf staff with preparation, communication and execution of each event," Robbie says.

Old favourites and new brands will be offered in the Golf Shop.

"You can expect to see Original Penguin, Adidas, Levelware, Bermuda Sands, 2Undr, and Imperial to name a few," Robbie says. "We have also stocked up on the new 2021 demos for you to try." After graduating Niagara College in golf course management, Robbie took an assistant professional position at Cobble Beach near Owen Sound. After two years at Cobble Beach, he spent three years at Grandview Golf Club in Huntsville before coming to Saugeen.

Rod McDonald



Reminder - All member's receive 10% off ALL soft goods Pro-Shop merchandise! Skip the big box stores and on-line, support your local Pro-Shop!

The Club from Up Above

Drone captures course from unique vantage point

Local drone enthusiast and Saugeen Golf Club member, Robin Worling, took to the skies to capture Saugeen from a unique vantage point. Using a 4K drone with all the bells and whistles, Worling toured the course with Director of Golf, Robbie Oliver, on a sunny September day as they guided the buzzing camera from tee to green on all 27-holes.

The high definition footage will be used to provide hole-by-hole flyovers on the Saugeen Golf Club website. Oliver believes this footage will become a key feature of the website, saying, "Not only can visitors of our website see the lovely imagery, but now they have an idea of what to expect from the course layout." He continued, "The footage is even more beneficial if we ever want to get the course custom mapped on the newly installed simulators for the winter 2021 season."

In order to prepare prospective golfers for the challenges of Saugeen, voiceover narration was added by Oliver to provide insights, tips and points of interest on each hole. Oliver believes that this quality of photography will effectively highlight the beauty and pristine conditions that Saugeen is known for.

While many local golf enthusiasts know what we have to offer, many visitors are new to the course. With websites and social media platforms becoming the go-to source for marketing, making a bold statement and leaving the viewer in awe is sure to bring in new golfers and visitors to Saugeen Shores.

Editorial Staff



Reminder - All members are eligible and encouraged to use their Saugeen Charge Account for all purchases. Includes pro-shop merchandise, league play, food & beverage (even on beer carts). Statements provided monthly & invoiced to your payment method on file.

New Food & Beverage

SGC reaches deal for food service with The Wismer House

Saugeen Golf Club has some incredible news for the 2021 golf season! After thoughtful consideration of member feedback, the Board of Directors has decided to take the food and beverage department in an exciting new direction.

This year is the beginning of a new relationship with the owners and operators of The Wismer House and Three Sheets Brewing who have signed on to provide top quality service, elevated food and drink choices and consistency that both members and guests at Saugeen want and deserve.

The new restaurant at Saugeen Golf Club will be called Gimmie's on the Green. It will focus on complimenting the incredible golf experience that has existed at Saugeen Golf Club for generations. New owners, Cynthia Auer and Jeff Carver have been committed to serving Saugeen Shores for many years and it is with great excitement that they embark on this project.

What makes this endeavour even more exciting is that Cynthia and Jeff have partnered with Walker House owners Mary Putnam and Robert Ho to handle all the catering needs for tournaments, weddings, and functions. This collaboration brings together three storied businesses that have a long history of serving the community.

The goal of this partnership is to make Saugeen Golf Club the premiere golf and wedding destination in the area and ensure that both members and guests receive the same outstanding

experience whether on or off the course.

Anyone who has played a round of golf at this beautiful 27-hole course quickly realizes what a special place it is. With your support and feedback, Gimmie's can be the place that you asked for, and one that belongs at Saugeen.

On behalf of Cynthia, Jeff, Mary, and Robert, we look forward to serving you. Thank you for this opportunity.

*Jeff Carver,
Owner of The Wismer House*

the
WISMER
HOUSE



Exciting new signature beer for Saugeen!

Brewed fresh locally with simple ingredients, this beer, like your drives, is so good it won't touch the sides. Have a great game!

“Cheers!”



"You can have that."



Great food, great drinks, great times. Meet you at the green!

The 2021 golf season at Saugeen is almost upon us, and we are looking forward to serving you at Gimmie's on the Green. Whether you're in for a bite and refreshment after a round on the course, or stopping in for a nice relaxed Sunday brunch, we'll be ready to serve you. Watch for our all new menu, and in the meantime, get those irons shined up!



Membership at Saugeen

More than just a golf course



7 Days a Week - No Restrictions

Adult (Age 40-79)	\$1985
Adult (Age 30-39)	\$1500
Adult (Age 19-29)	\$1285
Adult (80+)	\$1350
Couples	\$3515
9 Hole	\$1315

Junior (Must be 13-18 years of age) **\$325**
(7 Days per Week/After 12pm on Weekends)

Weekday

Adult **\$1775**

Additional Options

Adult Power Cart	\$690
Couple Power Cart	\$995
Nine Hole Power Cart	\$375
Club Storage	\$125
Club Lockers	\$60
Power Caddy Storage	\$160
Member Owned Cart Fee (Includes Land Lease)	\$590
Member Owned Cart Fee Deluxe (Allows Cart Owners to use SGC Carts when required)	\$690

— All Prices Subject to HST. —

Give me

A poem by member Roger Bell

Give me a golf course in early September, still summer but all of the tourists gone; and the fairways wide and mown and green but nearly empty, a twosome there taking its own sweet time, a foursome here in no big hurry.

Give me the day to play, a high sky such a mesmeric blue, and leaves, before they decide to turn, rustling like rumours in a soft west wind that carries the scent of a not-distant lake and the imagining of waves rolling in, for a million years, and out.

Give me three friends, all young again and careless and bold, and muscle memory so our swings are fluid and full and smooth. Give us drives that rise and carry, and putts that read the grain so they never once falter as they slow and curl and drop like destiny.

Give me a cold beer afterwards, and maybe a swim in a lake still warm, and perhaps a game of cards in a cottage with music from a radio somewhere, and then a late meal with familiar conversations until we call it a day and head for sleep between sheets dried on a line in sun.

Give me all that, if you can, as I age, and I will demand nothing more.



Gone but not forgotten

Member's who passed

Elaine Harris

If you know of a member of Saugeen Golf Club who has passed and would like their name mentioned in future LINKS issues, please contact our GM at gm@saugeengolf.com

The Saugeen Six

Six holes that can make or break your golf game

There is a nice variety of holes among Saugeen Golf Club's 27 holes, but here are six holes that we think are just waiting to make or break a good round and your mood.

Legacy No.5, dogleg right, Par 4

This longish par four almost always plays into the wind. A good drive still leaves a shot to the elevated green, which slopes like a ski hill from back to front. There's a bailout to the right but you could be facing a pitch with lots of break. If you hit it left, you could be pitching uphill from near the 6th tee. If you are over the back and if the ball stops before the trees, you are pitching straight down the previously mentioned ski hill. Putting from above the hole is like trying to stop the ball on the hood of your car.

Legacy No.7, dogleg left, Par 4

This hole presents a double conundrum. The drive must be placed so that the second shot can be negotiated through the gap between the giant maple tree on the right and the stand of pines on the left. Then there's the elevated green, which slopes sharply from back-right to front-left. Putts to the lower left corner can trickle (and trickle, and trickle) right off the front edge. Miss the green to the right and your pitch will be lucky to hold the green.

Sunrise No. 5, Par 3

With a nod to The Old Course at St Andrews, this is Saugeen's "beside the road" hole. The problem on this par three is that bailout is at a premium. Hit it slightly to the right and you are on the road. Hit it left and, if you miss the bunkers, you are playing back up the hill through the trees down by Legacy 4 fairway. Over the back? Never mind.

Sunrise No. 6, dogleg right, Par 4

Off the tee there is a pond on the right and a pond on the left. What could go wrong? After negotiating the ponds there is the green, which is very wide but not that deep and, again, has no bail. Left or long and

you are in among the trees and below the level of the green. Right is worse.

Sunset No. 1, straight away Par 4

Almost always playing into the wind, this can be a daunting way to start a round. The second shot must thread through a gap in a hill. Both hillsides are covered in nasty scrub and there are three bunkers that make the opening look even smaller. The green has a large tilt from back to front and would not be out of place in the Rockies. Miss it right or left and you are pitching from well below the surface to a green that suddenly does not seem to be as wide as you thought it was. Miss it long and you are pitching directly down the slope hoping it will stop...somewhere, sometime.

Sunset No. 4, dogleg right Par 4

This is another hole that mainly plays into the wind. Drive it in the left part of the fairway if you want a straight-on look at the green. The green is large and reasonably flat, but the three bunkers front and left, and the pond on the right starting from about 80-yards in, make it a little intimidating. Crosswinds can play havoc with second shots.

Those are our picks. You may have your own choices that may have confounded you in the past.

Editorial Staff



Reminder - Corporate Memberships
are available - inquire with the
General Manager for options & pricing

Saugeen Golf Club Through the Years

A member's memories of growing up playing golf at Saugeen

I was nine years old; it was 1961 and my dad, Cy McDonald, and I were watching Big Three Golf in glorious black and white. Arnie, Jack and Gary were playing in some exotic location that was a lot warmer than Guelph in mid-winter. At some point, I turned to my dad and said, "I'd like to try that." So, in the spring, it was off to a local nine-hole course that disappeared long ago under a subdivision. My father had played but not for some time. I showed some talent, and the result was lifelong love of the game.

We had a cottage at South Sauble Beach just north of French Bay and, when I took an interest in golf, we started looking for a place to play nearby. Saugeen Golf Club was that place.

That was in the days before tee times. You had to arrive at 7 a.m. to put your name on the list to maybe get out by 11 a.m. An old farmhouse stood where the clubhouse is today. That was the coffee shop (a picture of it hangs in the clubhouse). After adding your name on the list, you went there to wait, or had a marathon session of putting practice until you got called to the tee.

There was a sign at the first tee that said you had to be 11 years old to play on weekend mornings with an adult. Why 11 years old, and not nine or 12, is still a mystery. The starter was an older gentleman who went by "Pop" and, when I was 10 years old, we used to fib and tell him I was 11. Luckily, he never asked for my ID.

When we started playing Saugeen, the Legacy 5th green was at the bottom of the hill. It was at ground level and had a big hump in the middle. The tee that is tucked in against the trees on the right was in use. Not great if you didn't hit a fade.

Legacy 7 was a short par four. It played from the present back tee to a green right below the 8th tee. The green was slightly raised, and bowl shaped which could make putting interesting.

Sunset 1 (which used to be 10) was a blind second shot over the hill before it was opened. You aimed at

a target that was suspended in the maple trees. The green was right of where it is now. It was at the bottom of the hill and was low to the ground.

Sunset 8 was also a blind shot over the hill. The bell that is at the clubhouse was next to the 9th tee and you rang it when you cleared the green. The ditch was not as severe as it is now, and the old green, which was a rectangle, had three distinct levels that ran away from you. I suspect that on the original nine-hole course you played to it from a different direction.

The hump in the rough on Sunset 2 short of the green is the back of the old green. Sunset 5 was a long par three with a grass ditch in front of a wide, shallow green. Not a pond in sight.

Sunset 9 (which was 18) had five apple trees on the hill leading up to the green. The back tee by the hill had not been built, so from the forward tee you either had to drive and hope it would miss the apple trees or lay up short of them.

During the next decades the first clubhouse was constructed, and the course underwent many improvements.

Every summer we returned to the cottage and played at Saugeen. It wasn't just a place to play the game we loved. It allowed my father and I time to be together and talk about family, careers and life in general.

Dad passed in 1993 and we sold the cottage. My wife and I had moved too far away to make it convenient to visit Saugeen Shores. But, nearly 25 years later, when we retired and started talking about where we might want to start the next phase of our lives, Port Elgin and Southampton were top of the list. So, I'm back at Saugeen where I grew up playing golf, remembering the good times with my dad and enjoying what the game has to offer today.

Rod McDonald

2024 Canadian Senior Men's

Saugeen to host Men's Championship in centennial year

The quality of Saugeen Golf Club's course and members is going to be on full display when the top senior golfers in North America and the world tee-it-up in the Canadian Men's Senior Championship, Sept. 12 to 16, 2024.

The event also coincides with Saugeen Golf Club's centennial year. Attracting the tournament was a direct result of Saugeen successfully hosting the 2018 Senior Ryder Cup championship.

"The work of a huge group of volunteers we had for the Senior Ryder Cup proved that we could host more great championships," says Ken Dunlop.

At a meeting after the Ryder Cup, a group including Ken Dunlop, Bob McWade, Stig Lassen, Rob Brignel, Gord Brown, Wendy Buckley and Jamie Stiles agreed that Saugeen should begin looking for more major events to host. Ed Braun was asked to act as liaison to Saugeen's Board of Directors.

Later, during a Ryder Cup meeting, which included Golf Canada CEO Laurence Applebaum, Dunlop introduced the idea of Saugeen hosting the Canadian Senior Championship in 2024 or 2025.

As a result, Adam Cenil and Akash Patel, Golf Canada's managers of rules and competitions, began looking at Saugeen as a possible site. As part of their consideration of Saugeen, they played the course, and looked at the facilities. They also attended the Golf Ontario Junior Boys Championship this past summer where they witnessed a flawless event put on by Golf Ontario, Saugeen Tournament Director Bob Buck, and the many volunteer members who worked during the tournament.

The Golf Canada reps also met with Dunlop, Stig Lassen, Ed Braun, Bob Buck, General Manager Brad Young and Director of Golf Robbie Oliver to discuss expectations of the host club and cost of the event.

Noted Canadian amateur golfers, Musician Tom Cochrane, Mike Jackson, Warren Sye, Graham Cooke and Kelly Roberts, as well as captains of the Senior Ryder Cup teams, were approached to provide recommendations for Saugeen.

Late last year, Saugeen was awarded the Canadian Senior Championship and the Canadian NextGen tournament which is being played in May. Many of Canada's top professionals have played in the NextGen event including LPGA star Brooke Henderson and the PGA's Cory Connors.

"The planning for the Senior Amateur starts this golf season and will last until it takes place," says Dunlop. "We will need members to take part in many different areas and ask you to volunteer in some capacity."

Rod McDonald



Year-Round Golf Has Arrived

The era of the golf simulator is upon us, and it truly is amazing

There was a time not so many years ago that a Bruce County golfer would have to drive over 20 hours to the south to find an open golf course in the winter. Today, as I stand in the Saugeen Golf Club clubhouse and gaze out through the windows at a winter wonderland, I simply look slightly to my left and there before my eyes is #7 at Pebble Beach. Yes, the era of the golf simulator is upon us, and it truly is amazing.

Golf simulators have been around for almost 30 years. I'm sure many of you remember going to Golf Town and test-driving a new set of irons or a driver in one of their simulators at the back of the store. Simulator technology has come a long way over the past 30 years. It has now reached a point where folks who don't have the money or the desire to drive 20 or more hours to play real golf, can enjoy the next best thing right here at Saugeen. The skeptics will say, "It's just a video game." I disagree. Golden Tee Golf is a video game.

Our golf simulator can give you a golf experience that approaches the real game without bug spray, sunblock or allergies. The graphics are top shelf, and the new sensors are extremely accurate in measuring club head speed, ball speed, spin rate, and launch angles. The computer calculates and displays the balls flight and landing location in high definition on a state of the art large screen in real time. Sure, the chipping and putting can be a little funky, and you always have a perfect lie, but what's not to like about a perfect lie?

Any game you play with your Saturday morning foursome can be played on the simulator. A better ball match, a two-man scramble, alternate shot, high-low-aggie; whatever you usually play

can be played on the simulator with your group. If you want to make the game tougher change the settings and play with "lie penalties" on or add some wind and rain. Now if you miss the fairway or are in a bunker its not the same shot as clean fairway lie. Try some different combinations of settings and the game gets harder. Or, if its just range time you want, no problem, a range with all the swing analytics you could ever want are available.

For the skeptics out there, I say come and give it a try. You might be surprised. For those of you who are already believers, well, we have two simulators just to make sure we can accommodate the masses. Saugeen Golf Club has become a year-round golf operation and the future looks bright.

Lloyd Sonnenburg



Birdies, Bogies & Bud Lights

What do these have in common? The LEaderboard

Birdie all 27 holes at Saugeen Golf Course? Throw in an eagle or two? That might sound like an unlikely four-man 27-hole scramble, but it's actually the goal of every competitor in the Thursday afternoon LEaderboard game. The LEaderboard game is a season-long individual competition with the goal being to post the lowest possible score on all 27 holes. Sounds easy, right? The catch is, you can only post two holes: one hole per nine played, per week. Once you've posted that hole, it cannot be replaced.

Early in the season, with your LEaderboard wide open, it's easy to find a birdie or par to post on each nine, but as the season moves along and your LEaderboard begins to fill up the pressure starts to mount as your open hole options are fewer. Each competitor is required to leave one hole open on each nine for the season ending 27-hole Grand Finale played on the last Thursday of September. It's this 27-hole extravaganza, where only one hole per nine actually matters for each competitor, which ultimately decides the LEaderboard Champion of the year.

The LEaderboard is now entering its fourth season at Saugeen and has grown in popularity and success each year. The idea came from an article I read in Golf Digest years ago about a similar concept being played at various private courses in the US. The Golf Digest game was good in concept, but needed some modifications to make it work for our weekly game.

Our core group has been playing together on Thursday afternoons at Saugeen since the mid '90s and the usual high-low-aggie plus skins game was getting a little tired. Dino Crosetta and I sat down over some beer and chicken wings that winter and worked out a format for a season long multi-player game that we coined The LEaderboard.

We started four years ago with eight players participating and have grown steadily to 20 this year. The abilities of the participants range widely from some of the best players at Saugeen to others who'd miss a barn door from 10 yards. Each year we've made some rules and scoring changes to attempt to keep it fair for all.

The first season saw Pierre (Frenchie) Desloges get to 19-under par over the 27 holes with no bogies on his LEaderboard. This remains the best season long score attained to date. The second season it was Tyler (Mungo) Smith who got to 17-under par and claimed the coveted "Flying Pig" award.

This past season saw Jimmer Threndyle go into the final week of the season with a one-shot lead over several others only to watch the "Flying Pig" slip from his grasp. As Jimmer fumbled the pig it was young Dalton Reany using a steady diet of Bud Lights to calm his nerves and propel him to a victory.

Who will proudly wear the "Flying Pig" in 2021?

Lloyd Sonnenberg



Junior Nights

A look forward to Junior Nights in 2021

The year of 2020 saw golf participation at an all time high. With soccer and baseball seasons canceled in 2020, we saw a huge spike in junior golfers as a result. Starting small, we had 24 golfers on the first night. By the third week, participation had doubled to 48 players.

A special shout-out to Miller Insurance for sponsoring each meal for the kids.

It was a great way to get the kids out. The focus last season was: "Go out and have fun." This season we are revamping Junior Night!

Starting early June of 2021, we will be having weekly junior nights. The night will consist of 30-minute clinics and instruction before enjoying a meal. Following that, there will be two hours of golf.

We now have multiple PGA of Canada Professionals on staff, as returning staff member Riley Schaus will be starting his journey as a Golf Professional. The instruction will be covering everything from full swing, short game, golf etiquette, course management, as well as the mental side of golf.

The golf will be in groups of five to six (one staff/chaperone and four to five juniors).

All this for only \$20 for members, & \$40 for guests!

Robbie Oliver



Women's Leagues

Plenty of Options for Women's Golf in 2021

Tuesday Women

I am delighted to be once again writing an article for our Link's magazine.

I think I speak for all of us when I say how delighted we were to have been allowed to play the sport we all love so much, albeit with necessary safety precautions, in 2020. Due to the restrictions in place early in the season your executive made the difficult decision to suspend our league play. The way our league is structured with membership fees, we didn't see any way of making the season work. So we turned over Tuesday mornings to the Golf Shop for tee times rather than shotgun starts for a very informal Tuesday morning get-together.

Your executives were finally able to meet to discuss planning ahead for 2021. Though we don't know yet what the 2021 season will look like, we are hoping to be back and able to provide you with an exciting year of league play and maybe even some fun changes to introduce to our Tuesday mornings.

I want to welcome Kendra Pagnan as your new President and Deb Morton as your new Vice President. Jayne Lassen is the treasurer, Jane Pritchard-Bowers is our nine hole representative as well as our new Secretary. Once again Wendy Buckley will be our games Captain. We will look forward to involving the Golf Shop in helping run our games. I will move to past President.

It has been an honour and a pleasure to be your President for the last three years and I thank all of you for your support and kind words. Also a huge thanks to all the women I worked with on the executive who helped and guided me. We have a wonderful league and I look forward to seeing you all back at Saugeen Golf Club in 2021.

*Sincerely,
Bonnie Wilson
Tuesday Women's Past President*

2021 Women's Executive:

Women's President – Kendra Pagnan
Women's Past President – Bonnie Wilson
Women's Vice President – Deb Morton
Games Captain – Wendy Buckley
Secretary and Nine Hole Representative – Jane Pritchard-Bowers
Treasurer – Jayne Lassen

Women's Night

Attention all women! Come join us Wednesday evenings for the 2021 golf season.

Your Wednesday Night Women's golf will begin with nine holes of fun, noncompetitive golf. Following golf you can enjoy a delicious dinner and a cold beverage.

The 2020 golf season was definitely different for all of us but, despite all the new rules and regulations associated with COVID-19, we had the best turnouts in years. It was awesome to see so many new women becoming involved in the game and participating in Wednesday Night Women. Even though we didn't all get to meet in person, it was great to be able to get out and enjoy a game of golf, some good food and a cold beverage.

At this time we don't know for sure what the 2021 season will bring but, like 2020, we will make it work and continue to enjoy Wednesday Night Women's golf. All levels of golfers are welcome, so come out to Wednesday Night Women and give golf a try.

See you on the course!

Dianne Wallace

Tuesday Night is Men's Night

The best is yet to come

Men's Night would like to offer a big thank you to all our weekly participants for a successful 2020 season. It is always great to see every one of your beautiful faces each week. The 2020 season saw a shift back to tee-time play due to COVID-19 restrictions, but, in turn, it saw a big increase in participation.

We are excited to get the 2021 season started – and if COVID-19 decides to play nice, we hope to start the year off with a Calcutta opening tournament. Smart money may be on the teams anchored by Alstein, Wheeler, Boorsma or Wallace, but the big payoff may be taking a sneaky long shot like Whitehead, Tiffin, or Pope that may be worth taking a closer look at. The tournament will be sure to get the Men's Night season kicked off with a bang. It will provide all players the opportunity to play with and meet new people as the teams will be selected randomly based on handicap flighting.

We anticipate that we will only be able to do tee-times again this coming year due to COVID-19 restrictions, but we will let all our members know closer to the start of the season. We will continue to bring the games, prizes, and good times each and every week.

As always, the Men's Night Closing Tournament will cap off the season in mid-September. The Cammidge Cup and coveted plaid jacket will be up for grabs again and the usual suspects are sure to have their sights set on the prize.

*James Dunlop and Justin Niklaus
Men's Night Co-Captains*

———— Key Dates ————

May 14th:
Pre-Opener Calcutta
Draft

May 15th:
Men's Night Opener

September 7th
Men's Member Guest

September 12th
Men's Night Closing

—————
Men's Night is held every Tuesday
between May and September.
Tee Times available through
the golf shop.

Senior Men's League

The senior men are back with a new format after taking 2020 off

With COVID-19 guidelines playing such a large role in all our lives over the last year, we had to make the tough decision to delay our league for the 2020 golf season. With that said, we're pleased to announce that we have made some modifications for this season to allow us to resume an alternate form of play. This year's play will be coordinated by the Golf Shop.

If you are 50 or older and are looking for Wednesday morning golf games, like to meet new people and have some fun, you are encouraged to join our league which plays every Wednesday morning, tee times from 7:45am-10:45am. We have many active senior members out each week. We play a quota point game where golfers are divided equally across a predetermined number of flights. Prizes are distributed equally across all flights. We pride ourselves in playing 18 holes in just over four hours.

Weekly contests and prizes will be awarded to the winners in forms of merchandise, gift cards and account credits

Sign up in the Golf Shop or our new Golf Genius (more information to come) app and we'll get you on our league email distribution list. You will receive the tee sheet and any weekly information by Tuesday at noon, and results later in that week. Each week will be scheduled based on a first come, first served basis with limited spots to fill. We work hard at making sure you play with different members each week. We have set May 12th as our opening day, but weather and course conditions will dictate if that will happen.

We look forward to seeing you.

Golf Shop



Note: Photo taken Pre-Covid

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Bring the Kids to Golf at Saugeen

Children and grandchildren of members golf for free!

Consistent with the philosophy of golf being a family affair, Saugeen Golf Club offers free golf to the children and grandchildren of our members when they golf with their parents and/or grandparents.

Here at Saugeen we believe that encouraging family participation in golf is good for our members, will introduce our wonderful game to the next generation of golfers, will keep our membership strong, and ensure that we continue to supply access to our game.

Golf has been one of the few sporting activities allowed to continue during COVID-19. As a result, Saugeen offers families a chance to enjoy a social and physical sporting event outdoors during this pandemic while following vigilant social distancing and COVID-19 guidelines.

With all of this in mind, Saugeen will be setting aside specific tee times every week so that parents, grandparents and their children can come out to play a round of golf. It will be a time for moms, dads, grandmas and grandpas to spend time with their children, introduce them to a new sport or help them develop a newfound skill.

We look forward to providing this new service to our members and their families this summer.

Paul Zorzi



Ontario Junior Boys' Championship

Saugeen Golf Club was proud to host the 2020 event

PIAZZA TAKES HOME HIS 2ND ONTARIO JUNIOR (U19) BOYS' CHAMPIONSHIP
DIOGENOUS WINS JUVENILE (U17) BOYS' TITLE

Southampton, ON – The pristine, but challenging Saugeen Golf Club was the perfect stage to host the first Golf Ontario championship of the 2020 season. With an impressive finish in his fourth and final round, Nolan Piazza (Cherry Hill Club) took home the Ontario Junior (U19) Boys' Championship title for the second time in 3 years. Winning the Ontario Juvenile (U17) Boys' Championship title was Andreas Diogenous (Whistle Bear GC).

Finishing on a high note, Piazza saved the best for last with his most outstanding round of the championship. Ending with a sizzling score of six-under (66) for the round, Piazza birdied seven holes, offset by only 1 bogey on the day. Piazza finished the championship at 14-under (274), 10 shots clear of the next competitor. Diogenous, en route to his Juvenile championship, also played his best round yet, carding a final round four-under to tie for second in the Junior (U19) Boys' division. Sharing second place was Kiefer Bulau (King Valley GC), who

climbed four spots on the day with a final round 68, including six birdies.

"It feels really good to win the Junior Boys' Championship for a second time", said Piazza when asked how this win feels. Remarkably, the last time the title was won twice by the same player was in 2004 and 2006 by Brad Revell (Cataraqui G&CC). Piazza has one more year to compete in the Junior (U19) Boys' division, as he commented he'd "like to try for a third win again next year. I didn't really change anything today with my play. My short and long game were both clicking today, but my putts were falling into place better which was good to see". When asked if playing in a grouping with round two leaders, Ty Stansfield (Thornhill Club) and Yuqi Liu (The Country Club – West), helped improve his competitive play, Piazza said "it was fun to be with them, as we were all low key about it today. No one was too serious about it and we were just out there having fun". Piazza has been putting in the work, having played around sixty-five rounds already this year.

Continued on next page...



Ontario Junior Boys' Championship

Saugeen Golf Club was proud to host the 2020 event (*Cont.d*)

Winner of the 2019 Ontario Bantam Boys' Championship title, Diogenous can now add the Ontario Juvenile (U17) Boys' Championship title to his collection. His final round 68 left him 2 shots ahead of 2nd and 3rd round leader Ty Stansfield, and Owen Kim, whose 67 today propelled him into the tie with Stansfield, with the two of them sharing a tie for fourth in the Junior (U19) boys' championship.

"It feels great to have three championship titles to my name now", said Diogenous as he reflected on his Ontario Peewee Boys' (2017) and Bantam Boys' (2019) Championship titles. "It's really exciting and now I have one more to go with a couple shots at the U19 title hopefully". With his best round of the championship today, Diogenous said "coming down the stretch my putter was getting a little hot. I birdied 16 and 17 which put me in a good spot coming in. I was hitting iron shots more at the pins instead of playing for the middle of the greens, I was more aggressive, and made some good putts".

Golf Ontario would like to thank the players, staff, and volunteers for their support of our first championship of the season. To Saugeen Golf Club, General Manager Brad Young, and all their hard-working staff, thank you for being gracious hosts on such a well conditioned course, and for providing us with such valuable volunteers. Lastly, a huge thank you to our sponsors and partners, Adidas, Taylor Made, Modern Golf, Dormie Workshop, Durham Artificial Grass, Humber College, Barcelo Bavaro Grand Resort, Baka Mobile, and Play Golf Myrtle Beach. We are grateful for your continued support.

Article courtesy of Golf Ontario



A Rare Lesson

10 years of living with the rare disease Cystinosis

July 5, 2021 will mark our 10-year anniversary of living with and raising our beautiful daughter with cystinosis. Cystinosis is a rare disease that causes an accumulation of amino acid cysteine within cells. These crystals negatively affect many systems in the body, especially the kidneys and eyes. Olivia was born with this rare genetic disease, however, it was a tragic diagnosis at 18-months-old when she experienced acute kidney failure. For the month following that initial diagnosis, we took up residency in the corner suite at London's Children Hospital - the double door room on the 6th floor with great views will forever be the room where our hearts were shattered to a thousand pieces. I never thought our hearts would be mended, little did we know that hope and the game of golf would provide us with a love that we never knew existed.

Chad and I spent our days in this room staring at each other with fear in our hearts for what the future held, I can only imagine the secrets the walls in the room hold and how many tears like ours would fall on the very same floor. How many mothers like myself paced the floor worrying about the future of their child and their family? We had a vision for our future, a sick kid with a rare disease was not part of the plan. We also never planned that the first set of golf clubs we purchased for Olivia would turn into a sport that would come together to save hers and others lives.

Golf is an interesting sport, you either love it, hate it or own a pair of clubs to be prepared for an unexpected tournament where cold beverages and a good cause call you to the course. I never hated the sport, but I never understood it until I started to stand in front of 215 golfers all eager to chase a ball to raise money and awareness in order to find a cure for cystinosis. I never expected for the game of golf to teach me some of life's most profound lessons, the best lesson being love has the power to cure anything. My hope is that every person knows that when he or she signs up for a tournament, that they are making a difference.

Our Swing Shoot and Liv Golf Classic hosted at the Saugeen Golf Club over the past 9 years has helped us raise over \$700,000 for cystinosis research. I will never forget the fear I felt when we put ourselves out there to be helped - I never imagined the outpouring of love we have received over the years, all brought together by a game. COVID-19 has changed many things and brought much uncertainty for many, but we must hold onto hope. We do not know what the future holds but we know that when you hold hope in your heart and a club in your hand that anything is possible.

Erin Little



Toronto Players Tour

SGC named Course of the Year by The Toronto Players Tour



What is the Toronto Players Tour?

It's a new mini tour run by a player for the players. Russell Budd, who operates the tour, played on the former McKenzie Tour, the PGA Tour Latinoamérica and played in the Canadian Open.

"The players loved coming to Saugeen," Russell says. "They can't wait to return. They loved the golf course, and they loved the Port Elgin-Southampton area."

About half the players on the tour have playing privileges on the PGA Canada Tour and are trying to go to the Korn Ferry Tour (formerly Web.com Tour) or Monday qualify for PGA Tour events.

"Their fall scramble was their second event held at Saugeen," says Robbie Oliver, Director of Golf. "We had three of the top players from the Symetra Tour, which is one step below the LPGA Tour, and 10 of the top 15 money winners on the PGA Canada Tour."

"COVID-19 limited what we could do last year, but this year we are hoping to allow members to come out and watch these terrific golfers who are one or two steps below the PGA Tour and the LPGA Tour," Robbie says.

Rod McDonald



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The Club Championship

93 members came together to compete for the best round of the season

Every year, over two days in early August, members of Saugeen Golf Club arrive at their early morning tee times in hopes of stringing together their best round of the season. Club Championship is a yearly tradition and a title that many strive for, but few achieve. Yet whether or not you win, challenge yourself or just down right fail to show, it is truly one of the best weekends of the summer for local golfers.

While the 2020 edition of the Saugeen Golf Club Championship was missing some of the usual comradely in the banquet hall due to COVID-19 restrictions, the weekend was still filled with stories, friends and a few cold beverages for the winners to celebrate their accomplishments—all while maintaining six feet of social distance.

The tournament was held on August 8th and 9th in 2020, with 93 golfers competing across four flights. In the women's division, 19 members were participating. The junior field was once again light, with only three young members competing for the title of Junior Club Champion. Through programs like Junior Days increasing in popularity, Saugeen hopes that a competitive field of junior golfers on this weekend will return soon. The Senior Men's Club Champion was held on August 22nd and 23rd of 2020 with 35 golfers taking a shot at the title.

The group of Nick Dirk, Shamus Noseworthy and Ken Dunlop led the pack at 7 a.m. as the trio teed off on a dew-covered #1 Sunrise. The men would continue on Sunrise until the final group teed off at 9:24 a.m., eventually making the turn to Legacy to finish the first 18-holes of the tournament.

Playing the same nines on the opening day as the provincial junior championship and the Toronto

Players Tour just weeks before, the opening day of the 2020 Club Championship proved to be a test for the Saugeen members. On the Men's side, leading the pack after the first day were Tyler Smith and Warren Wheeler with a score of 74. Joining Smith and Wheeler in the final group on Sunday were Matt Shields and Derek Alstein, both having taken 76 strokes on opening day. For the women, perennial champion Kim Legge carded the low round of Saturday with a 81, with Kristan Shrider (85), Deb Morton (88) and Jayne Lassen (90) joining her in the final women's group on Sunday.

As tradition goes, the Sunday round started on Legacy and finished on the long, narrow Sunset nine demanding the golfers bring their best game for the final round of the tournament. Golfers were fortunate to have two perfect days of weather and conditions, with pins generously positioned to encourage movement on the leaderboard.

Through the opening nine holes of Sunday, Wheeler and Smith stayed in a tie for the lead having each taken 39 strokes on Legacy. Alstein and Shields each struggled through Legacy with a disappointing 43 to put themselves six strokes back heading into the final nine holes of the championship.

On the challenging Sunset nine, Wheeler took the lead on #3 and further extended it on #4. Although Smith answered with a birdie on #5, Wheeler kept the charge steady on the remaining five holes. On #9 Sunset, the 36th hole of the championship, Wheeler drained a 25-footer for par in front of a cheering crowd, closing out the second day with a 76, to claim his first Men's Club Championship title at Saugeen.

Continued on next page...

The Club Championship

(Cont.d)

In the women's bracket, Kim Legge was able to extend her day one lead by two strokes after Legacy. On the back nine, Kristan Shrider shot a smooth 38 to narrow the gap to Legge, but it wasn't enough to overtake the perennial Women's Club Champion. Legge's 81-85 over the weekend held strong to add another Women's Club Championship to her impressive golf wins.

In the game of golf, it is often said that the most formidable opponent is you. The net champions for the 2020 Club Championships proved that oneself isn't such a challenging competitor after all. The Net Champion is awarded to the individual golfer(s) that cards the lowest score minus their official handicap—a true measure of how the golfers fared versus their typical performance. On the men's side, Ian Little won the 2020 title shooting a 79-82 (net 66-69). For the women it was Jayne Holt taking this year's trophy with a 95-89 (net 73-67).

All in all, the "Club C's" went off without a hitch thanks to strong leadership and dedication from Robbie Oliver and his Golf-shop staff to organize, communicate and manage the tournament. It certainly was a unique year for the tournament amidst the challenges that COVID-19 presented—but the true spirit of competition and comradely shined through to deliver another memorable event to contribute to the storied history of Saugeen Golf Club.



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Toasted western sandwiches: now
available after 11am.

Toronto Players Tour

Toronto based mini-tour arrives at Saugeen during inaugural season

The 2020 season was ripe for Saugeen Golf Club playing host to a number of high-profile tournaments. While the GAO Junior Boys' Championship provided a glimpse into the future of the game, another group of highly-skilled golfers—albeit a few years beyond their junior days—arrived at Saugeen Golf Club with a different kind of prize in pursuit: Cold. Hard. Cash.

In large part, the pros of the Toronto Players Tour (TPT), competing in their inaugural season, arrived at Saugeen with expectations unknown. While some local pros and a few better than average local amateurs were part of the field, the majority of the 36-man field were first time visitors to our Saugeen Shores.

The highly competitive field battled the rain and wind over two days in early August. Saugeen was in pristine condition having just hosted the provincial junior championships during the prior week. Seeking to best the junior competitors before them, the pros played Legacy-Sunrise as a 36-hole event.

Austin Ryan, a former Owen Sound native, shot an impressive 69-67 (8-under) and eventually prevailed over MacKenzie Tour Player Mike Gonko of Sudbury in an epic 5-hole playoff to take home the title and make a hefty deposit of \$4000 into the savings account.

The resounding success from the August event left tour players wanting more. On a mild fall day in October, Saugeen welcomed back the TPT by hosting a 27-hole three-man scramble tournament with the pros competing for a hefty first place prize of \$10,000!

In an expanded field—153 golfers to be exact—the scramble tournament was filled with star power. Included in the field were some notable players to keep an eye on in future professional tours.

Cougar Collins—the Ontario Men's Amateur Champion and Golf Canada Team Member—formed part of the winning team with Zach Mason and Tyler Celone (all of whom are fellow teammates at Eastern Michigan University). Their team shot a measly 27-under par including five eagles on the day. The group chose not to accept the hefty cash payment for winning the tournament in order to retain their amateur status. It would appear that the three of them will have plenty of opportunities down the road to monetize their skills.

The prize money was eventually redistributed down the leaderboard to the tour players ready for a payday. Finishing second was the team of Austin Ryan, Brandon Leonard and Vic Ciesielski after carding a 25-under par score and taking home \$6000.

Representing the local area were several teams from Saugeen and nearby courses. Topping the field of local golfers, Cobble Beach's Ryan McBride, Warren Thomas and Dan Payton shot a 21-under to tie for fifth place and took home \$2000.

Saugeen was represented by several teams including Robbie Oliver, Tyler Smith and Kyle Kirkland (12-under); Brad Young, Riley Schaus and BJ Oliver (11-under); Ken Dunlop, Stig Lassen and Ron Kerr (10-under).

Continued on next page...

Toronto Players Tour *(Cont.d)*

Toronto based mini-tour arrives at Saugeen during inaugural season

Perhaps the highlight of the scramble for Robbie Oliver—aside from beating his brother, and former Saugeen employee, BJ—was on the 25th hole. From 50 yards out on Legacy #7, Robbie holed out for eagle—a score that held out for the only skin of the tournament and gained the group \$1000 cash.

The events in August and October received high accolades from all players—Saugeen was later named as “Host Club of the Year” through player voting, winning by a wide margin to the closest competitor Galt Country Club.

All players spoke very highly of the playing conditions at Saugeen and had only positive things to say about the staff, facilities and community. During an online interview between Tour Commissioner Russell Budd and Director, Golf Operations Robbie Oliver, Budd shared his feelings about the Saugeen experience with his audience of social media followers. “The staff is amazing, the golf course condition is awesome, and it’s just such a fun layout,” said Budd as he reminisced about the shared feelings of all players that took part in the event.

As the old saying goes, “Any press is good press”—the light-hearted chat over some crisp beers provided by local craft brewery Three Sheets Brewing proved to be a solid source of free advertising for the club, as the interview was viewed over 600 times and shared with the tour’s 1500 followers on Instagram. When asked about his experience hosting a TPT event and how it benefited Saugeen Golf Club, Oliver replied, “We do things differently [at Saugeen], because we are so accepting...we embrace it.” He went on to say, “the word of mouth we got from [Toronto Players Tour] and the Ontario Junior—you can’t pay for that type of advertising.”



Editorial Staff



"Chris designs training programs specific for my needs and as a result I am pain free in my daily activities especially when I golf." ~ Dr. Brian Crabbe
(Former chronic back pain sufferer)

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