

CHERRY HILL CLUB

One Hundred Years



Cherry Hill Club
1922 - 2022



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AUTHOR'S NOTE



Anyone who has had the opportunity to play golf with a parent or a child, understands the meaning of the phrase, “quality time spent with loved ones.” I count the many rounds played at Cherry Hill with my father, William S. Reynolds, among my most treasured memories. He had the smoothest swing you ever did see, and it didn’t hurt to grow up watching that swing. Among his numerous amusing quips on the course, this one related to me: “I taught him everything he knows” he would say to our playing partners, “... but not everything *I know!*”

One thing I do know is the richness of quality time I enjoyed with him *off* the course, when he asked for my assistance in the preparation of the Club’s 75th anniversary history book, authored by him and published in 1997. After reviewing 75 years of Board Meeting Minutes and historical records, and interviewing members and staff, he wrote out the history of Cherry Hill in longhand on big yellow legal pads. His secretary would type up the text and put it in 3-ring notebooks for our review. We would meet in the conference room of his law offices in downtown Buffalo, chain smoking like newspaper editors as we reviewed the manuscript for typos, context and content, the subject matter of which was near and dear to our hearts -- Cherry Hill. Besides providing me with a wealth of meaningful personal memories, the result of his efforts is a wonderful account of the first 75 years of our Club, which in his own words is “both informative and entertaining.” It is a tough act to follow, and indeed, I am honored and humbled to be tasked with rounding out the balance of our Club’s first 100 years.

That book “The Cherry Hill Club, Ltd. 1922-1997” is reproduced in its entirety for this publication and follows the content relating to our most recent quarter century, 1997 to the present. If you have not already done so, you may wish to read the earlier history first. Unlike the 75th anniversary book, which is presented chronologically, these last 25 years of Cherry Hill history are organized by topic.

Twenty-five years flew by in the blink of an eye, and yet so much has transpired at the dear old Travis course we love so well. Let’s tee it up and take a look.

Ridgeway, Ontario
April 2022

Michael W. Reynolds

THE ARCHITECTS CHOSE THE HIGH POINT OF THE BARNHARDT FARM UPON WHICH TO BUILD THE CLUBHOUSE. THERE CAN BE NO DENYING THAT IT SITS MOST COMFORTABLY ON THE SITE.





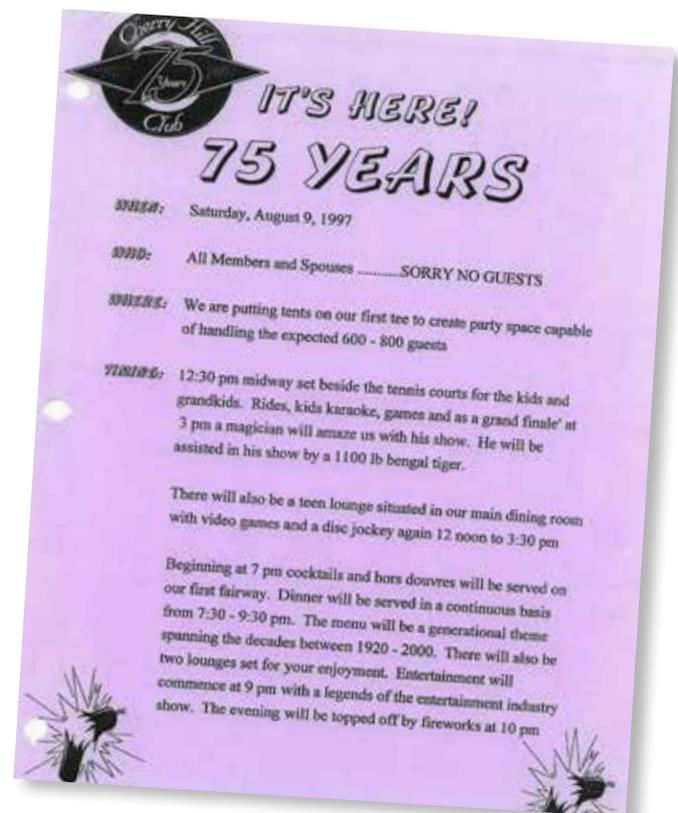
CLUB SELECTION



How fitting that we begin our look at the past 25 years of Cherry Hill history on the first tee, but not in the normal fashion. The final entry in the 75th anniversary history book from the April 1997 Board Minutes indicates, "Plans for the 75th Anniversary Celebration are well underway." Those plans called for a major gala event that was too big to be held in the Clubhouse and was therefore staged in an expansive 800-person capacity tent erected on the first tee and fairway. And what an event it was!

The 75th Anniversary Celebration

A committee headed by Don Campbell had been working since 1995 on the Club's diamond anniversary which culminated on August 9, 1997, in a daylong event capped off by a dinner and fireworks the likes of which the club had never seen. Members who had complained about the \$100 per member anniversary assessment that year must have been won over after attending the affair which was open to the full membership. A review of the promotional flier for the event indicates that entertainment catered to every age group, including a midway by the tennis courts with games, karaoke and a magic show that featured an 1100-pound Bengal Tiger! Teenagers were treated to video games and a DJ, while the adults enjoyed an ample cocktail hour and hors d'oeuvres with a full-size canoe filled with raw bar items. A charity casino with real monetary wagers benefitted a local charity. A Las Vegas style revue and fireworks were also on the agenda. While it may seem inconceivable by today's standards, not a single photograph of the event could be unearthed to chronicle the celebration, so it must be left to the imagination. To date, the Bengal is the only known Tiger of note to have graced the fairways of Cherry Hill.



The Club did receive some local publicity about our 75th Anniversary in Buffalo and Ontario print media, but nothing like the extensive coverage of Club events in earlier times. Back when both Buffalo daily newspapers had dedicated reporters for the



Cherry Hill marks 75 years

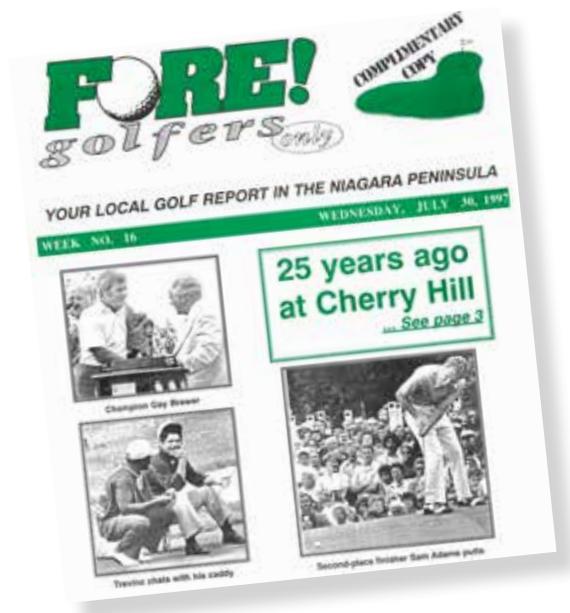
Cherry Hill Club, Ridgeway, Ont., will have its 75th anniversary observed Saturday in a celebration being arranged by Donald G. Campbell, left, chairman, Elizabeth L. Ruddy, the club's social chairwoman, and H. Ernest Montgomery II, club president. Afternoon festivities for children will feature a midway with clowns and magicians. Tented food stations will be placed along the first fairway, offering fare popular from the early 1900s to the present. Legends of Rock and Country and a fireworks display will be the evening entertainment. A hardcover book of the club's history by William S. Reynolds will be available.

Buffalo News article from 1997.

social page, it was common for events at Cherry Hill to be covered with detailed descriptions of the décor, the names of the event chairpersons, and of course a description of the chairlady's attire. All this, whether it was the President's Ball or the Ladies Bridge luncheon. One local golf publication, entitled "Fore Golfers Only" had always been accommodating in its coverage of Cherry Hill, despite the fact that its advertising and readership were geared more toward the public golf course community. Veteran local sportswriter, Wayne Redshaw, was tireless in his role as publisher, photographer, and writer, covering all things golf in the Niagara Peninsula. In 1997 he featured the Club's 75th anniversary as well as a front-page article commemorating the 25th Anniversary of our hosting of the 1972 Canadian Open.

In addition to parties and celebrations the Board's plate was fuller than the raw bar canoe. As a result of Bill McGennis' generous donation in 1997 of 42 acres west of Cherry Hill Boulevard, coupled with a waiting list

that at times exceeded 60 applicants, there was much discussion of the possibility of building a new 9 holes and the consequences of accommodating the growing membership.



Take A Seat At The Bar

Of lesser significance, yet of great interest to certain members were a myriad of issues ranging from barstools to cell phones that occupied the endeavors of the Board. The barstool controversy had been brewing for quite some time, with many an hour spent at the bar discussing the topic, without the benefit of a place to rest one's weary bones after a round of golf. Pro-barstoolers felt that it was an inalienable right to be seated while imbibing at the bar, while the antis felt that barstools were unbecoming for a Club of our stature, as well as an obstacle to the flow of traffic within the Grill Room. Eventually the pro-barstool faction prevailed, and a collective sigh of relief permeated the Club, when the purchase of the barstools was approved... but not so fast. In the late 1990's the term supply chain management was not at the fore of public concern, however, the Club learned a first-hand lesson in its significance. A common query, "What's taking so long with the barstools?" was regularly answered by assurances that they were on the way. Conspiracy theories developed in hushed tones that the manager was secretly against the barstools and was stymieing their acquisition. This theory gained full support when it was reported that the container carrying the barstools had gone overboard from the cargo ship in mid-ocean and



that replacements were on back order! The barstools eventually did arrive, and ever since, there has been no disruption in the steady supply of apocryphal tales of golf triumphs told at the bar.

Give Me That Old Soft Shoe

Speaking of apocryphal tales, there is a story about a former Club President from the distant past who went to inspect the recently refinished wood floor in the Club's Dining Room. He did so after having first played 18 holes followed by a sociable time at the 19th hole. He exclaimed what a beautiful job they had done as he proceeded to walk out onto the shining wood floor in metal spikes. Apparently Presidential pardons can occur at any time during office. So, by the late 1990's the Board was well-advised to implement the adoption of a soft spike policy, which was optional at first until it became the norm and therefore mandatory. The pro shop staff replaced members' metal spikes with the newfangled soft spikes at a cost of \$5.00 per pair in 1997.

Cell phones too, were on the agenda. July of 1997, in its wisdom and foresight, the Board prohibited all use of cell phones in the Clubhouse and on the course, "except for physicians." Another matter handled "deftly" by the Board in 1997 was a steady stream of reports of thefts from members' lockers. As a result, a sign was posted in the locker room which read, "Not responsible for personal items, lost or stolen."

To Build Or Not To Build

Minor issues were not the sole occupation of the Board and Club members. Options for major undertakings,

both on and off the course, that would have potentially great impact on the nature of the Club were in the works. The makeup of the membership, as it had been since its beginning, remained mostly American, primarily those who owned property on the Canadian lakeshore. But Cherry Hill had proven to be a very attractive option for those without cottages as well. Crossing the Peace Bridge was still relatively easy. The exchange rate was extremely favorable to Americans with \$1.00 (U.S.) valued consistently above \$1.30 (CDN) and at times more than \$1.50 (CDN). Rather than any of the local Canadian clubs, the private clubs among the Buffalo District Golf Association were considered our main "competition." We continued to be an attractive option with a quality course, a relaxed atmosphere, active and engaged members, and a lower overall cost of membership. In fact, the Board made a number of changes to membership categories to skirt the cap of 400 full golf members mandated by our bylaws. One such class was the Senior Social membership category, which allowed senior members who played less golf to enjoy a lower dues structure, and thereby open up general full-golf membership slots to more individuals from our ever-present waiting list. In summary, how to accommodate a growing demand while maintaining the desirable character of the Club was the focus of much consideration.

Two sub-committees reporting to the Board of Directors worked in the late 1990's and early 2000's to address some of these major issues. (We will discuss matters relating to the golf course in the subsequent chapter, "Of Course!") Both of these committees played an important role in the modern history of our Club. As with many initiatives at Cherry Hill, there are numerous members who devote their time and talent on a volunteer basis for the betterment of the Cherry Hill member experience. Club Presidents and Board Directors spend a particularly great deal of time in this regard, but there are always many more individuals who participate in a formal capacity or unofficially and who contribute to sustain the operation of the Club and enhance the culture of Cherry Hill. Therefore, when one individual is singled out for recognition, it should be noted that countless others deserve appreciation as well.

When the times call for action, Cherry Hill has been blessed with effective and capable leadership. Warren

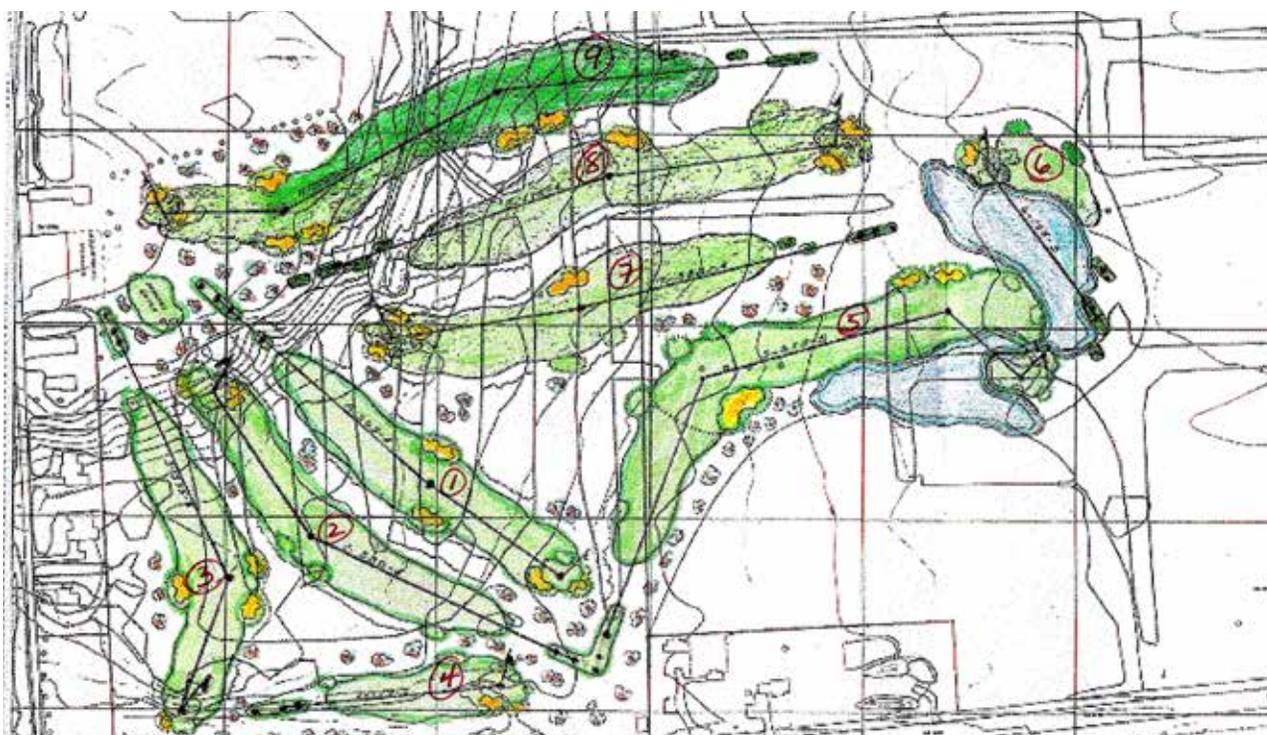
Gelman headed up the Permanent Advisory Committee (PAC) which was active in the 1990's. The PAC worked in conjunction with a committee called the Capital Planning Committee (CPC). Ted Mitchinson and John Downing led the Facilities Assessment Committee (FAC) in the early 2000's. They and their committee members devoted countless hours on major Club projects, the results of which vary from the unseen to the highly visible.

The PAC/CPC committees addressed several projects that were intertwined in numerous ways. The pro shop had for many years doubled as the bag storage facility, and it was in ill repair and inadequate for the needs of a growing membership. The halfway house had long been located between the 1st tee and the 18th green. It was a small hut-like building with limited food service capabilities, seating for barely two foursomes and a closet sized restroom for women that would be considered inadequate by contemporary standards. There was a service counter facing the first tee, and the entry door faced the 18th hole. Veteran members will recall that the Halfway House door was generally a good visual reference for the approach shot from the 18th fairway. While many members were in favor of the status quo, the demise of the old Halfway House was inevitable. The Starter's Shack was similar in design to the current one and stood a few paces from the

service counter of the Halfway House. As such, there was considerably more activity in and around the first tee area than we see today. The cart storage building was also a candidate for expansion or upgrade. Finally, the parking area was targeted for surface re-paving. All of these issues were considered along with the possibility (and some might have said probability) that the Club would be building a third nine on the land that Bill McGennis had donated to the Club which was contiguous to land that the Club had owned for many years.

Needless to say, the question of whether or not to build a third nine was the topic of much discussion on the aforementioned barstools, and in the locker room, and in the Board Room and whenever two or more members gathered in the name of Cherry Hill.

The idea of building a third nine was not new to the Club. Prior to the 42-acre donation, the Club had done a very rough clearing of the wooded area west of the parking and range area, for what would have been a cramped 9 holes, inferior to the caliber of the existing course. With the additional 42 acres there was ample space for 9 holes on terrain that is actually more undulating than the original course. Robert E. Rich Sr., a longtime member of Cherry Hill, enlisted the services of golf course architect Joseph Lee to map out a design for the new nine. Lee was a well-respected



Joe Lee design of proposed new 9 holes.



Old Pro Shop which doubled as the club storage facility.

architect who designed or worked on over 200 courses. Lee knew Mr. Rich from Palm Beach National Golf and Country Club, which was owned by Mr. Rich. The design is intriguing and sparks the imagination as to what it would be like to play the envisioned holes.

Surveyors staked out the holes. Soil samples were bored. A committee headed by Don Campbell was tasked with quantifying the material and labor requirements for building the holes as designed. For example, the committee evaluated how much labor would go into clearing, earthmoving, harrowing, as well as quantifying the necessary materials such as soil, sand, irrigation lines etc. The concept was that at whatever time in the future, the Club could calculate the project budget by plugging in the established quantities to pricing levels at any future time. By this method it was estimated that the construction cost would be \$1.6 - \$1.9 million in 1999 Canadian dollars.

While all this planning was taking place, the PAC/CPC committees were working on the many other pieces of the puzzle, and initially the plans seemed to indicate a strong likelihood that the new nine would be built.

In September of 1998 a special meeting of the membership was held at the Club to present plans for the capital projects recommended by the Board and the PAC/CPC.

- Demolition of the old Pro Shop, Halfway House, and Starter Shack

- Construction of a new Pro Shop/ Halfway House Complex
- Interior furnishings for the Halfway House kitchen, and the Pro Shop
- Expansion of the practice putting green and associated landscaping
- Expansion and renovation of the cart/bag storage facility
- Paving and striping of the parking area

The total estimated cost of all projects was \$532,894. The final costs did exceed estimates, but to a reasonable extent. The Club's Controller, Brenda Washburn, who served the Club faithfully and professionally for many years, presented options for financing the capital improvements. Financing instruments with Royal Bank and other financing options had been researched, but ultimately the cost would have to be underwritten by the membership as is the case with all Club finances. A multi-year assessment of \$400 per year for most membership classes was the solution to pay down the bank loan. With a steady inflow of initiation fees from new members (which was increased from \$20,000 to \$25,000 in 1998) and ever fluctuating revenues from various sources, the balance on the Club debt see-sawed dramatically at times. The Club would pay down a large sum when revenue allowed, and the debt would balloon during winter months or lean periods. Through it all, however, the Club always maintained accounts in good standing for the cost of these improvements and other capital projects undertaken



Old Halfway House and Starter Shack with old Pro Shop in background.

for the betterment of the Club. Before we break ground on these new buildings, let's take a look at a sampling of some other aspects of Cherry Hill Life.

Home Town Favorites

Prior to the NFL making changes to the rules that would occasionally cause home game television broadcasts to be blacked out, there was always drama leading up to the upcoming Buffalo Bills home game on Sunday. If a certain number of tickets weren't sold by the deadline, then the game would not be televised in the local market. This practice spawned a cottage industry among tavern owners, VFW posts and other establishments that had the ability to pirate the satellite signal and thereby draw crowds to view the game. To combat this practice, the team sent out enforcers to shut down and prosecute non-sanctioned viewing of the games. The fact that the signal could be just as easily accessed in Canada, made the enforcer's job the more difficult. Despite some vacillation it was determined at the November 1998 Board Meeting that the Club could show Bills games without fear of prosecution so long as it was limited to members only (and their guests!) The airing of Bills games at the Club extended the social season for a brief period in time and was a source of much camaraderie and autumn activity at the Club.

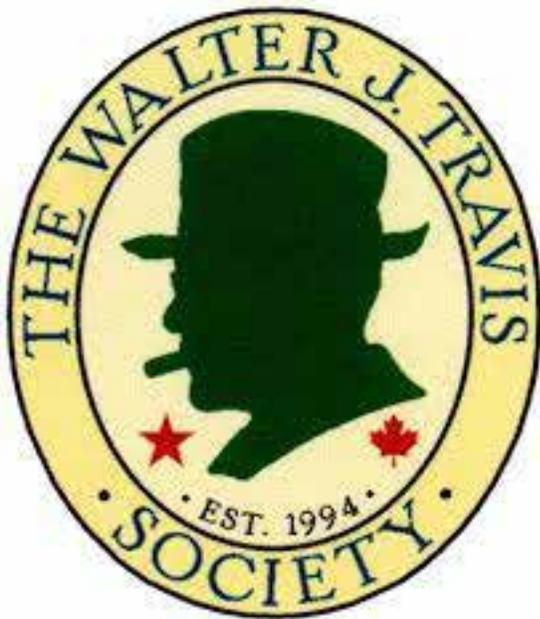
The Distinguished Member Award

The notion of creating a Distinguished Member

Award had been percolating for some time but it was made official on June 24, 1998, with a ceremony in the Dining Room inducting the nine founding members posthumously and four current members: Donald G. Campbell; William J. McGennis; William S. Reynolds; and George J. Weimert. Unlike honorary or complimentary memberships, which are occasionally extended to longtime members with the waving of dues, the Distinguished Member Award has no monetary aspect to it, but rather recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the Club in any of three areas:

1. Meaningful contribution of time, energy and service to the Club;
2. Major accomplishments on the golf course or contributions to the game of golf;
3. Social comportment over a significant period which enhances the enjoyment of the membership and contributes to the good fellowship of the membership.

When the first recipients were recognized, Bill Reynolds addressed those gathered in the Dining Room in a very serious tone with the following words - "There may be some who would say that my fellow recipients and I are on the back nine of life..." (pregnant pause) "... which is why we keep letting groups play through!" A board listing Distinguished Members is located in the Grill Room, and a list of Distinguished Members appears at the end of this book.



The Walter J. Travis Society

Cherry Hill joined the Walter J. Travis Society in 1999 as a Club and invited its members to join as individuals. The most visible aspect of membership is the participation in the annual Travis Cup, which is conducted on a rotating basis with other golf clubs whose course was also designed by Walter Travis. On the home page of the Society's website, travissociety.com it states:

"The Walter J. Travis Society was founded in 1994 to promote the legacy of Walter J. Travis, America's foremost amateur golfer of the early 1900s, golf journalist and publisher, turfgrass expert, golf course architect, and one of the great pioneers of golf in North America. The Travis Society is dedicated to documenting the remarkable career of Walter J. Travis in order to fully understand and honor his varied accomplishments and contributions."

A photo portrait of Travis, aka "The Old Man" is currently displayed proudly in the foyer of Cherry Hill.

Game, Set, Match

Unless you have been a member for quite some time, you would not be aware that there used to be a "hazard" of sorts on the left side of the 1st hole past the Clubhouse, namely two tennis courts surrounded by high chain link fences. While from time to time there would be an active tennis program for Juniors, complete with a pro, lessons, and tournaments, in the long run there were more errant tee shots hit on the courts than service aces. Back when adult

beverages were common before, during and after Board Meetings, a longtime member recounts, "The chairman of the tennis committee gave a succinct and substantive Tennis Committee Report. Fifteen minutes later... he gave the same report again!" In August of 1998 a request for quote for the resurfacing of the tennis courts was put out to bid, with the estimated cost coming in at \$50,000. The Board's appetite for capital expenditures had been fully sated and the item was tabled for future consideration. Later a survey of the membership indicated that 79% of members never used the tennis courts. Resurfacing was deferred indefinitely, although the courts were occasionally used for large dinner dances under tents for invitational golf tournaments. Eventually the easiest and most cost-effective solution was carried out, and the tennis courts were buried without fanfare. In what could be viewed as a quid pro quo move, John Brady made a donation to the Cherry Hill Tree Program, and the Board saw to it that the tennis court nets made it into the trunk of Mr. Brady's car.

Managing The House

The year 1999 marked the end of David Greaves' decade-long service as Club Manager. Much was accomplished during David's tenure, including installation of flagstone on the Clubhouse patio. Many long-standing traditions such as Thursday Bingo nights, the Friday night Fish Fry, and bi-national fireworks celebrations continued to be mainstays of the social life at Cherry Hill. And of course, Bills games and the unforgettable 75th Anniversary celebration took place with David at the helm.

Emil S. Rinderlin succeeded David Greaves in May of 1999. Emil had had a long and successful career as a gourmet chef, as proprietor of an eponymous fine dining restaurant in Welland, and as manager of the extensive food service operations at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto. A native of Germany, Emil introduced an annual Oktoberfest Night to Cherry Hill. Prior to this new authentic German celebration, the Club had traditionally held a "Last Blast" party in the fall, which offered the membership one last opportunity to socialize with Cherry Hill friends and gave the kitchen and bar staff the opportunity to clear out inventory before shutting down for the winter. The Last Blast was merged into Oktoberfest Night which became a Club favorite with

authentic German food, yodeling contests and other themed activities. The highlight of these events, most certainly was the live band led by George Kash, “Canada’s King of Oktoberfest.” Besides being a great drummer and singer, and looking good in lederhosen, George has a world-class talent that is unsurpassed and is particularly well-suited to Oktoberfest celebrations. He is without exception the world’s best at chugging beer while standing on his head. In fact, he can chug a beer faster upside down than most can do right-side up. The high point of the night was when George assumed the cherry position on his head, (with his bandmates steadying him by his feet) chugged the first beer, did two shots of Jägermeister, then chugged a second beer this time without using his hands, all in rapid succession! It’s worth a visit to YouTube to see for yourself. If Emil had contributed nothing else to the Club, he would have been a successful hire, however, he brought so much more with his commitment and professionalism over his ten years of service to the Club. Another signature Rinderlin event was a black-tie affair, with limited seating, that featured a multi-course gourmet meal prepared personally by Emil and paired with fine wines and spirits.

Communications



Home page of previous Club website.

In 1998 a new masthead and template for the Club newsletter, which was entitled “From The Hill,” was unveiled and used for many years. “From The Hill” was the Club’s primary communication vehicle and was issued monthly, usually from April through October, with reports from the President and committee chairmen as well as a calendar of golf and social events. The newsletter was published from 1988 until 2007, when electronic tools started to emerge as a more efficient and cost-effective means of communication to the membership. The Club had launched two versions of its website prior to the current website which was launched in 2017. In 2020 the Club introduced the Cherry Hill App, which has a full range of capabilities, including checking one’s account status. Members also enjoy the smartphone app provided by Golf Canada which keeps track of a member’s handicap and history of rounds. The Club communicates regularly with the membership through email as well.

Taxing Issues

Concerns over the tax status of Cherry Hill were raised in 1999, a recurring theme in the Club’s history. Member and legal advisor to the Club, Gerald Ruch, was tasked with looking into the situation. This matter and property tax issues were addressed over the years, and on occasion when matters became more complex, they were referred to a “Toronto lawyer.” In the end, we maintained our favorable not-for-profit tax status. There was also drama in the property tax assessment status of the Club which took a few years to sort out. In the end, after we had successfully argued our case, the Club received a credit of nearly \$100,000 in 2011 for prior excessive property tax payments. Clearly, the Toronto lawyer earned his fee on that case. ONCA, or the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, received Royal assent in 2010, and some feared if and when ONCA went into effect that it would negatively impact the structure and governance of Cherry Hill, its shareholders, and its members. The Legal and Insurance Committee members kept tabs on ONCA as it slowly worked its way through the bureaucracy. When ONCA finally went into effect in 2021, the Club determined that the aspects of its impact which were most feared had not been written into the act after all, and no drastic measures were taken by the Club at the time.



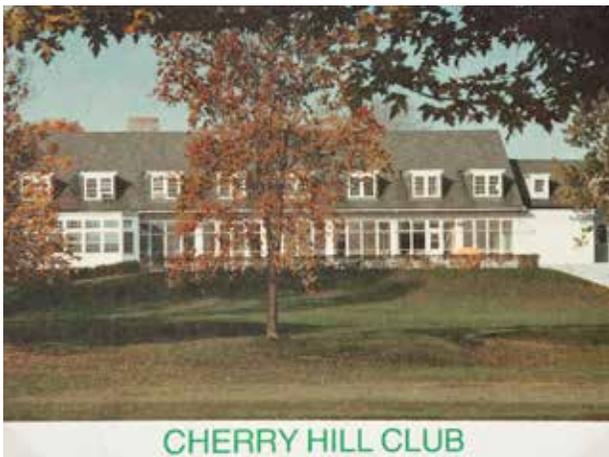
Any Way You Slice It

Over the years the Board had many cunning ways to disguise the fact that the cost of membership was ever increasing, although any member with an eye toward the bottom line (in other words every member) was not fooled. Nevertheless, for many years one might find the following monthly, or limited timeframe line items on a statement from the Club:

- Monthly Dues
- Facilities Maintenance Fund
- Club Service Assessment
- Capital Fund
- Renovation Assessment
- Association Dues Fee
- Club Storage
- Men's Locker Rental
- Fireworks Fund
- Hole In One Insurance Fund
- Sweeps

And then of course the government had to get in on the act with a veritable alphabet soup throughout the years – PST, GST, HST, and if Revenue Canada doesn't get you there is always the OPP, NRP and the RCMP. Eventually the statements were simplified, with many of these line items combined. Throughout the Club's history, however, our resourceful Boards have always held true to the power of assessment and dues increases with a remarkable consistency.

Keeping Score



Score card cover from the past.

A new score card design was adopted in 1999 to replace the design that had been in effect for many years,

(except for the 75th Anniversary score card in 1997).

While changes have been made to tees, handicap rankings and yardage, the visual look of the card remains in use today (except for the 100th Anniversary score card in 2022).

Building On Our Past

In 1999, the impetus behind what would be the formation of the Facilities Assessment Committee (FAC) was germinating. The committee ultimately made an in-depth assessment of the physical condition of the Clubhouse, with associated recommendations. But in 1999, it was the Permanent Advisory Committee (PAC) that took center stage, overseeing the most significant changes to the campus since the Club was first built. The old Halfway House and starter shack were demolished. The practice putting green was expanded, with new landscaping. Giant trees which had grown up with the Club remained around the first tee, but the change in the whole vista was dramatic. Board member Bob Rodgers supervised the work.

The Pro Shop also was demolished. The permit for the project stipulated that at least one wall remain in place, a common regulation for this type of construction project. Equally common apparently is the “unexpected gust of wind in the dark of night” that toppled the remaining wall, such that the project became a complete tear down. Architects for the new building which houses the Pro Shop and Halfway House were Macdonald & Zuberec Architects, Inc. of St. Catharines. Construction was handled by the firm operated by James Brown who was a member of Cherry Hill at the time. Ernest Montgomery and Bob Rodgers oversaw the construction. Mike Reynolds and Jeff Roy supervised the interior layout of the Pro Shop, the custom fixtures for which were built by The Advantage Woodshop from Buffalo. Sally Gioia provided interior design services.

The building features the same style of grey shingle siding as the Clubhouse, and when the ribbon was cut on May 29th, 1999, it looked as though it had been part of the landscape since inception. One initial concept for the building which was “new nine oriented” was to put the Starter in the area which is currently the service door to the kitchen in the Halfway House. The thinking was that the Starter would have a view of the first tee and be able to monitor the new nine activity



New Pro Shop and Halfway House – 1999



across Cherry Hill Boulevard as well. Direct access to the kitchen by the staff proved to be a more compelling use of the space. The indoor dining area features a picture window that allows players to monitor when the group ahead tees off on the 10th tee. Restroom facilities for men and women were a welcome amenity. The Halfway House has undergone some upgrades to the dining space as well as the food preparation equipment and continues to be a functional space that is well-used by the membership.

The new Pro Shop space was a major upgrade from its predecessor. The knotty pine woodwork is in keeping with the ambiance of the Clubhouse and features a custom main counter, slatwall and cabinet display areas. There is a balcony and loft area for offices on the second floor. The cart and bag storage building was rebuilt with a new cart washing station, and upgrades for charging stations and club storage. The parking lot was paved, but the painting of lines was deferred in order to formulate a plan for a safe traffic pattern for automobiles, golf carts and pedestrians. A new Starter's Shack eventually was built in its current location adjacent to the practice putting green.

The overall consensus was that the major capital improvements were of high quality, enhancing functionality and service to the membership. Nevertheless, at the Annual Shareholders Meeting that fall, a motion was made from the floor that in the future, projects in excess of \$500,000 be subject to approval by a majority of the full membership. When the motion was ultimately voted on at a subsequent Board meeting the vote was 0 in favor and 14 against. Had there not been the one Director excused for the meeting, one can safely assume that it would have been 15 against.

We Have A Quorum

In 2000, a suggestion was first proffered to reduce the number of Board Directors from 15 to 12, or even as low as 9. Having 15 Directors and 1 President made for a crowded Board Room and seeking enough nominees every year to elect 5 new directors was often a challenge. The concept was rejected and pondered again for many years before finally being ratified and going into effect in an incremental manner, such that the first Board totaling just nine members was seated in October of 2020. That figure will remain the number for Board Directors until such time that some well-

meaning member will make a case that 9 Directors is too few, or then again... too many?

This Old House

While old structures were being demolished and new ones built, the Facilities Assessment Committee (FAC) had been very busy focusing almost exclusively on the aging Clubhouse, and how to address a myriad of issues ranging from structural to mechanical to aesthetic as well as compliance with changing regulations. Dr. Ted Mitchinson led the early phases of the FAC activity with the help of many members whose careers related to construction and building maintenance. Consultants hired to assist were 2M Architects with Merit Construction functioning as construction manager. Other Board members whose expertise was more in the financial field served on the Financial Committee as a sub-committee of FAC to determine how to pay for whatever course of action was decided upon by the Board. When work eventually commenced John Downing played a lead role in supervising the activities of FAC.



In the early months of 2001, FAC had three overall approaches to dealing with the Clubhouse physical plant, addressing every conceivable aspect of the makeup of the building, and costs for the associated work. The FAC team made presentations to the Board and general meetings were held in 2001 to inform the membership of what was being contemplated. The three basic options were:

- **Restoration and Stabilization** – called for installation of a new mechanical system with air conditioning and a minimal winter heating mode. A new wet sprinkler system would replace the existing

system which was a combination of wet and dry operation. Walls and ceilings would be insulated. The result would be a winterized restored Clubhouse, extending its life expectancy by 25-50 years. Rooms and spatial relationships would remain intact.

Estimated cost: \$1,778,060.70 plus GST.

- **Restoration and Renovation** – would include all of the aforementioned work described in the Restoration and Stabilization option but would include the following additional aspects. The kitchen wing would be demolished and rebuilt. The Dining Room capacity would be enlarged by extending the enclosed porch out into the covered patio area, with a new patio to be built northward. A service kitchen would be installed in the Grill Room. Administrative offices would be built on the first floor, and an elevator to the second floor would be installed.

Estimated cost: \$2,837,684.48 plus GST.

- **New Construction** – this option called for the demolition of the existing Clubhouse and a complete new-build Clubhouse to take its place. The proposed new structure was envisioned as a larger, single-story building with a full basement. The advantages of this option were numerous with potential for enhanced amenities. Disadvantages included the loss of our noble Clubhouse and down time during construction which would require improvised temporary Clubhouse facilities. The primary disadvantage was, of course, the price tag.

Estimated cost: \$4,489,616.09 plus GST.

At the September 15, 2001, Board of Directors meeting, a resolution was approved after much discussion to adopt the Restoration and Stabilization approach with a general budget of \$1.8 million. The resolution provided great leeway in the timing of the work and allowed discretion on the part of FAC to determine exact details of work to be carried out. Notes in the minutes indicate a cautious approach to balancing the budget as well as the needs of the membership, given the large capital projects that had occurred in 1999 and the newly approved expenditures. Financing and assessments were surely required, and it was felt that a long-term financial instrument would spread expenses across existing and new members. Another sentiment evident in the minutes, although no official motion was made by the Board, was the notion that with all things considered the likelihood of a new nine being built was

an ever-diminishing prospect. Of interest, however, is the fact that the September 15, 2001, Board Meeting minutes make no mention of events that had taken place in the U.S. just a few days prior.

Work did not begin until the spring of 2003, and as one might expect with unearthing the secrets of a building that had been built some eight decades prior, many surprises and twists and turns were encountered in the process. The work continued in various phases for three years, concluding in 2006 with the completion of a new HVAC system. Andy McGennis played a key role in supervising this phase of the project, with George Bergantz battling cleanup. In 2006, the automatic sliding doors to the Clubhouse patio were installed as a final touch on the work of the Facilities Assessment Committee. The result was as envisioned, with the restoration and stabilization of key components of the Clubhouse. Hazardous materials had been removed. Mechanical and electrical systems were upgraded. Insulation was installed. Air conditioning finally was introduced to the Clubhouse, which improved the marketing of the facility for weddings and other events. Also, a new roof was installed, capping off years of hard work from a dedicated team of members who volunteered much time and talent toward the rescue and longevity of our venerable Clubhouse.



Employee birthday celebration (l. to r.) Edgar Iriarte, Jeff Roy, Sue Doan, Aaron Pye, and Rick Smit.

Special Relationships

Throughout the years, Cherry Hill has been fortunate to employ many capable individuals in key positions at the Club. Often the relationship between members and long-time employees is genuine, more like a family bond than an employee-employer relationship. In many instances, the membership acknowledges these special employees upon retirement. In 2006 an appreciation luncheon was given for Brenda Washburn who served the Club for 28 years as finance director, and the Club paid for a special trip to Western



Clubhouse Restored and Stabilized in the Early 2000's



Canada. When Emil Rinderlin retired after 10 years of service, the Club provided funds for a trip to his native Germany. Similarly, a retirement party was given to Cecil Hoekstra, Golf Course Superintendent from 1977-2008.

Today, there are a number of longtime employees, with decades of service, who continue to play an integral role in the Cherry Hill experience. Imagine you are playing golf on a Saturday morning, and you pull into the parking lot. Jim Burrison greets you with a warm welcome and has your clubs on the cart next to your car before you cross Cherry Hill Boulevard. As the keeper of “The Pot of Gold” Jim has collected more ten-dollar bills from golfers than a parking lot owner. You park the cart by the Pro Shop and stop in for a quick check of your handicap. Another warm welcome from Assistant Golf Professional, Steve Barkley. Steve has been caddying, giving lessons, running tournaments, and assisting with the retail operation in the Pro Shop since before Tiger Woods was famous. As you head down to check in with the starter you exchange a friendly hello and nod from Nelson Pacheco. Nelson, from house maintenance, keeps things clean around the Club and carries out a variety of tasks including painting and other chores. You check in with our senior starter, Reg Julie, who gets you on the sheet and tells you that your other playing partners are already on the range. Reg has seen it all and rules the first tee amiably whether on Junior Day, Ladies Day, or a busy weekend morning. As you head into the Locker Room you hear that familiar and enthusiastic greeting. Edgar Iriarte makes every day shine with the warmest of welcome to all who enter. As Locker Room attendant, Edgar is well-known by golfers throughout Buffalo and Southern Ontario who visit our Club as guests. On the course, you enjoy the fruits of the labor of several veteran grounds crew employees with 10-15 years or more experience – Brendon, David, Matt, Kathy, Dave, Rodney, and Marty. Although we may not be able to put the name to the face, we appreciate them every time we tee it up on our beautifully maintained golf course. No matter how poorly you are playing on the front nine, you know that the bright spot of the day awaits you at the turn. Sue Doan, (and her awesome crew) in the Halfway House will put a smile on your face with good food and hospitality. Sue is loved by one and all including Juniors, Ladies and the regular Saturday morning foursomes who keep coming back for the “Susie Special.” No day would be complete without

a stop at the 19th hole. Rick Smit has been behind the bar at Cherry Hill longer than most members have belonged, and his perennial good nature raises everyone’s spirits. One more name belongs on this list – Kim Warwick who, as pastry chef has sweetened everyone’s day. Kim retired in 2021 after 25 years of service, but one of her early masterpieces was creating the cake that was prepared for the 75th anniversary celebration at Cherry Hill.

These are a few of the people that make the Cherry Hill experience special. Many long-lasting friendships have formed between members and the staff. In appreciation for their efforts, members contribute voluntarily to the “End of Season Gratuity Fund” which is distributed annually among employees before the holiday season. [Editor’s Note: Reg Julie passed away in April of 2022. He will be dearly missed by the Cherry Hill community.]

Under New Management

Before the golf season started in 2009, the Club departed from standard procedure and hired a general manager under contract through a consulting firm called National Private Club Practice. Marinus Gerritsen had considerable experience in golf club management in the Toronto area. Cherry Hill had endured some challenges in a few aspects of its operation, and Marinus was brought on to address these issues. The days of 60+ person waiting lists were over, and every year the Membership Committee was faced with overcoming the loss of members due to resignation, leave of absence, and death. The exchange rate, which had once been a top selling point had slowly evolved into a liability. The reliable stream of legacy members fell victim to the trend of young college graduates leaving the Buffalo area for rosier career opportunities. In addition, there was the omnipresent challenge faced by virtually all private clubs, namely, how to offer quality food and beverage service levels without losing too much money.

One of Marinus’ first moves was literally to move the administrative office operations into the current location on the second floor of the Clubhouse. Prior to this move, the Club Office had been located in the red brick building on Highway #3 which is east of the 3rd tee and next to the Club’s maintenance buildings. The old Laur farmhouse was part of the Club’s original land acquisition, the other being the Cherry Hill

Farm operated by the Barnhardt family. The old office building is currently unused, but the new set up in the Clubhouse has turned out to be a good decision for efficiency and convenience.

If the characterization of the Dutch as frugal people is accurate, then Marinus lived up to his heritage. He instituted a number of cost cuts and control measures which immediately impacted favorably on the bottom line. As can be expected, lower staffing levels and curtailed hours of dining service did not necessarily have a favorable impact on all members, but it was evident that cost-cutting was in order. Marinus managed the Club until 2015 with a steady hand and a high degree of professionalism. Judy Wood, Director of Finance & Administration for several years also served capably in that capacity. Nevertheless, as membership numbers continued to erode in the 2010's, management of the budget continued to plague the Board. Shortly before Marinus left Cherry Hill, we hired Jeremy Broom as Head Professional. Jeremy came to us from the esteemed Toronto Golf Club in 2014. After Marinus' departure Jeremy assumed the title of Executive Professional and managed all aspects of Club operation.



Crowd Favorites

On the social calendar there are a few mainstays that have endured over the years. What used to be called The President's Ball is now referred to as the Season Opening Party. Held in May the event honors the Presidential couple and serves to welcome new members as the social season kicks off for the year. Two regular events that are favorites are Bingo night

and the Friday Fish Fry. The Fish Fry is very popular, and Fridays are consistently the biggest night for food service at the Club. The bar sales are generally strong for the Friday Fish Fry as well, which might help explain its popularity. As far back as any living member can recall, if it is a Thursday during summer vacation time it is Bingo night at Cherry Hill. For generations, grandparents and parents have been taking the family for a casual dinner followed by traditional bingo, played on old fashioned cardboard bingo cards that are nearly as old as our Club. One longtime member recalls when his grandmother would take him to play bingo that, "Mr. Atwood would always shout out "twenty-three skidoooo!" After Bill Atwood retired from bingo calling duties there have been numerous bingo callers. The trio of Bob Cooney, Bud Heussler, and Tom Mitchell shared duties on a rotating basis. Currently the duo of Maureen Lenahan and Ann Marie Luhr are rivaling Pat Sajak and Vanna White for longevity. There are young members who have literally grown up since Ann and Maureen have been calling bingo. The vintage bingo cards, which cost \$1 per card for the whole night, have windows for each number with colored plastic tabs that slide to cover the square when the number is called. Even the newer batches are likely half a century old. Veteran player, Mave Kearney, would only play the sole remaining "old green card" which was played by her exclusively for at least 10 years. Unfortunately for Mave, the old green card never won until persistence paid off and young Miss Kearney finally won a game.



Fun before fireworks.





War of 1812 reenactors.

Fireworks night is an annual affair that is normally held on July 2nd, between Canada Day and the Fourth of July. A family-oriented event, fireworks night is perhaps the busiest night of the year. Bounce houses, petting zoos, pony rides and the like are set up for children, with casual barbecue fare available at the Halfway House, and a buffet dinner in the Clubhouse. Fireworks are staged across the pond between the 8th and 9th holes. For those viewing from the Clubhouse and seated in the 1st fairway, the musical fireworks reflect in the pond for a most enjoyable display. This bi-national celebration is summertime at its best and quintessential Cherry Hill.

Celebrating 90 Years

In the fall of 2011, a committee headed by Rick Halinda was formed to celebrate the upcoming 90th anniversary of the founding of Cherry Hill in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of our hosting the 1972 Canadian Open. The season started off with a bang on Men's Opening Day on May 19, 2012. A whole contingent of War of 1812 reenactors came in full costume and

with full size cannons which were fired off down the 18th fairway. Edgar, the Locker Room attendant is the Club's designated cannoneer. As such, whenever there is a shotgun start for a tournament Edgar fires off a miniature, yet very loud cannon, much to every player's delight. On this occasion Edgar was treated to the opportunity to light the fuse on a full-size authentic cannon and to do so in full uniform. There was a flag raising ceremony on the newly installed flag poles around the practice putting green. Veteran members and descendants of the Club's founders took part in the raising of the flags which in addition to the Cherry Hill flag included flags to commemorate the major tournaments hosted by Cherry Hill over the years. In June, a special "Canadian Open Day" golf event was held with replica 1972 Canadian Open tickets and players were announced on the first tee just like on tour. That evening, Dick Grimm, who was tournament coordinator for the RCGA in 1972 and various Cherry Hill members shared reminiscences of their Canadian Open experiences from 1972. The official Canadian Open trophy (on loan from the Canadian Golf Hall

Opposite: Fireworks illuminate the 8th fairway and reflect in the pond.



“Edgar the Cannoneer!”

of Fame Museum) was on display. The memorabilia case that greets one upon entering the Club foyer was dedicated. The display case is custom crafted by Buffalo area artist, Dave Miller. It features inlaid wood letters and hand-carved cherries on the wooden frame. Relics, souvenirs, and other historical items are displayed inside the glass case.

The Membership Pipeline

While membership has its privileges, being Chairman of the Membership Committee certainly has its challenges. In the days of multi-year waiting lists the Membership Committee must deal with impatient applicants on the waiting list, while at the same time try to attract new members to keep the pipeline full. Conversely when membership is declining, the need for new members is ever greater and pressing.

Member dues are the lifeblood of any private club, and accordingly, the annual budget is based primarily on the anticipated number of members for the upcoming year. As the heyday of deep waiting lists passed, the Club carried out a number of measures to maintain membership levels. Applicants were given more than one year to pay the initiation fee. Initiation fees were slowly and incrementally lowered. Within the last quarter century there was a growing perception that a migration of affluence was heading our way from the Greater Toronto Area. “We need to attract more Canadian members,” or “We need more young members,” became the mantra of Membership Committees.

At every Board meeting, a key figure is the monthly membership count, a number that eroded over many years. For example, the membership count fluctuated

from month to month in 2008: 366;352;359;346;334. At the end of 2017 the budget for 2018 was to be based on 275 members. Many marketing tactics were employed to attract new members. Local realtors were approached, and some were offered certain club privileges to entertain home buyers. Prospective member days were held, inviting prospects to play the course and meet members. Individuals who belonged to another club were given financial incentives to join Cherry Hill as a “Second Club Member.” Special incentives, with names like Preferred Member Program (PMP), and Exclusive Membership Offer (EMO) were created. The incentives of the PMP and EMO programs, along with the hard work and dedication of many members proved to be very successful, despite considerable annual attrition from resignations, leaves and deaths. Membership was hovering around 300 near the end of the 2010’s. Even so, that level was considered good in as much as the incentive programs had attracted many new members in the face of continual erosion. In 2021, the Board changed the maximum number allowed for the full golf membership category from 400 to 350, and by the end of the year we were back in the waiting list mode.

The Membership Coordinator is a staff position charged with overseeing the details of receiving applications and keeping communications open between applicants and the Membership Committee. Cheryl Werneiwski and Gail Rohe are two such individuals who functioned in this role, which offers the first impression to the Club. Today we are fortunate to have the dedicated and capable Charlotte Burbidge as our Membership and Communications Coordinator.

The Management Team

As the new decade dawned, and 2020 was ushered in, the Cherry Hill community had every reason to be optimistic. The Clubhouse had been restored and stabilized. The golf course had undergone a major renovation in 2009. The Club was in good financial shape with no debt and money in the bank. The overall outlook was positive for 2020.

Even more reassuring was the fact that in January of 2020 every key management position at the Club was filled, which wasn’t always the case when a new year

had begun. The course, the Pro Shop, the kitchen, and the administration office were all in good hands. A new Golf Course Superintendent, Jeremy Krueger was slated to start in February. Head Professional, Walker Arnott, had the Pro Shop staff and the golf calendar ready to roll. David Course, who as a young man had completed his chef apprenticeship at Cherry Hill under Chef Mark Graham, had returned to Cherry Hill as Executive Chef. Rich Merlino, Food and Beverage Manager was poised to begin his second year. Finally, we had a most capable and involved individual in the position of General Manager and Director of Finance, Caroline Molen. In her relatively short tenure since 2016, Caroline had delved into every aspect of Club operations and guided our financial path with expertise, serving as an invaluable resource to Presidents, Directors, and committee chairs. This talented management group had the full endorsement of the Board, and there was a palpable optimism among the membership. Indeed, the whole world was excited to begin the new decade in 2020.



Such was the atmosphere when the Board of Directors gathered at The Buffalo Club in downtown Buffalo in January and February of 2020, where winter Board Meetings were often held. The budget had been approved. The golf and social calendars were set. The Board set its sights on fine-tuning and enhancing services and amenities to make a great member experience even better. The House Committee noted that the younger members enjoyed craft and microbrewery beer products. “We should definitely provide a quality IPA offering for the young guys,” was the sentiment. Another issue, albeit somewhat vexing, was whether or not to allow dress denim attire in the Clubhouse. Ironically, the day that the Cherry Hill Board met at the traditionally more formal Buffalo Club, was the very day that the latter had just adopted a new policy allowing dress denim in certain areas of its club. For Cherry Hill, the problem was that younger members would change out of their golf attire after a round of golf and head back to Buffalo to go out on the town... in denims. If we allowed dress denims

(not blue jeans, not farmer jeans, not tattered jeans) to be worn in the Clubhouse, it was thought that we might entice more members to utilize the food and beverage offering. How do we define acceptable denim, and what about enforcement? Aren't women already wearing

denim on occasion? The issues were too subtle and complex to be decided on the spot, so the topic was tabled, with the understanding that there was plenty of time before the golf season would start to tackle the denim dilemma.

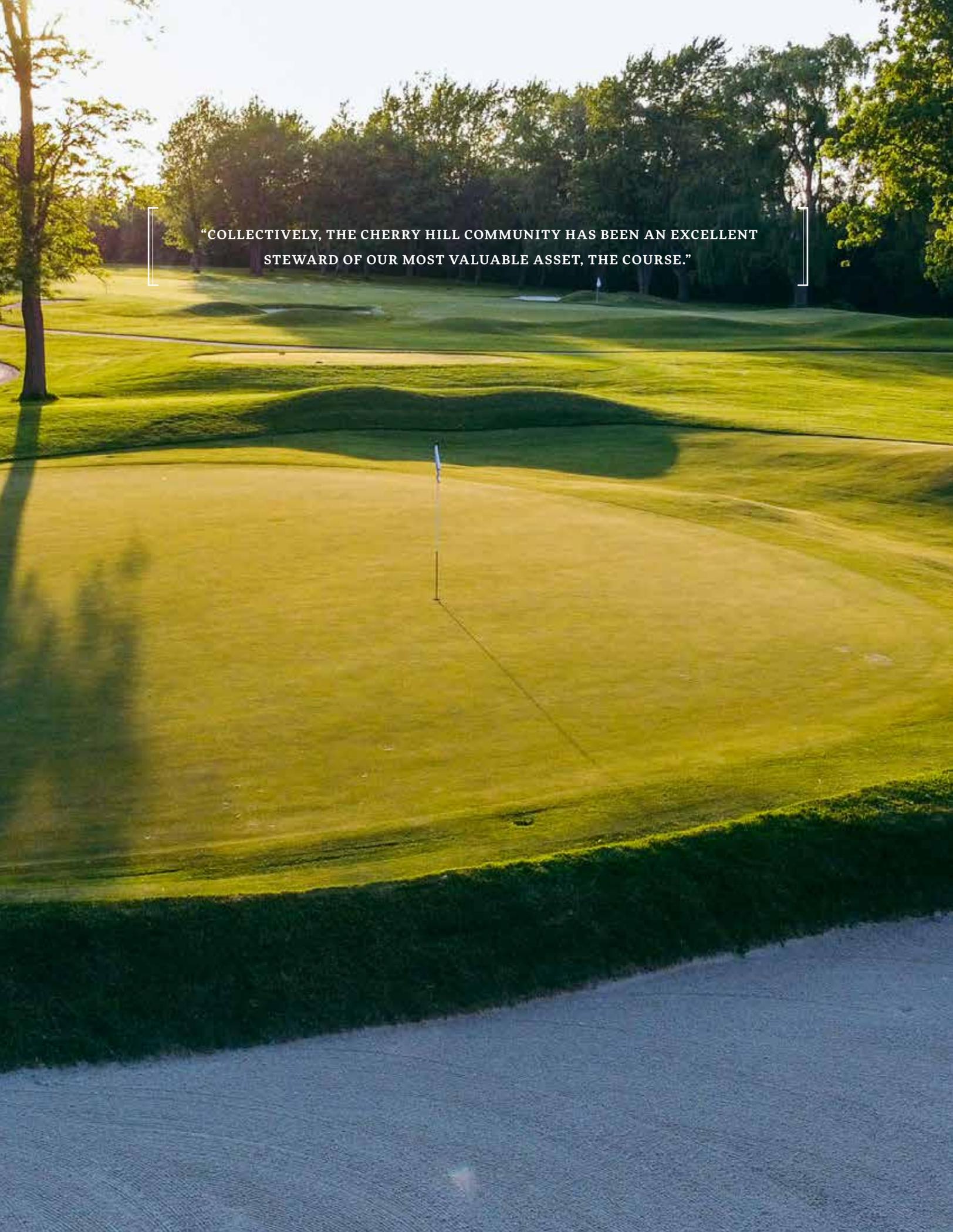


The Directors left the meeting room and headed contentedly to the Old Bar for a nightcap. They might just as well have been streaming up the gangway for boarding on the maiden voyage of the Titanic.



Cherry Hill Club
1922 - 2022



A photograph of a golf course green and fairway at sunset. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, with long shadows cast across the grass. A flagstick is visible in the center of the green. The background is filled with a dense line of trees. The quote is centered in the upper half of the image, enclosed in white brackets.

**“COLLECTIVELY, THE CHERRY HILL COMMUNITY HAS BEEN AN EXCELLENT
STEWARD OF OUR MOST VALUABLE ASSET, THE COURSE.”**



OF COURSE!

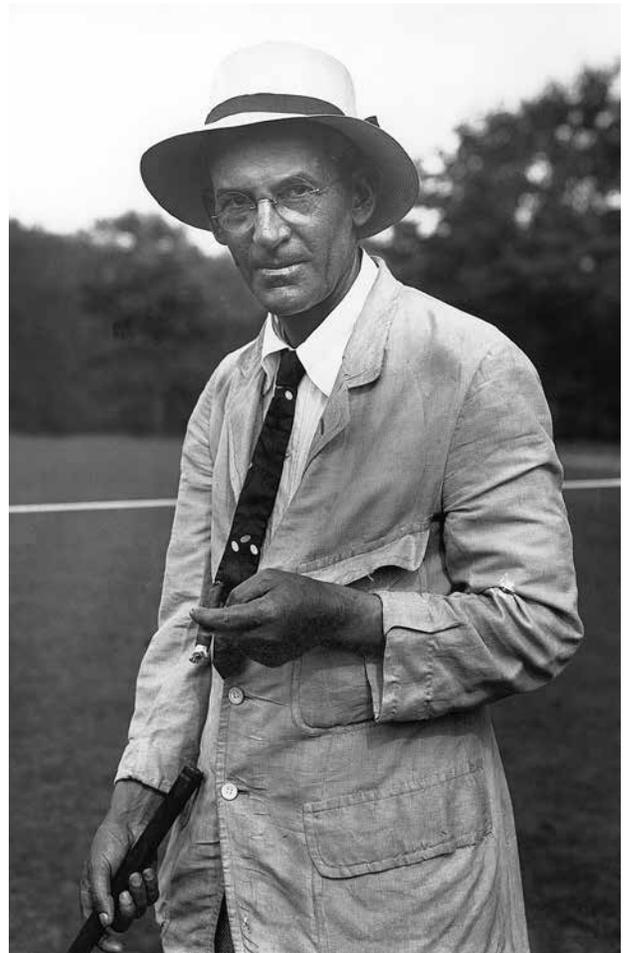


“It is high time we awoke to a proper and appreciative realization of what real golf is – and constructed our courses accordingly.”

– Walter J. Travis

Whatever his view of “real golf” may have been, we are the fortunate heirs of a “really great golf course,” thanks to Mr. Travis. What was literally farmland in 1922, with a terrain that was not particularly exciting, was transformed into a golf course that would go on to host a national championship with some of the greatest golfers of all time in the field – Palmer, Player, Trevino, Snead, and Watson to name a few. In 2021, “Golfweek’s Best 2021: Top 25 Classic Courses in Canada,” ranked Cherry Hill at #12. Over the span of 100 years, trees have grown to maturity, been lost to disease, or fallen victim to the axe of Grounds Committees and agronomists. New tees have lengthened holes, ponds have been dug, and bunkers have been placed strategically to challenge the player. Through these many years, however, the classic Travis golf greens have remained virtually untouched and true to the original design, a feature that is the defining quality of Cherry Hill.

Certainly, nature has influenced the development of the course. Well-meaning Grounds Committee members have been judicious in course-related decisions, while dedicated grounds crew members have worked tirelessly from season to season. And over the course of a century, just six individuals have held the position of Golf Course Superintendent. Collectively, the Cherry Hill community has been an excellent steward of our most valuable asset, the course.



Course Architect – Walter J. Travis

The Cherry Hill Greens

In 1997, Cecil T. “Cec” Hoekstra was Golf Course Superintendent, a position he had held already for 20 years. The course that Cec took charge of in 1977 was basically the result of all the work that had been carried out in preparation for the 1972 Canadian Open. He went right to work and was instrumental in the creation of our reservoir which initially had a capacity of 5 million gallons of water. Over a period of several years, Cec and his crew dug the system of French drains on the course to address areas where drainage was poor. He would play a key role in other major golf course projects before his retirement, but the one thing for which Cec was most well-known was the fast speed at which he maintained the Cherry Hill greens. This point cannot be overstated. When the 1972 Canadian Open was held at Cherry Hill, the small size, and the undulations of the greens as well as the six-inch high grass surrounding them, were the focus of the sports media, but not so much the speed. By the time Cecil retired in 2008, the Cherry Hill greens were infamous for their speed and drastic breaks. Guests in the invitational tournaments raved (and sometimes ranted) about how fast they were. Golfers at every other club in the Buffalo District Golf Association



were envious of the “Cherry Hill greens.” Similarly, whenever players made the trek from Toronto to Ridgeway the speed of the greens was the outstanding trait that characterized the experience. Veteran members will recall times when a putt hit from the top of the 15th green could be stopped only by the hole or the pond, no matter how softly it was hit. As the years go by, the speed of those “Cecil greens” gets faster and faster in the memories of players who had the pleasure of putting on them.

As with most courses of its era, Cherry Hill’s greens are of the “push up” design, or as some call them “mud greens.” Before the USGA started to promote specifications for layered greens in the 1960’s, most greens were of push up design. Modern USGA green construction calls for special drainage measures and multiple layers of soil, sand, and organic material to allow the greenskeeper maximum control of conditions for maintaining healthy greens. For push up greens, soil is simply piled up which elevates the green compared to the surrounding soil. As they age, push up greens can present challenges to golf course superintendents, but Cherry Hill has met such challenges successfully over the years. During Cecil’s tenure, the predominant grass on the greens was poa annua, or poa, which is a type of bluegrass. For many of his years at Cherry Hill, Cecil managed the poa greens quite deftly without the benefit of sub-surface drainage or modern rolling equipment. By minimizing nitrogen and certain nutrients, and avoiding over watering, he was able to keep the greens “on the edge.” The result was very fast greens, but the risk was that extreme weather might damage them. Minor outbreaks of mold or winter rot occurred, however, throughout Cecil’s tenure, there were no catastrophic events of note, in the making of the legend of “Cherry Hill greens.”

The USGA Green Section

For many years, Cherry Hill has made use of the services of the USGA Green Section Course Consulting Services, whereby a specialist visits the course annually and prepares a written report on all aspects of the course. For thirty years we benefitted from the counsel of David A. Oatis who became very familiar with our course, and whose advice we would seek on all course-related issues. His report in 1997 recommended that we consider upgrading our irrigation system which was originally installed in 1971 for the Canadian

Open. Thus, a new irrigation system was envisioned for the 1999 season.

New Groundwater Pump

In May of 1997 a new pump for drawing water from our well was installed at a cost of \$15,000. The Board discussed the possibility of installing a phone on the 9th tee for placing orders with the Halfway House. The tree committee, a group of volunteer members who trimmed and pruned at the direction of the Superintendent, continued to provide a valuable service to the Club. It was announced that hand mowing of the greens would return in 1998.

Sub-surface Drainage on Greens

In 1997, a new approach to dealing with our 75-year-old push up greens was started, with the 14th green being the first test case of the installation of sub-surface drainage. Cherry Hill was among the first courses to adopt this new method of improving drainage on the greens. The alternative option was to “rebuild” the greens, which was a much more drastic, expensive, and disruptive process. Essentially, the alternative approach involved digging up the greens, installing the USGA specified elements and layers, and attempting to rebuild the green surface on the new infrastructure. Such an approach was often met with disappointment, because although the new greens had improved water

management characteristics, they often bore little resemblance to the old greens. Therefore, Cherry Hill chose to be an innovator, with the hopes that we would maintain the original qualities of our Travis-designed greens.

Installation of sub-surface drainage involves digging a grid of deep trenches, less than 6 inches wide that run parallel to the fall line of the greens. To draw water away from the green area, 2” perforated pipes are installed and backfilled with a special sand engineered for push up greens. The small surface area removed for the trenches can be easily replaced with sod, causing minimal disruption, and leaving the green essentially intact. Even today, after a heavy rain, one can sometimes see the faint outline of the trench grid on the green as a contrasting lighter shade of green. The objective is to remove excessive rainwater from the greens, and to allow the Superintendent precise control of water on the greens.

The sub-surface drainage experiment on the 14th green went very well, and eight more greens were slated for the procedure at the end of the 1998 season. Disruption of play was comparatively minimal, and the rewards were well worth the temporary inconvenience. The cost for sub-surface drainage was in the \$6,000-\$8,000 range per green. Eventually, by the end of 1999, all eighteen greens were completed, and a single line treatment on the practice putting green was also done.



Today, there are firms that specialize in the process that was in its infancy when Cherry Hill adopted it. The investment has been well-justified. We successfully addressed the drainage issues, but more important, the most precious elements of our most valuable asset, the “Cherry Hill greens,” were preserved in the process.

Plumbing Issues

In the mid-1960’s, a line bringing municipal water from the Town of Fort Erie was installed behind the 13th tee. It traversed the course bringing water into the Clubhouse for a new sprinkler system. Minutes from the March 1997 Board Meeting indicate that “the water main on 13 has ruptured again.” After another repair, the Club diligently entered into negotiations with the Town to re-route the water line away from the 13th fairway, an outcome that was eventually achieved without undue cost to the Club.

In 2000, another perennial problem, not relating to inflow but rather outflow from the Clubhouse, was solved by running a new line to the septic system located between the 1st fairway and the 9th hole, which was deemed more practical than replacing the entire system. The membership was full of appreciation for the remedy.

Land Bridges

In 2000, bridges were constructed on the 14th and 16th holes with a budget of \$20,000. The bridge on 16 has since been removed, while the two on 14 remain in use. Used primarily for electric carts, the bridges were constructed to span dry gullies.



Old style plastic tee markers.

Markers and Flags

For decades, the tee markers and fairway yardage markers at Cherry Hill were made of colored plastic

material. The plastic tee markers were shiny bright colored blue, white, red, and yellow orbs the size of a croquet ball. These were replaced by the more subtle markers in use today, that simulate the look of a natural tree branch. The palette has expanded to include black, blue, white, red, green, and silver tee options for all levels of players. The yardage markers were convex curved plastic circles, roughly 10” in diameter, with dimples that made them appear to be giant buried golf balls. Today, engraved granite yardage markers grace the fairways at Cherry Hill. Well before sophisticated range finders, GPS, and smart phone apps were in use, many holes had one or two small evergreen shrubs off to the side of the fairway to designate 150 yards to the center of the green. Other natural landmarks such as trees and ponds were also utilized for distance calculation. An old timer once remarked, “I’ve been playing at Cherry Hill for so long that all my yardage markers have died!”



Wooden placards were posted at every tee.

For many years, wooden placards were hung from posts at every tee with carved hole numbers, yardages, and handicap rankings displayed. These were auctioned off for charity when, after the 2009 course renovation project, the information was rendered obsolete.



One of many flag styles from our “checkered past.”

The flags on the pins have undergone changes over the years as well. For the purists, a white flag on every green has been used at various times. Alternatively, there have been times when a red flag indicated the hole was up front; white in the middle; and blue for a back pin. A variation on this practice saw the same color scheme, but with a checkered flag design to aid in visibility. There was also one year when a rotation of three pre-set pin location schemes was employed with a sheet displayed in carts or handed out to those on foot to determine whether the pin was front middle or back on each hole for that day's rotation. Today, the white only option is in use, with a special centennial logo version displayed for the 2022 season. Also, one can find framed flags from the major tournaments held at Cherry Hill on display in the Halfway House.



Professional tournament and Club flags from the past.

Covering the Greens

In the 1990's and early 2000's the Club would cover a limited number of greens with tarps over the winter months. The purpose was to protect the greens from extreme weather. Repeated cycles of freeze-thaw can cause damage to greens, requiring remedial work in the spring. The large tarps would be placed in late fall and usually removed by April. As the trend toward milder winters took hold, we found that the tarps would have a greenhouse effect and grass would begin to grow. Although the rodents did enjoy taking shelter under them, eventually the procedure was stopped.

New Irrigation System - 1999

At the same time that architects and contractors were working on the highly visible projects such as the new Pro Shop and Halfway House, big things were happening underground out on the golf course in the form of a new irrigation system. Most major

projects that are undertaken at a member-run private golf course tend to follow a common life cycle, and the irrigation project was no exception. First there are rumblings about the need for a new, "fill-in-the-blank." Then there is debate that we cannot afford to do it or that we cannot afford not to do it. Then a committee is formed to work in conjunction with the department head on staff, in this case the Golf Course Superintendent. Then consultants are hired to make a recommendation for the Board to review and approve. Upon approval of the consultant's plan by the Board, the project is sent out for competitive bid, while at the same time a sub-committee on the Board is working to determine how to pay for the work. Not surprisingly, the members always end up paying for the project no matter what form of financing plan is adopted, but new members who pay initiation fees are always appreciated in this regard. The contract is awarded, and the work begins. Unexpected challenges arise which are solved with more money, and the completion date is extended. The project is completed, and those involved pat themselves on the back, and if they are lucky, they accept the accolades of a grateful membership.

The Capital Planning Committee had discussed the need for a new irrigation system beginning in 1997, and recommended pursuing options for such. In August of 1997, the Board approved an expenditure of \$2,500 for an evaluation by Jack Austin of the current irrigation system, (which was a single-line system installed in 1971 with water lines going down the middle of each fairway) and recommendations for future irrigation needs. In March of 1998 the Board reviewed the layout of a proposed new two-line irrigation system. Two water lines running parallel down the fairway allow for greater control of where water is directed, as well as extending coverage to portions of the rough. In the early years, the rough at Cherry Hill was extremely hard and dry, and given that trees were not as mature, hitting the ball strategically in certain areas of the rough could yield considerable additional yardage off the tee. Cherry Hill opted for the Rain Bird brand of sprinkler heads and associated control equipment versus Toro, which was the other leading brand of systems at the time.

In May of 1998, the bid from Atkinson Irrigation, Ltd. was approved for installing the system at a cost of \$975,817.98. At one point in 1999 a summary of



various ongoing capital projects (for both House and Grounds) totaled just under \$1.7 million. Part of the irrigation system budget anticipated costs for rock removal. There are portions of the property where bedrock is close to the surface and rocks in general need to be removed whenever excavation takes place. Work on the course had begun. Rock was found east of the 3rd tee extending to the reservoir. By late fall it was reported that the entire water main system was in place. Cast metal water lines were replaced with PVC plastic. The reservoir had been “cleaned out” and the bank was reenforced, yielding a greater water capacity. The consensus was that the project was well ahead of schedule. The membership was reassured that there would be no hole closures on weekends the following year due to irrigation work.

As 1999 dawned, the new pump house budgeted at \$45,000, was ready. The target completion date for the irrigation system was the end of June. One unanticipated snag had emerged that posed a potentially grave problem, and the Club was working with Niagara Power to assure that adequate and consistent power would be available to meet the needs of the new system. The concern was that “dirty electricity” and power surges could damage the new equipment. The June deadline passed. The power issue continued to be worked on, and the new target date for completion was August 1st. The power issues

were eventually worked out to the satisfaction of all, and the project was completed by the end of 1999. The Club had invested its resources wisely in its state-of-the-art irrigation system and golfers agreed. The following year, Fred Silver who was one of the finest ever local amateurs, competed in a Buffalo District golf tournament at Cherry Hill. After the event he had one word for Cherry Hill – “paradise.” Many members worked on this project, with John Plyley and Bob Borneman among the most involved.

Water Issues

What good is a brand-new irrigation system if you don’t have any water? During the whole process of planning and installing the new system, the area endured the most severe drought of the century in 1998 and 1999. Government research for this period addresses how El Niño/La Niña climate patterns in the Pacific Ocean affect weather in our continent, and 1998-1999 were La Niña years. While La Niña was subjecting the western United States to severe coastal storms, she was lengthening our tee shots and draining our water table.

Ever since a skeptical Charles A. Behm, hired a dowser in 1950 to locate the prime spot for drilling our well, Cherry Hill had been freely drawing water from the underground aquifer, without restrictions from the

government. When Cecil Hoekstra arrived in 1977, he prompted us to dig the reservoir. First, water would be pumped from out of the ground into the reservoir for storage, and then pumped from the reservoir onto the golf course as needed. The brand-new pump house that was built for the new irrigation system took care of the latter process, but the effectiveness of the groundwater pumping station was diminished during the drought.

In the fall of 1999, hydraulic consultants were hired. The \$50,000 estimated cost of a new well could be offset in part by proceeds derived from the sale of the old irrigation sprinkler heads (\$10,000) and “savings” (\$27,000) realized from the rock removal line item coming in under budget. In the long run, the monetary costs were of less significance than the hassles encountered by the Club in the process of bringing a new well into operation.

The analysis found that the current well reached a depth of 60 feet below the surface. The drought conditions caused the water in our well to fall to dangerously low levels, resulting in damage to our pumping machinery. A new well dug to a depth of 100 feet was recommended. At that time concerns were raised about issues that would have to be addressed in order for the proposed plan to be executed. Would the governmental ministry that issues permits allow us to drill a new well? If so, would the limit on our pumping volume be sufficient to meet our needs? Would we also be allowed to continue to use the original well which was grandfathered with no pumping capacity limits? As it turned out, these were not the only concerns that would ultimately vex the Club.

The Club engaged the services of R.J. Burnside & Associates Limited, an engineering and environmental consulting firm, to advise us on the project and to represent Cherry Hill in our application for required permits. We soon learned that the ramifications of drawing water from the ground underneath our property, extended far beyond our own property and impacted local individuals and businesses (namely farmers) of whom we had been heretofore totally unaware. The process of obtaining the permit was cumbersome, expensive, and slow.

The severe drought had caused hardship for our neighbors as well as the course. NIMBYs (Not In My Back Yard!) became vocal in their opposition to our

request to draw water from the aquifer. The situation was dire. If we did not have sufficient water to meet our irrigation needs, we would not survive. If, as our critics opined, we took an undue amount of water, then their needs would be unmet. The cost to Cherry Hill of purchasing municipal water exclusively was unfathomable. We were required, at our own expense, to dig test wells and conduct monitored pumping tests. Public hearings were held in the Holiday Inn in Fort Erie (most recently operating as the Clarion Hotel) at which area residents vociferously opposed our permit application. Cecil Hoekstra and President Dave D’Arata were at the front lines of this battle, with assistance from the hired consultants at Burnside.

Neighborly Relations

Until this public uproar erupted, Cherry Hill had existed in prolonged harmony with its neighbors, with little interaction whatsoever. There were the rare occasions when minor damage was caused by an errant minibike, or juveniles inflicted annoying vandalism on a green here and there. Then of course, there was the troublesome case of periodic defecation in the cup on the 13th hole. That mystery was ultimately solved by assigning the well-seasoned caddie, Russell, for nighttime duty in the comfort station adjacent to the 13th green. It only took one such night of vigil for Russell to encounter the perpetrator and apprehend him before he was to offend ever again the dignity of the 13th green. Russell’s previous training with the Canadian armed services came in handy, as the perpetrator was flushed out, never to return again to the scene of the grime.

Groundwater Controversy

Monitoring wells were dug near the reservoir and between the 11th green and 12th tee on our property, and a third well was dug off of Ott Road north of Highway #3. The reason for such far flung locations was to monitor the aquifer in the broader local area, and guard against Cherry Hill depleting the resource. In March of 2000 we conducted a 72-hour pumping test at a volume of 600 gallons per minute, which totals 864,000 gallons per day. During this test, the well levels of our neighbors were checked as were levels at the three designated monitoring wells. The test was successful. The water levels were acceptable, and the process of seeking a permit continued. Despite

ongoing objections from the NIMBYs, we finally received word from the Ministry of the Environment that we would be issued a temporary permit to pump at a rate of 200 gallons per minute, or 288,000 gallons per day. This was 110,000 gallons less than what we had applied for, but it was welcome news, nevertheless.

The lower pumping volume created a new set of challenges, and of course, challenges never come without costs. Depending on a number of variables, the daily water requirement of the property can exceed 300,000 gallons. Thus, the possibility existed that we might be faced with an insufficient supply of water under certain extreme conditions. One remedy would be to purchase municipal water, a remedy that would be sought only when absolutely necessary due to the high cost. The cost to bring a 4" municipal water line from Cauthard Road to our reservoir was estimated at \$29,000 and slated for hook-up by the end of July 2001. In 2002, the Club spent \$26,700 for municipal water. Superintendent Hoekstra made the prediction that going forward we would always need to rely on a combination of well water and municipal water. At the Board Meeting in June of 2003, Grounds Chairman Jonathan Reynolds announced that the Ministry of the Environment had granted Cherry Hill a 10-year permit to take water from the new well. Soon thereafter, Superintendent Hoekstra made the recommendation that we expand the capacity of our reservoir to as much as 20 million gallons.

Droughts, Drainage and Reservoirs

Odd though it may seem, during this intensive period of ensuring that an adequate amount of water find its way onto the course, the committees and the consultants were doing a comprehensive study of drainage for the course. After spending so many unbudgeted dollars to purchase water in 2002, we were plagued with wet conditions in 2003 and 2004, when the number of days that no carts were allowed on the course was 15 and 22 respectively. No carts means neither cart rental revenue nor associated expenditures by golfers. Therefore, in 2004 we were paying R.J. Burnside to show us how we could get more water onto the course, at the same time that we were paying TDI International to show us how we could get rid of it most efficiently. TDI's recommendation called for water mains that would handle a drainage system for the entire course, as well as infrastructure to drain

9 holes that were of primary concern. Each fairway would have eight 4" lateral drainage pipes installed approximately two feet below the surface. It was a very comprehensive plan, estimated at \$312,000 for the first nine holes. The proposal from Burnside included a comprehensive analysis of our water needs in dry, wet, and normal seasons, with a recommendation for expanding our reservoir to meet those needs without having to pay for municipal water. Thus, with a price tag of \$226,000, the Club was contemplating additional capital improvements totaling \$538,000. The Club had seen a peak in initiation fees in 2000 with revenue of over \$650,000, but in 2004 that figure was less than \$175,000. A one-time \$200 capital assessment in 2004 helped merely to balance the books.

Dry weather again in 2005 had required the Club to spend \$23,147 on municipal water before the end of August. Therefore, it is not surprising that the Board deferred the drainage project and authorized \$132,000 to expand the reservoir with a target completion date of October 2005. Grounds Chairman, Mike Alpern, exhibited great political skills in securing enough votes from a Board that was punch drunk from too many recent financial blows. By February of 2006 it was announced that the newly expanded reservoir, which was completed within budget, was halfway to its full capacity of approximately 20 million gallons. The reservoir was full for the first time in January of 2007, and with only a few exceptions since then, it has unburdened the Club from the yoke of the municipal water bill.

Some Things Never Change

While annual rainfall totals may fluctuate drastically, one matter on the golf course has been consistent throughout our 100 years, and it is perhaps the only matter about which the entire membership is in complete agreement - - to wit - - "What's good for the goose is not good for the golfer." The adult Canada goose can produce up to two pounds of waste matter per bird, per day. The grounds crew and the members have employed every conceivable method of discouraging geese from making Cherry Hill home. Charlie Behm offered to shoot them (and probably did) so long as he could serve them for dinner. Some methods may not have been sanctioned by the governing ministry nor were they necessarily safe. Try shaking a goose egg to scramble it without being



confronted by an angry mother goose (1980's). The same goes for trying to apply mineral oil on the egg to repel the parent (2000). We have used a reflective scare tape designed to deter them from landing in the ponds (1998). A number of well-meaning dogs have been enlisted in the effort. Barney was under the care of General Manager, David Greaves. A handsome and friendly springer spaniel, Barney had limited success in ridding our course of the geese. On one occasion, Barney was the victim of a real life "wild goose chase," and those who witnessed it immediately understood the origin of the phrase. A particularly large gaggle of geese was congregated in and around the ponds

on the 8th hole. It being late in the golf day, Barney was dispatched, and he entered the fray with great enthusiasm and confidence. The geese scattered out of his way, but one goose in particular drew the dog away from the group with a most ingenious ploy. The goose feigned a broken wing and flew a few feet off the ground in front of Barney while honking madly. Barney in hot pursuit stayed within inches of the decoy, who led the gullible dog back toward the 8th tee and continued south on the 5th hole taking him away from the flock nearly to Nigh Road. The rest of the geese settled back in the pond, unperturbed by the meddlesome mutt. Head Pro, Jeff Roy, also got into the dog act for a time, but the most beloved of all Cherry Hill dogs was the chocolate lab, Jazz. She came as a package deal when John Gall was hired as Superintendent in 2008. Jazz would faithfully accompany her master throughout the day as he tended to the course. She must have had an innate respect for the greens, for never did she leave a mark. She was more effective than Barney at discouraging geese. In 2019, on his last official day at Cherry Hill, John Gall had the unpleasant task of putting down his beloved assistant – rest in peace, Jazz.

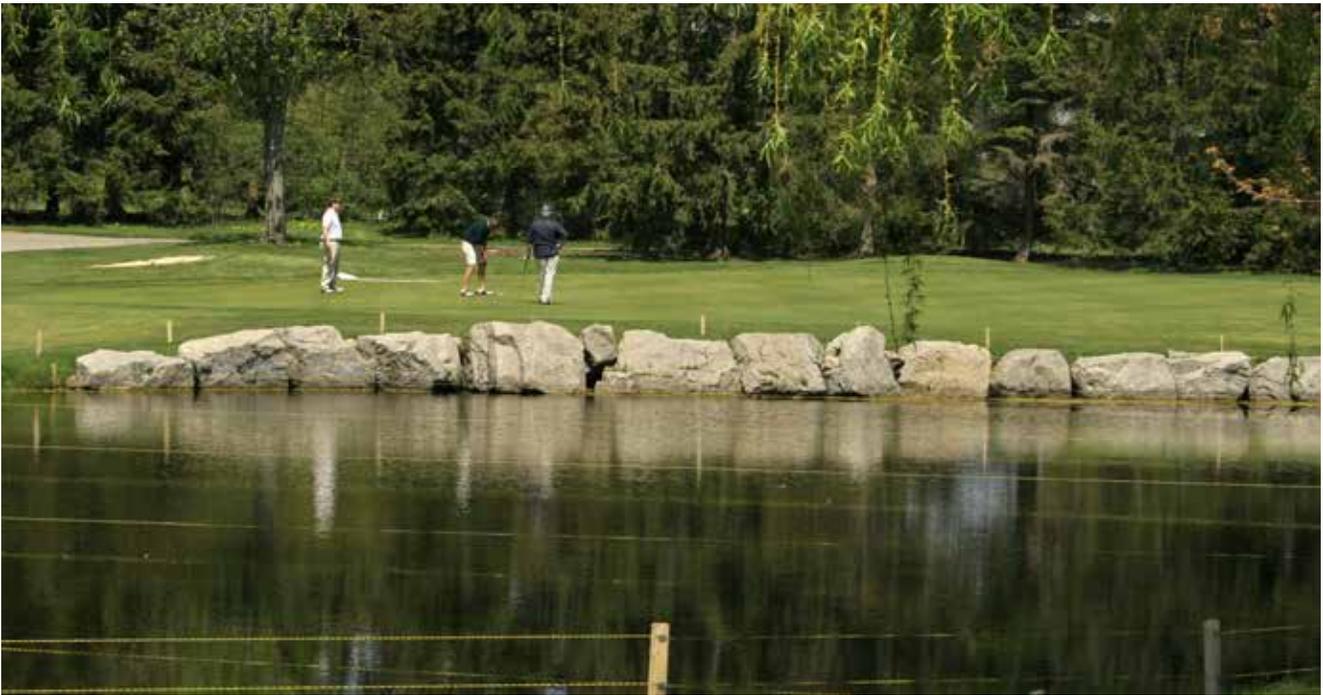


Jazz relaxes on a sunny day at Cherry Hill.



In storage for now, coyote decoys await their next call of duty.

In 2004, the club purchased two life-size plastic coyotes which were positioned by ponds on the course, with the hope that geese would steer clear of the area when they saw the figure of their natural predators looming nearby. Today, those coyotes are collecting dust in the Club's maintenance building, but one of them did have its 15 minutes of fame. During the annual Men's Three-Day Invitational one year, a team competing in the event devised a masterful bit of gamesmanship against



Rope grid, strung across ponds, proved ineffective in deterring geese.

their opponents, by mounting a coyote on the front of their golf cart like a fearsome figurehead mounted to the prow of a Viking ship. One could argue that the coyote on the cart was a greater intimidation factor to golfers than it ever was to geese. A 12" wire fence was put up around the ponds when the coyotes were sent back to the barn, but that too was taken out of service.

One year saw the installation of an elaborate grid of ropes strung across the ponds to prevent the geese from their signature airborne entry into the pond. When the geese figured out that they could simply walk into the pond, the human beings figured they would simply remove the unsightly yellow ropes.

Over the years many members have offered to take the goose problem into their own hands, or arms as the case may be. The Club chose the legal route by hiring a certified professional, with the proper permits to shoot the geese. One such man was aptly named Bob Courage. Another mercenary was hired at a rate of \$300 per week and \$75 per bird, with a limit imposed by government regulations. In recent years the geese have not been as prevalent as in years past. The current grounds crew blows off firecrackers if the birds are spotted on property in the early morning before the course opens. Unlike 3-putts and lip-outs one must be resigned to the fact that geese are just par for the course.

Extreme Weather

Extraordinary weather can be welcomed, for example when it is warm enough to get a few rounds in during March. One member jokingly told the unsuspecting Customs agent upon returning to the U.S. that the purpose of the trip was "to play my annual St. Patrick's Day round of golf." There have been times when the course was open for play on American Thanksgiving Day. As in years past, when members gathered at the Club on December 18, 2015, for their annual Christmas luncheon, it was not unusual for the topic of golf to arise in conversation. What was unusual this particular year was the fact that they were talking about the rounds of golf they had played that week! The pins were in and players were getting roll in the fairways. Casual water was not even a factor as members enjoyed mid-December golf in shorts and short sleeve shirts. Snow levels were at record lows and December was among the warmest in the area in recorded history. From The Buffalo News: "The calendar might say Dec. 14, but Mother Nature's continued dose of unseasonably warm weather for Western New York has broken a record for the date. At around 11 a.m., the official temperature soared to 70 degrees, eclipsing the old record high of 64 degrees set in 1901." One could say that the Cherry Hill membership adapts well to the vagaries of global climate change. And on December 10, 2021, players



were seen on the course, which could have been the last round played before the Club turned 100.

But there have been other instances when Mother Nature inflicted her wrath in sudden and unwelcome ways. There was a devastating storm on November 20, 2000, which dumped over 24" of snow in Buffalo. That event was followed by a rain-freeze cycle in December. Over 25 trees were lost. The October Surprise Storm of 2006 caused major damage to golf courses in the area due to the fluke nature of the event. It was fueled by a lake effect system of ice and snow which began to encrust trees and power lines with ice on Friday the 13th. With all the leaves still on the trees the combined weight of the leaves and ice caused major tree damage and widespread power outages. We were able to shore up the signature tree on the left of the 1st fairway, but 636 other trees were damaged, and another 100 trees were slated for removal. An assessment of \$60,000 was



Ice devastated foliated trees in October 2006.

approved by the Board before a true assessment of the clean-up costs could be calculated. The total cost was considerably less than the assessed amount of \$60,000, and we considered ourselves fortunate compared to other courses in southern Ontario and Buffalo. We were apparently in a sweet spot where the impact was not nearly as devastating. Rumors circulated that other Clubs spent upwards of \$300,000 for clean-up of the October Surprise Storm of 2006.

In January of 2008 a high wind event caused damage to nearly 100 trees. There was speculation that it might have been a tornado type event cutting a swath across the course and severely damaging the Norway spruce trees behind the 8th, 9th, and 10th greens. Curiously, many individuals including David Oatis of the USGA, Cecil Hoekstra and certain members of the Grounds Committee had been lobbying for years for the removal of the picturesque pines that formed a pleasing visual backdrop behind many of our greens. A review of aerial photos of our course over the years shows the development of these stands of pines. The rationale for their removal was to increase air circulation around the greens to promote better growth. Particularly during winter months, when the angle of the sun is different, these pines would block precious sunlight as well as air. At one point, there was a large industrial size oscillating fan positioned behind the 10th green to compensate for the lack of air circulation caused by the



Pine tree backdrops can be seen in varying stages of development behind greens.

pinetrees. Those who were against their removal thought that the windstorm was a ruse and that the trees looked more like they had been downed by a chain saw than by Mother Nature. Tornado or not, the damage was done, and the pine tree removal process was accelerated. In 2022, few vestiges of the once prominent pine tree backdrops remain at Cherry Hill.



View from the 7th fairway before removal of pine tree backdrop.

Another ice storm occurred in Southern Ontario on December 19-23, 2013, with additional ice activity the following February. Greens were hardest hit by this storm, and in May of 2014, five greens were still out of play. Apparently, we were lucky again, compared to our counterparts in Ontario, for we extended limited privileges to play Cherry Hill to members of other clubs whose courses had suffered more severe damage.

Here we go, again. By August of 2016 they were saying it was the fifth worst drought in history, with no relief in sight. Despite our best efforts to pump as much water into our reservoir from the aquifer as allowed by permit, we were once again compelled to purchase

water from the Town of Fort Erie. At approximately \$1,500 per day, we spent \$15,000 of unbudgeted funds on water. Annoying yes, but not nearly as costly as the 2016 Fort McMurray, Alberta wildfire, which in its own way would have an impact on Cherry Hill.

Pestilence

The emerald ash borer, a beetle that originated in Asia, was first discovered in North America in southeastern Michigan and Windsor, Ontario in 2002. Since then, it has persistently infested nearly every type of ash species in Ontario including numerous trees at Cherry Hill. Despite the nuisance, cost and safety issues, the loss of trees caused by the ash borer at Cherry Hill has not had any major impact on strategic trees that would change the nature of a hole. The devastation to the landscape inflicted by the emerald ash borer is far more visible as one drives along Highway #3 encountering stand after stand of dead ash trees.

Practice Makes Perfect

There's a saying at Cherry Hill, that it's impossible to take your nice, smooth swing from the practice range across Cherry Hill Boulevard and onto the course. The practice facilities at Cherry Hill were upgraded considerably in the early 2000's. Rene Muylaert was hired to design a new short game practice facility. He also helped with the design of a new back tee on the 13th hole. About the same time, the range was reconfigured by extending a secondary practice area at the southern end of the range, where a chipping green had once been located. A net was installed along the back of the range to keep the long hitters from sending balls into the woods. The short game facility is



Short game practice facility.

located behind the parking lot. A buffer of 60 Colorado spruce trees from our “nursery” was planted to protect cars from errant shots. The facility has a sprawling green with several flags and is designed for practicing chipping, pitching and sand shots. The short game facility opened for use in late 2002 and was officially inaugurated on Men’s Opening Day on May 10, 2003. Bob Borneman, Ralph Del Bello, Dave D’Arata, and Jeff Roy all played lead roles in the development of the facility.

Planning A Master Plan

As early as 2000, rumblings began about a “long range plan for the course.” It took nearly a decade for these rumblings to evolve into intentions and ultimately into action. In hindsight it was the perfect timeframe. The famous quote attributed to Yogi Berra, “If you don’t know where you’re going, you’ll end up someplace else,” applies perfectly to the journey that started with locker room chatter and ended in a comprehensive golf course renovation project, completed in 2009.

At the December Board Meeting in 2002, Grounds Chairman, Jon Reynolds reported that on November 26, 2002, he had met with Cecil Hoekstra, Jeff Roy and golf course architect, Ian Andrew of Carrick Design to stake out the placement of new trees in the rough right of the 17th fairway. The new trees were to replace a number of poplars. Poplars are not particularly desirable trees for golf courses, and the Grounds Committee ordered the “immediate and complete demise” of all poplars on the hole. The replacements came from our “nursery,” which was located in the area between the 14th green and the 15th tee. Ian and Cecil selected ten ash trees which were small enough to be transplanted and which were in place for the start of the golf season in 2003. Ian Andrew graduated from the landscape architecture program at Guelph University and began his golf course architecture career at Carrick Design. No doubt that Mr. Andrew, Mr. Roy, and Mr. Hoekstra, had more to talk about that fall day in 2002 than just the location of trees. The dialog about upgrading the course that began that day, continued among this threesome throughout the several years that led up to the major renovation.

In March of 2003, Carrick Design was hired for a fee of \$5,000 plus expenses to develop a comprehensive plan for renovations to the golf course. It should be noted that the condition of the bunkers at Cherry Hill was in decline. Many of the bunkers on the course added prior to the Canadian Open were sand faced bunkers. After heavy rainfalls, the grounds crew would have to devote excessive time to replace sand that had been washed out of the bunkers. Golfers complained that the ball would get buried when it was hit into the sand piled up on the face of the bunker. Much of the chatter heard at the time addressed the need for new bunkers. In May, an additional \$1,000 was allocated for the architect to prepare the report. The large course map provided had indications for slit drainage on nine holes and various notations regarding tees and cart paths. Virtually every bunker on the course was addressed for removal, or remodeling and in some instances brand new bunkers, with a net result of 85 bunkers instead of the previous count of 126. The oversized course layout submitted in June of 2003 was labeled “Cherry Hill Club Renovation Plan.”

The architect’s full master plan, devised by Ian Andrew, was put on display in the Halfway House. Informational meetings were held with the membership. The Grounds Committee report to the Board at the August 20, 2003, meeting noted: “Initial response to the architect’s golf course improvement plan has been mostly negative.” Optimism was not in the air at Cherry Hill, and members felt that although it might be a good plan on paper, “Now is not the time!” Another aspect of the plan called for a drastic change to the look and playability of the 15th hole, by dramatically expanding the pond back toward the tee. Not only would it make the hole more challenging, but the excavated material could be used to form new bunkers and tees for the rest of the renovation. The Board chose only a few items from the extensive master plan to be completed in 2004 at a cost of \$47,500. Among the items were the creation of new back tees on the 6th and 17th holes, a move strongly endorsed by Leon Smith III. The left fairway bunker on the 3rd hole was removed. The attitude of the Board was that it was a good plan and that it could be bitten off in pieces if full implementation all at once was not possible. The best laid plans were laid aside.

Chip Shots

In 2004, a new aeration machine with smaller tines was purchased, so that greens would recover more quickly from the process. A drinking fountain was installed on the 8th hole. The Board put consideration of the comprehensive drainage plan on hold until 2005. In 2005, walking paths were cut connecting the tees to the fairways, with an admonition that electric carts should avoid them. The reservoir expansion was completed. A lease was executed for a new fleet of 50 EZ-Go carts to replace 55 carts. A new red tee on #11 and a new white tee on #18 were approved at a cost of \$1,500 each. A “lean budget” based on 365 members for 2006 was adopted. And a meeting with Ian Andrew was scheduled for September 29th, 2005, to discuss recommendations on expanding green surfaces and chipping areas around the greens by widening the closely mown areas.

Drainage Ditch Design

With the expensive drainage plan on hold, our resourceful Superintendent, Cec, devised an ingenious plan that would be highly effective at draining water from the course at a much lower cost. A series of trenches, or ditches as some have described them, were dug in strategic areas away from play, and drains were installed to feed into the trenches. Unless you have served on the Grounds Committee or have searched for a widely errant shot, you may not ever have noticed this system of drainage trenches. They are located, for example, between #6 and #7; between #12 and #17; between #18 and #11 and so on. The system is quite efficient. After heavy rains one can see water streaming steadily from the pipe to the right of the 17th tee back to the small pond to the left of the rear tee. They may not be a comprehensive plan from an engineer, but until such time as a course-wide system is installed, we can be thankful to Cecil for his diligence and his “dry” countenance.



In 2006, Cherry Hill was ranked #89 in the SCORE Golf “Top 100 Best Golf Courses In Canada.” By 2008, we did not even make the list.



Pre-renovation aerial shows plethora of bunkers. Drainage ditches are also visible.

In the fall of 2007, Ian Andrew visited the course again and made suggestions on how to proceed with some smaller aspects of the master plan. Also, that fall Mr. Spencer of Flight Line Golf reviewed the condition of the existing bunkers and advised that 45 of our 126 bunkers were in need of repair. Consideration of Flight Line’s \$69,900 quote for the repairs was tabled. [Editor’s note - According to Wikipedia: In parliamentary procedure, the verb to “table” has the opposite meaning in the United States compared to the rest of the world: In the United States, to “table” usually means to postpone or suspend consideration of a pending motion. In the rest of the English-speaking world, including Canada, to “table” means to begin consideration (or reconsideration) of a proposal.] If Mr. Spencer had had a crystal ball, he would have seen that his tabled estimate (in the U.S. sense) would be used only as fodder to convince naysayers that the new renovation project was necessary.

Pitching A Master Plan

Despite knowing it would face an uphill battle, the Board hit the ground running in 2008. Three sub-committees were formed, with each group addressing a specific aspect of the master plan:

- Tees and cart paths
- Fairway bunkers
- Greens and greenside bunkers

The sub-committees met in January, methodically addressing each item in the master plan. For example, the fairway sub-committee reviewed every proposed fairway bunker for location and configuration and

registered a yes, no, or yes with modifications vote for each bunker. The dialog between the professional architect, Ian Andrew, and the “amateur architects” was productive and worthwhile. After all, the members’ feedback was informed by years of experience playing the course, and the input was beneficial to the expert golf architect. In the case of the fairway bunker sub-committee, some significant proposed changes were adopted based on feedback to Ian. The next time you hit your tee shot into the second fairway bunker on hole #1, you can thank Rick Halinda for the experience. Each sub-committee followed a similar approach, combing through the intricate details of the plan, and the recommendations were reviewed and refined by the architect, until all parties were satisfied.

In March of 2008, a search committee was formed to hire a new Golf Course Superintendent. Cecil Hoekstra had extended his contract the last few years of his tenure at Cherry Hill, but his retirement was now definite. The search committee projected a decision by August 1st. In April, each sub-committee approved its portion of the master plan. In May, five contractors had toured the course with the master plan in hand. Bids for the associated construction work were due on May 26th at 3:00 p.m. After the walk-throughs we expected four of the five contractors would submit bids.

At the June Board Meeting, a motion to approve a \$1.25 million expenditure on the golf course renovation was tabled without a vote. On Tuesday July 15, 2008, an informational meeting was held in the Clubhouse Dining Room, with the large plan on display complete with budget figures. The presentation was informative, but the Q & A portion of the meeting was remarkably short. An informal yet lengthier meeting was held afterwards at the bar. Once again, vociferous opponents of the plan exhorted, “Now is not the time to be spending this kind of money. Later, maybe, but not now!” At the Board Meeting the following week a motion to accept the \$850,000 bid from NMP Golf was approved, but not unanimously. A motion to accept the recommendation of the search committee to hire John Gall as our new Golf Course Superintendent did pass unanimously. Cecil Hoekstra was present for the dinner following the Board Meeting to receive special recognition and thanks from the Board. The Club also hosted a retirement party for him in December of 2008. Grounds Chairman John Dobmeier II, President-Elect Kingman Bassett Jr., and President Bob Borneman

had devoted much time and energy to getting the project to the starting line. Jon Reynolds, Mike Alpern, Jim O’Connor, Brian Duffett, Leon Smith III, Rick Halinda, previous Grounds Chairmen, and a host of other member volunteers contributed as well.

The 2009 Master Plan Course Renovation

The timing of approval of the golf course renovation project in July of 2008 could not have been better. If the Club had deferred even a few months, it might never have happened, and we would be forever absent from the SCOREGolf top 100 list. On September 15, 2008, Lehman Brothers announced its bankruptcy, a bombshell in the most serious worldwide financial crisis since the Great Depression. The effects in Canada were not quite as severe, but the collapse of oil prices and other commodities sparked the recession of 2008-2009 in Canada. The membership certainly would not have tolerated the financial commitment had the economic turmoil been foreseen, and more important, banks would not have been eager to loan millions of dollars to private golf clubs in southern Ontario. In contrast to the perfect storm in the financial world, the stars were in perfect alignment for the successful execution of our most significant golf course renovation in nearly 50 years.

- Ian Andrew had branched out on his own in 2006 and was emerging as a preeminent historical golf course architect with expertise in courses designed by Walter Travis.
- John Gall started as Golf Course Superintendent on August 10, 2008, one day before the contractor was scheduled to arrive on site.
- NMP Golf Construction Inc. had a crew already in Ontario and was poised to begin work on the course on August 11, 2008.
- Cherry Hill had a commitment from its lenders to finance the project.

Even more advantageous was the fact that the three main parties, Ian Andrew, John Gall and NMP had all worked together on a construction project the previous year at The Scarborough Golf and Country Club in Toronto. NMP was eager to keep their crew busy and their bid reflected the ease with which they were able to deploy at Cherry Hill. Therefore, when work began on August 11, we had a proven, professional team that had already forged a great working relationship. With Yogi Berra’s wise words in mind, that “someplace else”



Architect's rendering of master renovation plan.

we arrived at in August of 2008 was a far better place than anyone could have envisioned back in 2002.

Travis Inspired Design Features

The renovation was a combination of the restoration of certain features to the original intent of Travis, and the introduction of new features geared toward modern golf equipment technology and distances that were consistent with the Travis style of design. Architect Ian Andrew made use of the original Travis hole designs that the Club had retained, and which are displayed in the Men's Locker Room. He also had some old aerial photos as reference to conditions before alterations were made in the 1970's. Ian applied his knowledge of Travis and other classic architects to

devise his vision for the renovation. He had already worked on other Travis courses including Lookout



Aerial view predating 1970's renovation prior to '72 Canadian Open.

Point in Fonthill, Ontario and Stafford Country Club in Leroy, NY. In essence it was an historically based renovation designed to “bring Travis back” to Cherry Hill. This approach required the removal of many non-original bunkers. We went from 126 bunkers before the renovation to just 85 after. Certain bunker locations remained, but all of the new bunkers were either modified and rebuilt or were completely new locations. The old sand faced bunkers were replaced with authentic Travis style grass faced bunkers. In many cases the new bunkers were offset on either side of the fairway, in contrast to the old book end approach where opposing bunkers were equidistant from the tee.

NMP built the new tees and cart paths efficiently and with precision. But the process of forming the greenside and fairway bunkers was a combination of artistry and technical prowess that was amazing to witness. The team was remarkably efficient, and members watched enthralled, as the new face of Cherry Hill emerged. At every successive visit to the course (which was essentially open for play at all times), one would find enticing new features to an old, familiar friend. It really was an exciting time to be a member of Cherry Hill Club.

To those who were interested, the bunker construction process was fascinating. Sand from the old bunker was removed, much of which was placed in the



Ian Andrew describes his concept for a bunker to the construction crew.

uncultivated areas of rough. This was not only a convenient and efficient way to remove the old sand from the course, but it also served as a top dressing to promote healthier long grass. The area for the new bunker was then prepared for the new fill. Much of the fill came from the area around the reservoir. It was hauled to the site of the bunker and dumped in piles approximately where the bunker surrounds would be. The mounds actually determined the shape of the bunker, not vice versa. To facilitate this process, the fill would be dumped in tall conical piles. From that state the soil would be formed and shaped into smooth-curved, top-heavy mounds. Ian Andrew



The course remained mostly open for play during the renovation.

“THE MAKING OF A TRAVIS STYLE BUNKER”



1

Old sand-faced bunkers on hole #17 prior to 2009 course renovation.



2

Ground is prepared for the new bunkers.



3

After sand removal, fill is piled in rough configuration.



4

Mounds are shaped and smoothed.



5

New sand is placed, and mounds are ready for sodding.



6

Mounds and surrounding area are sodded.



7

Close-up of bunker complex.



8

View from the tee... a brand new look for Cherry Hill.



Grass face bunkers “hug” the greenside on #7, a drastic new look for golfers.

worked closely in this process with NMP on every bunker, modifying the shapes and curves and heights such that each bunker had a variety of penal lies and options for recovery shots. Only after the mounds had been placed and shaped, would the architect plot out how the sand bunker would best fit the area suggested by the mounds. Drainage was installed in all the bunkers, running water to nearby ponds, peripheral gullies, or out-of-play areas. (The proposed fairway drainage system was never installed.) The mounds and surrounds were sodded with Kentucky bluegrass and sand was placed in the bunker. The darker color of the bunkers' grass faces contrasted with the grass on fairways and greens. In addition, the undulating mounds created a new topography compared to the relatively flat profile of the old bunkers. The effect was a dramatically more interesting view from the tees, fairways and particularly from within the bunkers themselves. From the tee, the sand in the bunkers was not always visible as had been the case before.

Now, the bunkers were identified by the prominence of the mounds. Where previously a 4-iron could often save par from a fairway bunker, now a 7- or 8-iron or even a wedge was required just to clear the height of the mound. The variety of shot options from the Travis-style bunkers was far greater than ever before. And due to the grass face design, greenside bunkers were

cut closer to the green, yielding a visually interesting perspective and a challenging shot.

President Bassett led a committee of members, including Jim O'Connor, Brian Duffett, Bob Borneman, and Mike Alpern, who regularly reviewed new bunkers under construction and in essence voted to approve or modify each one. Ann Marie Luhr offered input from the perspective of women golfers. On one occasion, the group was reviewing the bunker complex in the landing area on the right of the 6th fairway. Designed to make the par 5 more difficult, the mounds that had been formed were more severe than on other holes. One mound was particularly steep and intimidating. Committee member Bob Borneman voiced objections, but ultimately voted in favor of the design, thinking that the architect would use his veto to defy the committee. President Bassett had granted Ian one, and only one, veto he could use to overturn a decision of the committee. The veto was neither needed nor contemplated by Ian, and the imposing mound stood. Despite his initial objections, Mr. Borneman found immortality as few other Cherry Hill members have now that the mound is affectionately referred to as “Borney’s Bump.”

The 13th, 16th and 17th holes were the first to undergo renovation in August of 2008. Expansion of the pond



“Borney’s Bump” on the 6th hole.

on the 15th hole was held in abeyance as were the funds budgeted for its excavation. This precluded the planned use of the excavated material for fill, but it allowed the contractors to focus on the bunkers and tees. By November 12, 2008, due to the highly efficient operation, all the bunkers had been dug and formed, and all the tees had been built. Minutes from the November Board Meeting noted that five trailer loads of sod delivered the week prior had been completely depleted, with more on order. The excavation of the pond on the 15th hole would be done after the ground froze, and by December it was nearly complete.



Kentucky Bluegrass sod covered the mounds and bunker surrounds.

In January of 2009, the Treasurer reported that “we may not need to borrow as much money as anticipated.” As a result of the pond expansion, the tees on the 15th hole were raised, to provide a better view of the water hazard and surrounding area. NMP was scheduled to return for 4 weeks to tie up loose ends. Cherry Hill now had 5 sets of tees, with the new black tees totaling just over 7000 yards.

On Men’s Opening Day, May 9th, 2009, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the newly renovated course. The event was promoted as “A Tribute to Travis” complete with the distribution of whiskey and cigars in honor of Walter Travis. Club leaders, representatives from the Travis Society, and Ian Andrew congregated and delivered speeches on the first tee. Before the ribbon was cut, Travis himself (aka Mike Reynolds) drifted in from the 1st fairway for a surprise appearance. He admonished Superintendent Gall to “Take damn good care of these Cherry Hill greens!” After the ribbon was cut, Travis hit a ceremonial tee shot and disappeared into the ether. One member reported that his invited guest that day proclaimed, “I’ve never seen such a fantastic course renovation for under a million dollars!” We had plenty to be proud of, for we had accomplished a very successful and substantial renovation, that enhanced play while maintaining the integrity of our precious greens.



Walter Travis (AKA Mike Reynolds) cuts the ribbon on the new renovation with the assistance of (l. to r.) Bob Borneman, Kingman Bassett Jr., Ian Andrew, Ed Homsey (WJT Society), and John Gall.

Later that day, Ian Andrew addressed those gathered in the Clubhouse and boldly proclaimed that, “The Cherry Hill greens are among the finest set of 18 greens in all of Canada, if not the finest.” Later he explained that in his opinion, Travis is one of the top three greatest golf green designers in history. Ian has the experience and respect in the industry to make such a sweeping statement. Thanks to Travis, our greens have a great diversity of internal contours which

allows for a variety of challenging pin positions and devilish breaks that other courses cannot rival. The 3rd, 11th and 18th greens are particularly good examples of greens that “could only have been built by Travis,” says Andrew. The fact that we have retained their original design, and continue to maintain them in such good shape, bolsters the “best set of greens in all of Canada” claim, which Ian Andrew stands by even today.



Architect, Ian Andrew, and the 11th green which “could only have been built by Travis.”



The NMP Golf Construction crew sods a bunker on hole #13.

Cherry Hill In The Spotlight

A Media Day was held in June of 2009, and members of the press from both sides of the border were invited. Whereas previously, the greens were the sole defense the course presented, we now had a second line of defense in the form of the beautiful and punishing authentic Travis-style bunkers. From the time of the 1972 Canadian Open, when Cherry Hill was at the center of the Canadian golf universe, we had slowly slipped back into anonymity. Granted, we hosted another national tournament in 1982, but eventually we resumed our position as the best kept secret around. We were better known in the Buffalo District Golf Association, than among the southern Ontario or greater Toronto golf circles. The Media Day generated some decent publicity and marked the beginning of the reemergence of Cherry Hill on the Canadian golf scene.

Fortifying Fairways And Greens

John Gall's first season was certainly an active one. He came to us with tremendous experience, having worked on golf courses since his teens. After graduating from the University of Guelph's Turfgrass Institute he worked at courses in Sault Ste. Marie and Oshawa, Ontario. From 1990 to 2007 he was Head Golf Course Superintendent at St. George's Golf and Country Club in Toronto. During his tenure the course

ranked consistently as #1, #2, or #3 in the SCOREGolf "Top 100 Best Golf Courses In Canada" list.

In 2010 the newly renovated course was nurtured as sodded areas took root and the sand settled in the bunkers. The steep bunker faces and mounds were maintenance challenges that Cherry Hill had not seen before, but John and the experienced grounds crew handled the task skillfully. Members had registered concerns about safely entering and exiting the bunkers. Education on using the least steep side of the bunker helped somewhat. A set of wooden stairs was installed to lead players down the steep slope into the right greenside bunker on the 9th hole.

Commencing in 2009, John began the implementation of a multi-year program to fortify our greens and introduce more bentgrass in the fairways. The Board was in agreement with the plan's objectives but indicated that fast greens were our trademark and that the members enjoyed playing on fast greens. This desire for fast green speeds may not have been satisfied as quickly as hoped for, but in the long run, despite the impatience of some Grounds Chairmen, the objective was achieved. The course and particularly the greens are more resilient and healthier than ever. At his final course visit to Cherry Hill before retiring in 2019, David Oatis of the USGA Greens Section stated most sincerely that "conditions at Cherry Hill

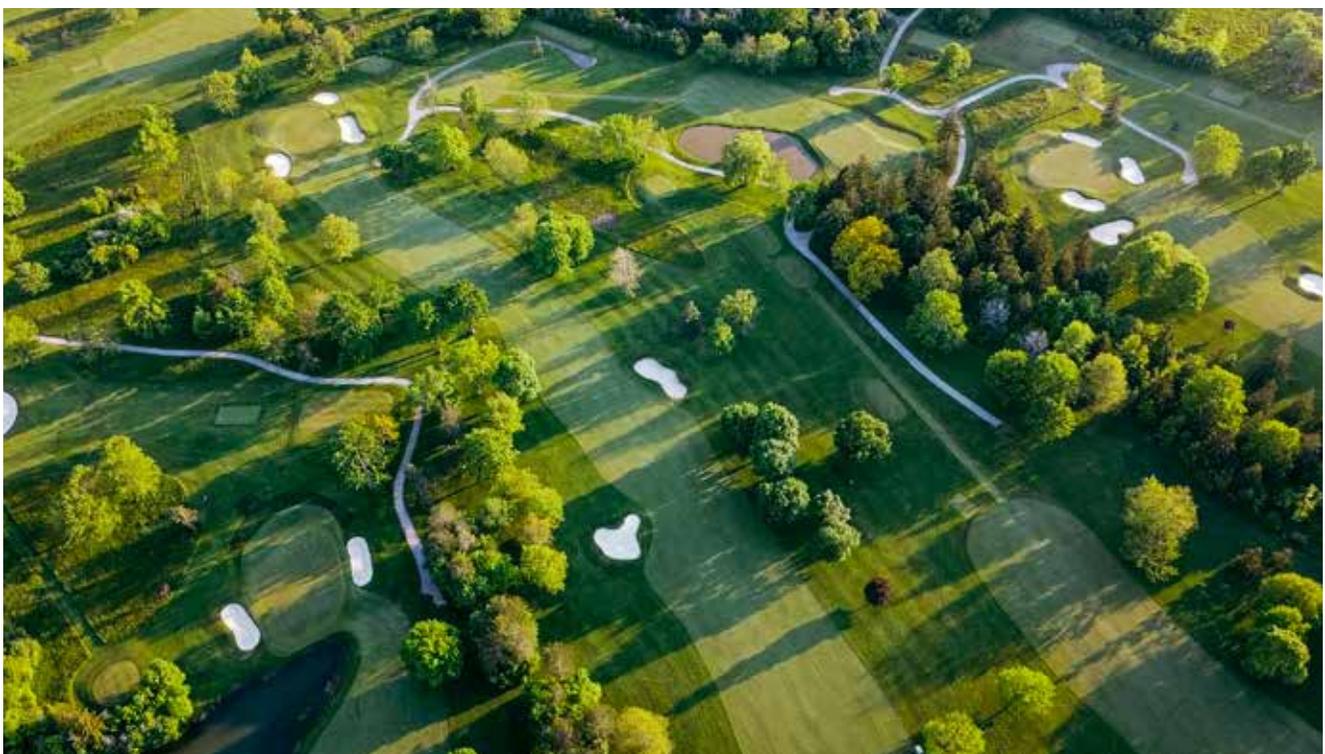
are better than I can remember in 30 years.” That was an expert opinion from one of the most respected agronomists in the golf course industry.

Gall employed a number of processes on the greens to promote bentgrass and to discourage poa. In his first few years he seeded the greens with bentgrass. Changing the method of aeration was another technique employed. The old way of aerating was to pull big cylindrical cores or plugs from the green and fill the voided holes with sand. This was usually done once in the fall, and the resulting bumpy greens took much longer to return to playability. Another downside of the large cores, was the fact that pulling up the soil cores actually promoted the growth of poa. The new procedure used smaller, deeper tines that poked holes 10” to 12” deep. More frequent deep tine aeration and more aggressive top dressing with sand several times a year were part of the plan. In addition, moisture control and nutrients were used to discourage poa. A chemical growth regulator was used to slow the speed of grass growth and make it thicker. One benefit of the growth regulator is that late in the day, the speed of the greens will be faster than untreated grass, due to the slowed growth process. This maintenance program was conducted for several years with increasingly positive results. Why this all-out assault on poa and promotion of bentgrass?

Poa is considered a weak annual grass that requires higher costs to maintain and is more susceptible to the stresses of extreme summer conditions. In comparison, creeping bentgrass is more tolerant of summer stress and easier to manage. Both grass types can provide excellent putting surfaces if maintained properly, but bentgrass is more reliable.

By the time of John’s retirement in 2019, the grass on the greens was healthier, the roots were deeper (as deep as 12”), and the density per square inch was greater than conditions in 2008. The program continues today in a maintenance mode. The frequent top dressing has in essence slowly raised the surface of the green. With the health of the turf assured, the speed can be increased on a consistent basis keeping the members happy without keeping the Superintendent up at night.

The fairways were also fortified with a higher ratio of creeping bent grass to poa, such that the fairways are now mostly bentgrass. Superintendent Gall introduced the increased use of a wetting agent which is sprayed on tees, fairways, and greens. Wetting agents, which are a type of surfactant have multiple benefits. Grass treated with a wetting agent will retain moisture better. The surfactant action essentially “thins out” the water so that less water is required for irrigation. Also, the ground will absorb the water more efficiently



instead of repelling it as sometimes happens with dry ground.

Other projects undertaken during John Gall's tenure at Cherry Hill include the addition of split rail fencing along the practice range and on Cherry Hill Boulevard, near Highway #3. With input from Jeff Roy, forward tees were cut from the fairways in 2012 on a trial basis, but it wasn't until 2018 that permanent silver tees were installed after the trial proved successful. Under Gall's care, the area of puttable surfaces was increased on and around the greens. Over the years the demarcation between the green and the fringe had slowly crept inward. By simply expanding the closely mown area, the size of the greens could be enlarged. This reintroduced some of the wonderful Travis mounds and undulations to the green and created additional options for interesting new pin positions. Many areas immediately surrounding the greens were also closely mown. Whereas before this procedure was instituted, the thick grass surrounding the greens dictated the use of a wedge, the new greenside conditions allowed multiple options including a wedge, chipping iron or putter.

New Look At The First Tee

In 2015, the area leading from the Pro Shop down to the first tee received a major face lift. The whole

area around the 1st tee and practice putting green was resurfaced with interlocking pavers. Trees were removed, and the new treatment provided wide open views of the course from the patio. Rick Halinda, Jim O'Connor, and John Richmond played a lead role in the project, which was installed by Plantation Irrigation & Landscaping of Ridgeway. While the contrast was stunning at first, it now seems so natural that one would think it was ever thus.

Fine-tuning The Renovation Work

In 2012, Gall recalls that dry, warm weather had allowed for the course to open on March 16th. (Just in time for the "annual St. Patrick's Day round.") Regardless of whether March comes in like a lion or goes out like a lamb, John Gall's first days and last days at Cherry Hill were full of excitement on the course. Ian Andrew was at it again with a golf course project that was started in August of 2019. In essence the new project was a delayed punch list for the 2009 renovation. The Board had a few items on its wish list, and Ian was able to accomplish some enhancements that he always wished had been done before. The most dramatic change was the lowering of the raised tee on the 8th hole, and the addition of a new tee back and to the left of the main tee. The 8th tee was unique in that it had featured a high raised teeing area, flanked by a bank of stone with the words "Cherry Hill Club" spelled



Closely mown area around the greens presents a variety of shot options.



Aerial view shows results of 2015 renovation project.

out in sculpted evergreen shrubs. Despite sentimental regrets for the loss of the signature tee, the new set up is attractive and functional. The material removed from the main tee was used in the construction of the new back tee, and a difficult hole was rendered more so for the scratch players. The cart path was rerouted on the 11th hole making for a cleaner more natural appearance of the area behind the green and around the 12th tee. New front tees, installed on the 9th and 11th holes, were welcomed especially by average golfers of every variety. A surprise new fairway bunker on the right side of the 14th hole awaits the tee shots of the long hitters.



The 8th tee as it appeared prior to the 2019 course renovations.

The two enhancements of greatest interest to Ian Andrew included the removal of the ridge behind the middle of the 13th green which gives the hole a more Travis-like look and playability. Also, the area behind the 6th green was modified to collect approach shots hit too far. The right greenside bunker was tweaked to require just a little more precision on the approach shot as well. The enhancements completed in 2019 took a course, already in great condition, up another notch. The end result, and the fact that the \$270,000 project was paid for in cash without an assessment, pleased the membership entirely. The golf course that John Gall left his successor was in the nicest condition it had ever been. We can be proud of our wonderful course, and grateful for the talented Superintendents who chose to cap off their successful careers at Cherry Hill.

Golf Course Maintenance Is Essential

Imagine for a moment that you are an Associate Golf Course Superintendent in Kitchener, Ontario, and you are offered the head Superintendent position at a premier golf course in the Niagara Region. You and your spouse, along with your school-age children, move your family to Port Colborne, Ontario. You purchase a home and enroll the kids in new schools. You are ready to begin an exciting new chapter in your career. And then imagine that a global pandemic erupts, ultimately causing schools, businesses and



Mark Talarico, Jeremy Krueger, John Gall and Caroline Molen at the 2019 Christmas luncheon.

even golf courses to shut down. You are not imagining if you are Jeremy Krueger, who became Cherry Hill's sixth Golf Course Superintendent on February 3, 2020.

After receiving applications from 28 qualified candidates, and whittling the list down to 6, the selection committee recommended Jeremy for the position. Although he had earned a B.S. degree from the University of Waterloo, he realized that the work he had been performing, starting as an intern, on golf courses was what interested him most. He went on to graduate from the Golf Course Management School of Horticulture at the University of Guelph in 2001. At the time of his hiring, Jeremy was Associate Golf Course Superintendent at the prestigious Westmount Golf & Country Club in Kitchener, Ontario which was ranked #13 on the 2020 SCOREGolf "Top 100 Best Golf Courses In Canada" list. Let the record show that Cherry Hill ranked #43 on that same list, when Mr. Krueger took the reins at Cherry Hill.

Despite the uncertainty and restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jeremy was able to get right to work. Perhaps the only decision made by the Ontario government in its handling of the pandemic on which we can all agree is that golf course maintenance is an essential service. As noted earlier, Jeremy inherited a course in top-notch condition. While continuing with the proven maintenance protocol in place, Jeremy focused on fine-tuning the conditioning of the course. "Well-manicured" would be an appropriate term to describe the desired objective for Cherry Hill.

Jeremy ably directed the grounds crew and established a detailed regimen for maintaining the course, and the greens in particular. Hand mowing of the greens had long since given way to triplex mowers and lightweight rollers that zoom back and forth across the green to achieve the desired fast green speeds. A new multi-purpose tractor authorized by the Board, allows enhanced upkeep of cart paths, native areas, and more with the use of different attachments. The same process employed to groom infields at major league baseball diamonds is now keeping our cart paths smooth and clean, thanks to Jeremy's attention to detail.

Jeremy's responsibilities range from micro-manicuring to master planning. In 2021, consultants were hired to address comprehensive long-range plans for both irrigation and drainage - - sound familiar? Jeremy worked closely with the consultants who visited the course in the fall of 2021, to prepare master plans for each of these areas vital to the future health of our course. Mr. Krueger will have plenty to do as we look ahead and contemplate long-range master plans for irrigation, drainage, and trees on the course.



In commemoration of our 100th anniversary in 2022, Jeremy and his crew are planting cherry trees to beautify our property. We look forward to watching them grow. And we look forward to teeing it up in century number two at Cherry Hill, of course!



Cherry Hill Club
1922 - 2022

THERE CAN BE NO DENYING THAT THE LOVE OF THE GAME IS THE SINGULAR,
MOST UNIFYING FACTOR IN THE EXISTENCE OF OUR CLUB.





THE COMMON THREAD OF THE GAME

Some golfers fare better than others on the golf course, but Cherry Hill is a course that is challenging and fun for players of all skill levels. At the end of the book that chronicles the first 75 years of Cherry Hill history, William S. Reynolds summed it up quite eloquently:



“Although we are all individuals, the common thread of the game influences us all. Who has not experienced the sense of anticipation as the days grow warmer in the spring, and the depression of spirit which accompanies the cleaning out of the locker in the late fall? Regardless of the level of skill, we are all golfers - the regular Saturday morning foursome with the bets flying in all directions; the low handicapper choking his way up 18 with a chance to break par; the high handicapper doing the same with a chance to break 100; the Ladies Day groups meticulously putting everything out; the Junior Golfer with a look of determination that can only make you smile; and the elderly couple finishing nine holes as the sun sets.”

There can be no denying that the love of the game is the singular, most unifying factor in the existence of our Club. Some of us are quite happy that we can play a private round with family or friends, while others take a more competitive approach that is worthy of broader recognition. No matter where you are on this spectrum, if you call Cherry Hill home, you are fortunate to play golf in a most wonderful setting.

Golf Committees

The Golf Chairman, a member of the Board of Directors, heads the Golf Committee which oversees the Head Professional and all associated responsibilities. The Ladies 18 Hole Group Golf Board, the Ladies 9 Hole Golf Committee, and the Junior Golf Program operate under the umbrella of the Golf

Committee. The Golf Committee determines the course schedule and prepares the annual golf calendar which is always chock full of events. Historically, “Men’s Golf,” “Ladies Golf,” and “Junior Golf” are the customary terms used at Cherry Hill regardless of whether they offend the grammarians or the politically correct.

The Head Professional has responsibility for all golf operations at Cherry Hill including the practice range, the Cart Shop, the Pro Shop, the Starter’s Shack, the golf course, and the tournament scoreboard. In the wider golf industry, the Head Pro also represents the Club in the various associations with which Cherry Hill is affiliated. Generically, you could say that the Head Pro is a boss, a teacher, a cheerleader, a referee, a retailer, an ambassador, and an event planner. In his spare time, he might also work on his own golf game.

Men's Golf

Men's Golf at Cherry Hill is quite simple. Men like to eat, drink, smoke, gamble, and swear while playing golf. Recently, some have added "listen to the Rolling Stones" to the list but, given that the R & A has yet to rule on the issue, we shall leave that in abeyance for the time being.

Historically, there are key events which are milestones of the annual Men's Golf calendar, and over the years other events have come and gone. To start the golf season, Men's Opening Day on a Saturday in May is a great way to get re-acquainted with golf buddies, and to test your ability to recall people's names after a long off-season.

Men's Invitationals

For most of Cherry Hill history, the Men's Invitational has been held in mid-June, concluding the day before Father's Day Sunday. Father, after a long and arduous weekend of golf and festivities, does relish the fact that the following day is the day designated for Mother and the children to honor him as he naps on the couch while watching the U.S. Open. In its earliest form the tournament took place over three days, or four if one chose to play a practice round. The medal tournament format was Chapman, which is a modified version of alternate shot. Three days

of playing Chapman together was more a test of friendship between member and guest, than a test of one's golf skills. Thursday's opening round would be followed by the stag dinner, with a full complement of cigars and cards and dice. Friday night was a quieter one, perhaps spent with your guest and spouses at a beachside barbecue for couples. A formal dinner dance on Saturday with live music was the perfect way to celebrate the tournament and flight winners, and to show appreciation to spouses for the extended boys' night out. Other rituals include tournament favors for participants, and a variety of wagering options including a "Calcutta pool" whereby teams are purchased much like a cattle auction. For many years, special cards were printed for each team to record side bets made head-to-head with other teams. Collecting the bets (or avoiding payment) required special talent during the Saturday night party. Over the years the tournament might be referred to as either "The Chapman" or the "Three-Day." For several years, the format was changed to match play, with 9-hole Chapman matches in each flight, and a shoot-out among flight winners to determine the overall winning team. In more recent years, the tournament has been scaled back to just two days of competition. The format of play has seen experimentation but always with some element of Chapman. Regardless of the name or the format, winning has meant that you and your invited partner would have your names permanently



Every player's hopes are high before the shotgun start.



Tournament players gather round the scoreboard.

inscribed on the board in the Grill Room designated for the Men's Invitational.

The Three-Day designation differentiates it from a second invitational that was introduced in 1974 to meet demand among the membership. The "Two-Day" was held on a Friday and Saturday, usually in July. The compressed format featured a stag night on Friday and a Dinner Dance on Saturday, often with so many teams entered that a double shotgun start had to be held on Fridays. After a period of waning participation, the Two-Day was suspended in 2014 in an effort to bolster the primary Cherry Hill Men's Invitational. Two-Day tournament winners are recognized on the boards that adorn the walls of the Men's Locker Room, with room for new names should the event ever be revived.

Cherry Hill has also had single day invitationals on the calendar throughout the years. In the early 2000's we held the William J. McGennis Memorial Invitational, a single day member-guest event with coat and tie attire required for the stag dinner. In its place today is "The Walter" which was started in 2017 as a nod to Cherry Hill golf architect, Walter Travis.

The invitational tournaments do more for creating camaraderie within the Club, and for promoting the Club to the wider golfing public than any other event on the golf calendar at Cherry Hill. New friendships and good-natured rivalries are forged. Lifelong golf memories are established, whether by choking to lose by a shot, or by sinking the long and unlikely winning

putt. Some member-guest partnerships have endured for decades with brothers Bob and Craig Borneman and the team of Mike Alpern and Bill Moyer being two of the longest. For the new young player, participation in an invitational can be a "coming-of-age" experience as a Cherry Hill member. Many guests have chosen to join the Club themselves because of the fun atmosphere of a Cherry Hill Invitational.

While ultimately, the Head Pro and his staff run the events, the tournament chairmen also are involved, adding special features to the format, the prizes or the food and beverage offerings. No one was more adept at creating an extraordinary and fun tournament experience than Gary Stott. P. T. Barnum himself could have learned from Gary, who would challenge the professional staff, the chef, the manager, and the bartenders to create the most fun and memorable events.

In 1999, due in large part to Gary's campaigning, a special "tournament subsidy" of \$100 per member was assessed on an unsuspecting membership for a 2-year trial basis. The intent was to raise the bar on Club events, which were perceived to have fallen off in quality. Ladies Golf and Junior Golf received some funding, but the bulk of the \$40,000 pot was assigned to the Three-Day, the Two-Day, and the Member-Member. For a two-year span, these events were rocketed into a new dimension. One event featured a complimentary martini bar set up on the patio in front of the Halfway House, with the likes of red velvet martinis, French martinis, cosmopolitans, and



The prize table sparkles with excitement.

of course classic martinis. The formal dinner that followed surely must have been fine, but no one could remember what was on the menu. One year during the tournament subsidy era, favors were given to spouses, not just the players. Waterford Crystal ring holders for spouses of members and guests were part of the table setting for the formal dinner dance. During the 1999 Invitational, the Buffalo Sabres were competing in the Stanley Cup Finals. To keep people from leaving the Club after dinner to watch the hockey game, several large, rented TV sets were installed throughout the Clubhouse thanks to a resourceful Mr. Stott, and a healthy tournament subsidy fund. Understandably, the trial was not extended beyond the two-year timeframe, but what a time it was!!

The Member – Member

To many, the Member-Member is the most fun tournament of the year, for a variety of reasons. Your partner is also a member, so you don't have to pay for him, nor do you have to go out of your way to entertain him or his spouse. Everyone knows one another or will become acquainted by tournament's end. When wagering, you at least know the caliber of all the players, even if you don't agree with their handicaps.

For many years the tournament was held in September, after the Club Championship, which added a special character of fall weather and finality to the event. A large cast iron pot of soup heated over a wooden fire on the course looked like the witches' brew in those days. In part to accommodate snowbirds' schedules, but mostly to play in more temperate conditions, the event was moved in 2011 to August and eventually to July. Some choose to tee it up year after year with the same partner in the hopes that someday their time will come, while others look for more variety in their Member-Member partners. Additionally, the names of more than a few father-son teams grace the Member-Member tournament board in the Grill Room.

Caddie Program

Cherry Hill has had a caddie program in an on-and-off basis over the years. Today, there are no longer caddies at Cherry Hill. The "caddie shack" was at the front of the cart storage facility, and caddies would hang out there in hopes of getting a bag for the day. The boys were recruited mostly from the immediate area, and generally were novices when arriving at Cherry Hill. The extended school calendar in Ontario which had students in school well into June, was one of the



challenges of maintaining a robust caddie program. However, many relationships were formed throughout the years, and some players had their favorite, regular caddies. Bert Mewha, a longtime Cherry Hill Member and President in 1973 was a caddie as a young boy, and two of our caddies would go on to become the Head Professional at Cherry Hill.

Cherry Pickers

“Cherry Pickers” is the name given to guest days, which for many years happened periodically throughout the golf season. A great way to entertain three clients or three friends, or even a son-in-law, Cherry Pickers included a shot gun start with on-course gimmicks and a “tournament” format that was well-suited to client golf. The dinner that followed featured prizes, a raffle, and occasionally an entertaining emcee. George Fairgrieve was a particularly talented host at these events who would evoke laughter by ridiculing the “quality” of the prizes, and humiliating participants by questioning the legitimacy of the scores they had posted. “You’re a 26 handicap and you shot what?” One year NHL veteran, Dennis Hull, was invited to play and to emcee the dinner. He started off with a harmless quip, “I wanted to come here in the worst way... which is why I flew in on Air Canada!” After a few more off-color jokes, he had the entire Dining Room roaring, but nobody was able to order a drink, because all the waitresses were cowering in the kitchen. Nothing lasts forever, and Cherry Pickers was unceremoniously removed from the golf calendar for 2022, after a long and fun-filled run.

Club Team Matches

An opportunity to tee it up competitively was the long-running Club Team Matches, a ladder event in which players chose a partner for the season. After initial, bracketed pairings were drawn, the teams would schedule 18-hole better ball matches on their own and advance throughout the year until the final two teams squared off for the title. The Club Team Matches were last contested in 2010.

The Scratch

The Peter M. Collard Cup or “The Scratch” tournament has had some variations in format and scheduling, but it always brings some of the area’s finest players to team up with a Cherry Hill member in a scratch better-

ball format. When he started the event, Peter and his committee would personally select the guests and pair them with members. In recent years a senior division was added, but the title goes to the teams that play from the back tees. No one was a greater supporter of Cherry Hill than Peter Collard who served the Club as a Director, as President, and as unofficial “curator” of the names on the Champions boards in the Grill Room. Despite his diligence, neither Peter, nor anyone since has been able to solve the mystery of just exactly who won the Men’s Invitational in 1954.

Men’s Day

Wednesday has always been thought of as Men’s Day at Cherry Hill, although it has never officially appeared as such on the calendar. Long before seat belts were mandatory in either Ontario or New York State, golfers would break up the monotony of the work week by heading to the Club on Wednesday afternoon and not heading home until the early a.m. hours on Thursday. Ash trays, dice boxes and playing cards were given a good workout as were the bartenders in those days. In the late 1990’s a group of young members began the informal “Wednesday Night Club,” which entailed a 9-hole skins game after work. The participants’ post-round activities were similar to their predecessors’, except that seat belt use was compulsory on the ride home by then. Eventually, as the participants “matured,” the Wednesday Night Club faded away, taking a back seat to work, marital, and parental obligations.

After a few initial variations, a more formal permutation of Wednesday Men’s Day golf emerged in 2015 with the assistance of the Pro Shop staff, and League on the “Hill” was inaugurated. This 9-hole weekly event has seen some format changes along the way, but it has always been a convenient way to get a game, meet new members and enjoy friendly competition and camaraderie. An added feature was introduced to League on the “Hill” in 2021, thanks to Guinness brewery, which sponsors a points race for golf leagues at a growing list of private golf courses in Canada. In 2021, the points winners from each of the 25 participating clubs in Ontario were invited to compete at TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley golf course, for a chance to travel to the culminating event in Dublin, Ireland. With so much on tap, League on the “Hill” is sure to grow in popularity.

Sweeps

“Sweeps” are a fun way to be involved without much commitment. On weekends during the summer, pro shop credit is awarded to low net scores posted with the starter for the different Men’s handicap classes.

The Quota Game

With Bill Kerr as the organizer, a new Thursday tradition, the Quota Game, came into being in 2017. Players contribute to the pot, which is split among skins winners, Pot of Gold winners (within a flagstick’s distance on the 16th green), and those who exceed their quota number. The lower the player’s handicap, the higher the quota number, which is tallied by earning points for pars, birdies, eagles etc. An exciting feature of the Quota Game is that pots carry over when no

teams representing Canada and the United States. Varying opinions exist to explain Team USA’s dominance in the first several years of competition. Members of Team USA would ascribe the winning streak to superior abilities, while Team Canada would attribute the lopsided record book to inflated handicaps. Still others might question the logic in choosing a man named “Dutch” as the captain of Team Canada. Regardless of the win/loss tally, as the original captain of Team Canada, Dutch Van Bolderen is held in as high regard as the likes of Scotty Bowman and Vince Lombardi. The Men’s Locker Room, the Halfway House, and participants’ golf carts are adorned with flags and streamers from both countries for this two-day event in September. Team uniforms boost apparel sales in the Pro Shop and bolster team spirit out on the course. The dinner following the first day



one exceeds their quota, which has given rise to the growing popularity of this non-sanctioned event.

The Can-Am Cup

Another non-sanctioned event that began rather quietly in 2012, has steadily gained momentum to the point that it may have an impact, not just at Cherry Hill, but throughout the entire North American continent. The Can-Am Cup is a team competition fashioned after the Ryder Cup. Team captains select players for the individual and partner matches for

matches is a “most solemn event,” worthy of the stature of the two great countries represented. The drama that unfolds as the captains announce the pairings of competitors for the final matches is as captivating as the NHL draft. In fact, each year Team Canada, in a true gesture of bi-national friendship chooses one man from Team USA for presentation of the “Silver Hockey Stick” Award, a full-size stick signed by Wayne Gretzky. The “Silver Hockey Stick” recipient is the one player who, in the opinion of Team Canada, by virtue of his playing ability and his handicap, is the biggest sandbagger of them all. The names of the American

golfers inscribed on this award are legendary. Team Canada finally won its first Can-Am Cup in 2018. Team USA quickly reclaimed it in 2019, and currently holds stewardship of the coveted trophy as the world awaits the resumption of this grand event which so aptly embodies the bi-national character of our unique Club.

Club Championships

Playing for the honor of one's country of birth can be nerve-wracking, but no other event is more pressure-filled than a Club Championship. After all, everyday tournaments determine "winners," but only championships produce "champions." One is truly alone in Club Championship play. Ask any amateur player who has ever been in the position of "sleeping on a lead" and he or she will tell you of

nothing compares to a year spent as "the reigning Club Champion."

At one time, the Men's Club Championship was a match play event, but for many decades it has been a medal play event. Competitors in the Championship division compete for the title of overall Club Champion, while others compete for A-, B-, C-, and D-Class divisions. There are Senior, Super Senior, and Classic Senior categories as part of the Club-wide championships. Ladies, Senior Ladies and Junior Golf competitions are held as well. The Men's and Ladies Championship divisions are 54-hole events, and other divisions are 36-hole competitions. For many years the Men's Championship Division would play its first round on the Sunday before Labour Day, and all divisions would play the following Saturday and Sunday on Labour Day



the uncontrollable fear and anxiety that overtakes an otherwise stable countenance. Indeed, there are many accounts of catastrophic Club Championship experiences, etched in the minds of Cherry Hill competitors that all sound something like this: "I was holding on to a two-shot lead and then..." Whether it was four putts or two successive shots out of bounds, the result is always the same – dashed hopes of claiming the title of champion, whether it be for the C-Class Division or overall Club Champion. Conversely, ask any golfer who has ever prevailed in a Club Championship, and he or she will likely tell you that

weekend. This format took "sleeping on a lead" to the extreme, with an entire week between rounds. The September timeframe had its drawbacks. Foremost was the unpredictability of the weather, which could be cold, windy, and rainy. The fact that the Labour Day holiday was a rain date for the event was not well-received by spouses and families. Another complaint was the possible conflict with a Sunday home opener for the Buffalo Bills. Still others were obligated to take children to college for the beginning of the fall semester. In 2007, the event was moved to August.



The names of a number of men appear more than once on the Men's Champions board in the Grill Room, but none appear more often than George, "G.J. Weimert" or Tim, "Timothy W. Hume." George's record is remarkable in that he won 17 times spanning four decades from 1947 to 1979. The appearance of Tim's name 13 times on the board is interrupted for a span which coincides with the time he competed as a professional golfer on "mini-tours" subordinate to the PGA Tour, before resuming his amateur status.

Throughout the years, the number of spectators who would follow the leaders on the course has fluctuated widely. Some years, only the most loyal parent, spouse or child would be the sole spectator, while other years saw throngs of well-stocked carts conveying spectators out to witness the drama. In the case of a tie after 54 holes for the overall Club Championship, it is customary to hold a three-hole medal playoff, rather than sudden death. If after three holes the competitors remain tied, then another three-hole playoff commences. Two Club Championships saw the competitors still tied after finishing the ninth hole, at which point the playoff switched to sudden death. On each occasion the crowds had steadily grown as word got around the Club, such that many spectators were

there to witness the high drama as Champions were crowned once on the 10th green and once on the 11th green.

Another Club Championship occurrence, that would ultimately determine the final outcome, was witnessed by only one person. Kristopher "Kris" Boyes held a comfortable margin as he addressed his ball just beside the green on the final hole of the 2017 Club Championship. Brian Duffett was unable to pull off an 18th hole miracle, and Boyes accepted the congratulations of all who were there. While driving home Kris pondered the final minutes of the tournament, and how, on the last hole, his ball had moved imperceptibly as he addressed it. Sleeping on a lead may be unsettling, but one can only imagine the turmoil Mr. Boyes experienced "sleeping on a win" under these circumstances. Kris called Head Pro, Jeremy Broom, the following day to explain what had happened, and how he wasn't sure that the movement of the ball was enough to constitute a penalty. He stated that upon reflection, he felt that in his own estimation, the ball did move enough to constitute a penalty. Had Kris declared it at the moment it occurred, he would have still won even with the penalty assessed. But alas, the card he had

signed did not constitute a legitimate card and he was therefore disqualified, giving Brian Duffett the victory. The email to the membership sent out by Jeremy that Monday was both shocking and inspirational. We were shocked at the news but inspired by Mr. Boyes, whose actions embodied the spirit of honesty and integrity in which the game of golf is played. Bobby Jones, when complimented for similarly calling a penalty on himself said famously, “You might as well praise a man for not robbing a bank as to praise him for playing by the rules.” Karma was on Kris’ side as he went on to win the Cherry Hill Club Championship the following year in 2018.



Dave Bunker hoists the Florida Senior trophy in 2021.

Representing Cherry Hill

If you think “Duffett” might be an unlikely name for an excellent golfer, how about “Bunker?” Dave Bunker joined Cherry Hill in 2019. Having just retired from a teaching career, Dave had already established himself as an accomplished amateur golfer with many notable tournament victories by the time he entered his first tournament as a Cherry Hill member. He was inducted into the Ontario Golf Hall of Fame in 2018. He held the course record at six different clubs. He had won 15 provincial titles. Since joining Cherry Hill he has won the Ontario Men’s Senior Amateur in 2020 and the Florida Men’s Senior Amateur in 2021. In 2021 Dave reached the final two matches in the U.S. Senior Amateur and finished 3rd overall. Listed as #16 on the Golfweek 2021 Men’s Senior Amateur rankings, Dave is the highest ranked non-American and the only Canadian in the top 100. Not since Kyle Hess, a product of the Cherry Hill Junior Golf Program, won back-

to-back New York State Amateur Championships in 2002 and 2003, has Cherry Hill been so proud of one of our own. In 2020, Cherry Hill welcomed another top amateur player, Joe Misk. Besides making the best cherry pies in the Niagara Peninsula, Joe tied for second in the 2021 Canadian Senior Men’s Golf Championship sporting a Cherry Hill bag tag. With many new members who excel at competitive golf, Cherry Hill is sure to remain in prominence on the men’s golf scene locally and beyond.

Ladies Golf

Mary, Queen of Scots, ruled Scotland from 1542 to 1567. Ever since she picked up a club, women have been smitten with the golf bug, and Ladies Golf has been an integral part of Cherry Hill from the beginning. Use of the word “Ladies” has its roots in Great Britain and Ireland where The Ladies’ Golf Union (LGU) was founded in 1893. The LGU merged with the R & A in 2017. The apostrophe has been dropped, but “Ladies Golf” has persevered since the first meeting of the Cherry Hill Ladies Golf Committee was held in 1954. Dorothy K. Thompson was the first Women’s Club Champion in 1926, and Sue Brautigam claimed the first Girls title in 1948. The Buffalo District Golf Association was founded in 1921. In 1922, the Women’s Golf Association of Western New York was established, as was a certain golf club “to be situate in the Township of Bertie, in the County of Welland and Province of Ontario.” In 1935 the Women’s Buffalo District Golf Association (WBDGA) was established.

Ladies Golf at Cherry Hill is an active, well-run, and well-subscribed program that offers participants a wide variety of events throughout the golf season. Under the umbrella of the Golf Committee, The Ladies 18 Hole Group Golf Board and the Ladies 9 Hole Golf Committee operate independently, each with its own committee, by-laws, rules, policies, procedures, and calendar of events. It sounds complicated, but the end result is a vibrant program that offers competition, fun, dining, and socializing. With minor deviations, Thursday morning has been the traditional time for Ladies Golf at Cherry Hill.

Between the 18 Hole and 9 Hole groups there are currently over 100 active participants. Players enjoy events such as opening and closing day luncheons and dinners. The “game of the week” adds fun to the

round with the likes of least putts, blind holes, beat the Pro, and a unique game called “The Scrunchie Tournament.” The event gets its name from the scrunchie, a circular band of fabric-covered elastic used for fastening hair. Prior to play, each participant in a foursome is assigned a different color which corresponds to colored scrunchies to be used for the event. The Professional Staff heads out on the course armed with a full complement of different colored scrunchies and wraps each flagstick with one or more of the colored scrunchies. Upon reaching the green the players inspect the pin to see which scrunchie color or colors are on the pin. If a red scrunchie is on the pin, then the score of the “red” player is recorded on the card. If two colors or three colors are on the pin, then two scores or three scores are recorded, and so on. [Memo to the Golf Chairman: Send out a survey to see if the men would like to play the scrunchie game on Wednesday nights.]

Not all Ladies Golf events rely on gimmicks. There are guest days, Invitational tournaments and Ladies Member-Member events that feature all of the same excitement and fanfare as the Men’s events with the possible exception of cigars. In lieu of cigars, golfers enjoy a spread of breakfast items, coffee, and tea in the Halfway House prepared specially for Ladies Day. Over

the years, participants have been creative in hand-crafting prizes, favors and decorations, and often there is a theme to the day. Lunch and conversation after golf, round out the day.

The social aspect of Ladies Golf can extend beyond the golf season with casual get togethers, Christmas dinners and the like. Up until the late 1990’s, Cherry Hill fielded a women’s bowling team that competed during the off-season against teams from other area golf clubs. And throughout the year, the Ladies Golf group is always quick to respond with cards and flowers and visits whenever someone is in need of support.

Instruction, ranging from the basics for very beginners, to etiquette and topics such as golf course management is provided by the Professional Staff. Saturday clinics are popular and evening clinics have been part of the mix over the years as well.

The WNY Interclub Team Association operates as part of the WBDGA. Virtually all the private clubs in Western New York participate in the Club Team Matches which include a Championship Division and a Buffalo Cup Division. The season consists of three scratch better ball events, held on a rotating basis at different clubs throughout the district. There have



The ladies enjoy lunch in the shade after a round of golf.



been periods where Cherry Hill dominated in these events, but dynasty or not, Cherry Hill has always been well-represented by our women golfers, of whom the Club has every reason to be proud.

Certain individuals deserve recognition for their contributions to Ladies Golf at Cherry Hill, both on and off the course, despite the possibility of unintentional omissions. Lolly Lenahan and Claire Moeschler are two names that are synonymous with Ladies Golf at Cherry Hill. Both Claire and Lolly are recognized as Distinguished Members at Cherry Hill, and each of them contributed in many ways to the success of Ladies Golf, chairing committees, running tournaments and more over the course of many years. Claire was the first woman to achieve the “Triple Crown” by winning the Girls, the Ladies, and the Ladies Senior Championships over the course of her golf career. She went on to multiple victories in the latter two events. When Claire wasn’t the winner, there was a very good chance that Lolly was. Lolly was a force in Ladies Golf and was a mentor to many Junior and Ladies golfers at Cherry Hill.

Another outstanding golf record is still being worked on by Ann Marie Luhr, whose family has been associated with Cherry Hill for generations. Following in Claire’s footsteps, Ann won the Girls, the Ladies, and the Ladies Senior Championships. To date, she has amassed an unprecedented record of 19 consecutive Club Championship victories from 1996-2014 and 22 overall. We were all very proud of the home course win when Ann was victorious in the Women’s Buffalo District Championship held at Cherry Hill in 2002.

A new event, “Hill for Hospice,” has become not only a favorite of Ladies Golfers but also a significant fund raiser that benefits Palliative Care Services of Greater Fort Erie, Inc. In just a few years’ time, despite a hiatus for the pandemic, “Hill for Hospice” has raised over \$50,000 and counting. Judy Campbell and Jackie Deiter have held leadership positions chairing this member-guest event with support from the entire Cherry Hill Ladies program. It features live and silent auctions, hole sponsorships and usually has a waiting list for participants. It’s a great way of giving back to the local community and a fun event for all who participate.

If there was a Cherry Hill Ladies Golf Hall of Fame one would expect to see the following entries: Ann Astmann, Honey Atwill, Mary Grace Bauer, Anne

Campbell, Joan Crane, Patty Dobmeier, Jeanette Donovan, Ann Donovan Dubuc, Patty Finck, Dottie Henzelman, Maureen Lenahan, Marcia McGrattan, Donna Pottle, and Elizabeth Ruddy to name a few. Much could be said about every one of these women, each of whom has devoted time and talent to making Ladies Golf an important part of Cherry Hill life for so many years.

“Tees” For Two

There is no committee called “Couples Golf” at Cherry Hill. Some members are blessed to have a spouse who plays golf and with whom they can enjoy time together on the course. Other members feel blessed to have a spouse who has no interest in the game. In any case, many members enjoy the pleasures of couples golf whether as twosomes or foursomes and the course schedule accommodates those so inclined. A popular event geared mostly toward mixed foursomes is the 9 & Dine series. On select Tuesday evenings, participants play 9 holes followed by a themed dinner, and on occasion, live entertainment. The 9 & Dine night is also a great way to entertain guests and show off the Club. For the “competitive” couples there is the long-running annual Mr. & Mrs. Cherry Hill tournament. The alternate shot format and the variety of golf skills among husband-and-wife teams assure an interesting event. Winning not only affords Mr. Cherry Hill bragging rights in the Men’s Locker Room, but as a special incentive, the winning couple is obligated to chair the tournament the following year!

Junior Golf

Junior Golf at Cherry Hill is quite simple. Juniors like to swing as hard as they can, then go for grilled cheese, french fries, and a milk shake after golf.

To those who grew up at Cherry Hill, it seems quite natural that Tuesday mornings are devoted to Junior Golf, because “that’s the way it’s always been.” The lifelong Cherry Hill member might be surprised that “outsiders” view the practice of dedicating a weekday morning to juniors as unique, but it has been that way ever since a group of Moms started the Junior Golf Program in the early 1950’s. While surely there were others, these are some of the names of the original Junior Golf Ladies as recollected by veteran members of today: Jan Tindle, Marcia McGrattan, Jean McGennis,



Cherry Hill Junior Golfers in the early 1950's.

Dorothy Henzelman and sisters Honey Atwill and Willie Schmitt. Junior Golf Ladies were a dedicated group of women who organized Junior Golf Tuesdays and supervised the Juniors with the assistance of the Professional Staff. Tuesdays followed much the same format for many years. After a group lesson from the Pro, Juniors were sent out on the course to play 9 or 18 holes, without supervision. In more recent years parents have been recruited to accompany their Junior Golf children on the course.

The beginning of Junior Golf at Cherry Hill coincides with the birth of the baby boomer generation. The vast majority of Cherry Hill families shared many common attributes in those days. They hailed from the Buffalo area, and they had a summer home on the Canadian shore of Lake Erie, in any one of the many summer communities that stretch from the Peace Bridge to the Welland Canal. They would move up to "the beach" on Memorial Day and stay until Labour Day. Dad would commute weekdays to Buffalo (not every family had two cars), and Mom would stay at the beach with the kids. On Tuesday mornings, boys and girls would head to Cherry Hill for Junior Golf. For the children at least, summer vacation was a pretty nice experience back then.

Juniors usually began the program at age 10 and the

Head Pro would teach the basics of grip, stance, swing, and of course, etiquette. Upon achieving a certain score for 9 holes one advanced to the 18-hole group, or "18-holers." Each week there would be an event such as least putts or longest drive, and scores were recorded on score sheets in the Halfway House. The one number that every Junior Golfer knew was Dad's membership number, which had the magic quality of making hot dogs and candy bars appear.

The Junior Championship was the culmination of the golf season, and Junior Golf Ladies would accompany each group functioning as scorers. There were categories for 9-holers and 18-holers for both boys and girls, with the 18-holers vying for a spot on the big boards in the Grill Room. In some years the Junior Boys Champion would be allowed to compete in the Men's Club Championship, but no Junior has ever gone on to win the overall title.

For many years there were two events for teenagers on the Canadian lakeshore social calendar. The Buffalo Canoe Club had "The Shipwreck Dance" and Cherry Hill had the "Junior Dance." One longtime Cherry Hill family can trace its roots to the Shipwreck Dance where Rosemary Smith first made the acquaintance of Jack Marlette in 1942. Rosemary Marlette was one



Junior Boys hone their skills on a Tuesday morning.

of the Junior Golf parents as her children advanced through the Junior Golf program. Her children, like many other Junior Golfers, would attend the Junior Dance at the end of the season. Rosemary enjoyed her lifelong association with Cherry Hill well into her 90's, and today three of her children remain members of the Club. The Cherry Hill Junior Dance was never quite as raucous as *The Shipwreck*, but it did offer a live band, awards presentations, and a unique feature, whereby the Girls Champion and the Boys Champion danced with each other in the ceremonial first dance to kick off the night. For the record, no Cherry Hill family ever was engendered as a consequence of the Boy-Girl Champion dance.

As times change, so do social customs. The Junior Dance is a page from the past, but Junior Golf remains an important aspect of Cherry Hill life, supported Club-wide, not just among parents of young golfers. As the program evolved, children began participation at a younger age. Instead of sending the kids out unaccompanied for a 9-hole adventure, a new approach was adopted with the formation of a 3-Hole division and a 6-Hole division in addition to the 9-Hole and 18-Hole groups. When the new short game practice facility was built, the 3-Holers used it as home base. They would tee off at three points around the green

and play toward pins spread about the green. Players would advance up through the ranks as their abilities warranted. The trend toward parental supervision also took hold, and parents were required to accompany the younger players on the course. Fathers had emerged on the Junior Golf scene. To some of the chaperoning parents, the out-of-date term "Junior Golf Ladies" evoked fond memories of the Junior Golf Days of their own youth.

In the 1990's grandchildren of members were allowed to participate, and this practice generated much interest. At times, when the number of Juniors exceeded the capacity of the program, grandchildren fell victim to a waiting list. In the 2000's and 2010's additional staff were hired on Junior Days to assist the Cherry Hill Professional staff with the instruction portion of the day. Through the many years since the 1950's countless parents have volunteered in running a successful, quality Junior Golf Program. The rewards for such sacrifice are great. Ask any parent who has headed out on the course on a sunny Sunday afternoon to play a few holes with their Junior Golfer. Throughout its history, the most valuable aspect of Junior Golf has always been instilling an aptitude and a love for the game that one can enjoy for a lifetime.



Cherry Hill friends are the best friends!

The Junior Golf Program at Cherry Hill has produced generations of players who love golf, and who benefit throughout their lives from what they learned on the range and on the course at Cherry Hill. A more select group of players has gone on from Junior Golf to achieve success and notoriety in the world of golf beyond Cherry Hill. Some went on to play on a varsity golf team in college, including Jon Reynolds (Yale), Brad Black (Duke), and Anne Lyons Fedele (SUNY at Albany). Some have achieved impressive amateur victories like Kyle Hess, two-time New York State Men's Amateur Champion. After resuming his amateur status in 1993 Tim Hume went on to win the Buffalo District Golf Association Men's Championship an unprecedented four times in a row from 1996-1999. Having once again turned pro, Hume now is a teaching pro and competes in senior events in Florida. Aaron Alpern, a four-time Junior Boy's Champion, ended up inside the ropes on the PGA tour, as a caddie rather than a player. After a successful stint caddying for PGA Professional, Jason Kokrak, Aaron had the thrill of a lifetime caddying for Smylie Kaufman who played in the final group on Sunday at The Masters with playing partner Jordan Spieth. Although his player didn't win, learning to line up putts at Cherry Hill certainly must have served Aaron well at Augusta.

A new program for Junior Golfers began at Cherry Hill in 2019. Nolan Piazza became the first participant in the Cherry Hill Sponsored Juniors Program. Having benefitted himself as a young golfer from a similar program at York Downs Golf and Country Club, Bill Kerr initiated the new program at Cherry Hill. The Sponsored Juniors Program is designed to

provide opportunities for young golf enthusiasts whose families do not belong to a private golf club. For a nominal fee, the Sponsored Junior is given golf privileges at Cherry Hill, to learn about the game and to hone golf skills. In return, the Sponsored Junior assists the professional staff on Junior Golf Day and strives to be a mentor for other Cherry Hill Juniors.



Nolan Piazza displays the 2020 Ontario Junior Boy's Championship trophy.

Although being an excellent golfer is not a prerequisite for acceptance in the program, the first few Sponsored Juniors at Cherry Hill have been outstanding players. Nolan Piazza won the CJGA World Junior Challenge at Innisbrook Resort in Palm Harbor, FL in 2019 and the Ontario Junior (U19) Boys' Championship in 2018 and 2020. He was recruited for the golf team at Morehead State University in Kentucky. Luke DelGabbo currently plays for Kent State in Ohio and Bradyn Wark is at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario. Ben Maclean, who matriculates in the class of 2026 at Kent State was chosen in 2021 by Golf Canada for the National Junior Squad of Team Canada. In the future, the Club plans to recruit both boys and girls from the U.S. and Canada to participate in the Sponsored Junior Program.

In 2021, the Junior Golf Program saw a big change in its instructional format by utilizing a packaged program called "Discover Golf" which uses innovative teaching games and techniques to spur the interest of young golfers. Regardless of the format, Junior Golf, which represents the future of the Club, shall remain a priority at Cherry Hill for generations.



Spectators witness the exiting finish to the Niagara Championship in 2016.

Professional Tournaments

Starting with the Ontario Open in 1960, which was won by Canadian Golf Hall of Famer, George Knudson, Cherry Hill has hosted its share of professional tournaments. Of course, the 1972 Canadian Open is the most notable with its stellar field and winner, Gay Brewer. The 1982 CPGA Championship came down to a playoff between Canadian, Dave Barr, and Buffalo resident, Jim Thorpe, who prevailed in what was truly a bi-national event. Since then, another national championship, the PGA Assistants' Championship of Canada, was hosted by Cherry Hill in 2011. And in 2016, we were the unexpected host club of the Niagara Championship, an event on PGA Canada's Mackenzie Tour. Whenever a club such as Cherry Hill is the site of a professional event, the membership is understandably concerned whether their beloved course will withstand an all-out assault from the top players in the game. Well, Cherry Hill has stood up quite respectably with 270 being the lowest 72-hole score of any pro player. Given that the pros played the 7th hole as a par 4 instead of a par 5, that translates to 14 under par in relation to par of 71.

PGA Assistants' Championship – 2011

After a long hiatus from hosting tournaments, the Club pondered the possibility of hosting another national event, a professional senior event, or an LPGA event. The course had undergone a major renovation in 2009, and the Club was anxious to showcase the new Cherry Hill. At the urging of the Board, Head Pro Jeff Roy asked his contacts in the golf industry what Cherry Hill needed to do to be considered as a host club. The answer was to host a "minor" national event as a steppingstone toward a bigger event. Thus, in September of 2011, we hosted the PGA Assistants' Championship of Canada. Sponsored by Titleist, FootJoy, and Simmlands Insurance Service the event drew assistant club professionals from across Canada with a first-place prize of \$9,000 and an overall purse of \$60,000. Although we did not have a named Tournament Chairman per se, Jeff Roy functioned in that role for Cherry Hill, working with Jeff Dykeman who was tournament coordinator for the PGA of Canada. Upwards of 50 members volunteered in various capacities as scorers, standard bearers, caddies, and forecaddies. Some of the contestants were fortunate to be hosted at the beachfront homes of members.



Dan McCarthy was the top player on the Mackenzie Tour in 2016.

The 36-hole cut was 156, or 12 over par and unfortunately Cherry Hill Assistant Pro, Aaron Pye did not make the cut. Mike Belbin, Assistant Pro at Royal Mayfair Golf Club in Edmonton, Alberta led the 54-hole tournament wire to wire with scores of 67-67-71-205. The course played as par 72 for the assistants. Concerns that, with back-to-back opening rounds of 5 under par, Belbin might belittle our course were allayed when he finished 11 under par for the tournament, 4 shots ahead of runner up Bryn Perry of Seymour Creek Golf Centre in North Vancouver, British Columbia. To a man, the players were complimentary of the members, the course, Superintendent John Gall, and Head Pro Jeff Roy.

The Niagara Championship – 2016

The Assistants' Tournament did not produce any immediate results in Cherry Hill's quest to host another major tournament, but we did find ourselves in the spotlight by chance rather than by choice in 2016. The year was a dry one at Cherry Hill, (forcing us to pay \$15,000 for municipal water) and it was dry everywhere else too. A wildfire broke out in Fort McMurray, Alberta on May 1, 2016, and it wasn't

brought under control until July 5th. Amazingly it was 17 months later when the fire was officially declared extinguished. Among the major devastation, with all its buildings destroyed, was the Fort McMurray Golf Club, which was slated to host a PGA of Canada event that year as part of the Mackenzie Tour. PGA of Canada began seeking an alternative host site for the event. Cherry Hill President Jim O'Connor and Head Pro Jeremy Broom were contacted to gauge our interest. After considering the consequences of taking on the event, the Club agreed to host the tournament and named Bill Kerr as Tournament Chairman. By the time we said yes, we had all of six weeks to plan and prepare for a full-fledged professional tournament, complete with practice rounds, a Pro-Am and a 72-hole format.

Professional golf in Canada has gone through many name changes. Here is a quick primer. What used to be the RCGA (1972 Canadian Open at Cherry Hill) is now Golf Canada. What used to be the CPGA (1982 CPGA Championship at Cherry Hill) is now the PGA of Canada. What used to be the OGA (1960 Ontario Open at Cherry Hill) is now Golf Ontario. The United States based PGA Tour took over operation of the



Canadian tour in 2012, at which time it was renamed PGA Tour Canada, also referred to as the Canadian Tour. Like today's Korn Ferry Tour, PGA Tour Canada is part of a feeder system to the PGA Tour. Today, the PGA of Canada runs PGA Tour Canada events. In 2016 the name for professional golf events in Canada was the Mackenzie Tour. When Cherry Hill was selected to substitute for the Fort McMurray event, the Mackenzie Tour dubbed the relocated event the Niagara Championship. We received some support from a local group, the Niagara Sports Commission (now defunct), but the Mackenzie Tour provided us with a complete handbook on how to form committees, recruit volunteers and run the event. Scott Pritchard was the Mackenzie Tour representative who worked closely with Bill Kerr and Jeremy Broom.

With just six weeks, all parties involved decided that we would waive admission fees, because promoting and distributing tickets sales was not possible in that timeframe. Therefore, Tournament Chairman Kerr and his committee members skipped over the section in the handbook on ticket sales, and perhaps the section on transportation too. The section of the handbook regarding course preparation got

our attention. The Mackenzie Tour requested a stimpmeter reading of 11.5, and we told them our greens normally run 12-13 for regular member events, and that we would not allow them to be any slower for a professional tournament. Fearing that we might renege on our offer, Mackenzie representatives quickly came for a course visit. One look at our greens and they were on board and the tournament was still on for Thursday, September 8 – Sunday, September 11, 2016. We were to receive \$25,000 as compensation for hosting the tournament. Total prize money was \$175,000 with the winner receiving \$31,500.

Committees were formed and Committee Chairs were appointed for scoring (Linda Burroughsford and Ann Marie Luhr), marshals (John Brady), billeting (Anne Michael and Pat Schaus), player relations (Shelley Kerr), parking (Dutch Van Bolderen), and logistics (Paul Hancock). At one point during the planning stage, Mackenzie representatives contacted Jeremy Broom with questions about our transportation committee. When Jeremy told them we had no transportation committee, they said not to worry, that they would handle transportation.



Cherry Hill member, Alex Campbell, caddies for Aaron Wise who would later be named the 2018 PGA Rookie of the Year.

The Pro Shop Staff was in charge of carts, the practice range, and caddies. Assistant Professionals Steve Barkley and Daryl MacLean took on various duties and Walker Arnott was caddie master. A volunteer recruitment event was held at the Club and the membership responded in force. Over 60% of the players stayed in members' homes, one of many aspects that endeared Cherry Hill to the players. Life on the Mackenzie Tour was a tough proposition for players with little or no sponsorship dollars and meager prize money, so free room and board at a beautiful beachfront home must have been a highlight of the season. To illustrate this point, many of the players carried their own bag on the first two days of play and paid for caddies only on the final two days as mandated by the Mackenzie Tour. The Tour instructed us to charge \$15 per player for use of the Men's Locker Room, and only 15 players splurged for the luxury.

The Mackenzie crew arrived the weekend before in a big trailer with flags and tee markers and on-course signage, including scoreboards. Our own crews, however, were responsible for getting the signs up on the course. There was a scoring tent on the grounds, but the Ladies Locker Room was used as the command center for scoring, rules, and Mackenzie staff operations.

The Niagara Sports Commission prepared the trophy and logoed apparel, and merchandise was sold through the Pro Shop. Without much advance publicity, the crowds were light, but we rented the field south of the practice range for volunteer and spectator parking.

The event had all the trappings of a big-league event, but without the big names or the big crowds. For Cherry Hill members it was a great opportunity to get a first-hand, close-up view of professional golf, whether as a player host, a caddie, a scorer, or a marshal. The players hit the ball as far as on the PGA Tour and played with an intensity that was exciting to witness, especially for those who had the opportunity to play in the Pro-Am that week.

At \$250 per amateur, and with 80 foursomes, the Pro-Am generated \$60,000 in revenue. Chairman Kerr made an executive decision and doubled the normal Mackenzie Pro-Am prize money purse to \$5000. Dan McCarthy shot 66 to take first place in the Pro-Am. After deducting expenses for the party held in the Dining Room afterwards, we donated the proceeds

to the Fort McMurray relief fund. The Cherry Hill members who played with Aaron Wise that day will tell you without hesitation, that the Pro-Am was the turning point in his professional golf career that led him to his first PGA Tour victory at the AT&T Byron Nelson in 2018, the year he was named Rookie of the Year. In all, twelve of the players who competed at the Niagara Championship have gone on to play on the PGA Tour. In addition to Wise, Talor Gooch has also recorded a tour win. Cherry Hill was a most gracious host that evening, and it was evident that the players appreciated the warm welcome and hospitality.

There were two individuals with considerable notoriety present for the Niagara Championship at Cherry Hill. The committee selected Dudley Hart to fill its one exemption spot. Hart, a Buffalo resident, has recorded two PGA wins and six wins overall. Unfortunately, back issues forced Hart to withdraw after the first round and our hopes for a home team win were dashed. Cheering on his son Tyler in the event, was Mark McCumber who has a record of ten top 10 finishes in majors and ten PGA wins overall. Mark was as pleasant and outgoing as could be with everyone he encountered. His desire to follow his son on the course was hampered due to recent surgery, so he spent much of his time near the Clubhouse area. The tournament officials were adamant that no unauthorized carts were permitted, not even for Mark McCumber. Chairman Kerr did have use of a cart and personally took McCumber out on the course for a few spectating sessions.

After the practice rounds and after the Pro-Am it was time for the tournament to begin. Not only did the players appreciate our hospitality, but they especially liked our golf course. In polite terms, not all of the courses on the Mackenzie Tour had the pedigree of Cherry Hill, and Superintendent Gall had the course tuned up for tournament play. Because of the dry weather, the greens were very hard and running true. Upon first arriving at Cherry Hill, Dan McCarthy was overheard exclaiming "How good is this place?" Thursday was a windy day and conditions were tough. When an early score of 64 was posted we were a little concerned about the course holding up. A short time later when a 63 was posted we were downright scared. If you didn't know the name Paul McConnell before, you shall now know that Paul McConnell holds the tournament course record of 63 at Cherry Hill.



PLAYER NAME	COUNTRY	TODAY	HOLE	TOTAL
MCCONNELL		8		
SHAH		7		
GATES		6		
MILLER		5		
PASTORE		5		
MONAGLE		4		
HAMILTON		4		
GARRICK		4		
HANSEN, M.		3		

With a course record score of 63, Paul McConnell led after the first round.

Crowds were sparse, but the atmosphere was exciting. Flags and a big inflatable archway adorned the property. Scoreboards and standard bearers dotted the landscape. President Jim O'Connor and fellow member Chris Henderson shared duties announcing players on the first tee. Veteran members donned caddie's vests and imparted local knowledge to their players. And the players plied their golf skills in hopes of finishing in the top five on the Mackenzie Tour for a chance to advance to greater professional golf opportunities on the Web.com Tour in 2017.

Excerpts from the PGA Tour Canada Press Release of September 11, 2016, include:

“Ridgeway, Ont. – Greenwich, Connecticut’s David Pastore birdied the 72nd hole on Sunday to win the Niagara Championship, shooting a final round 5-under 66 at Cherry Hill Club to secure his first career Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada win.

The 24-year old University of Virginia grad got up-and-down from just short of the par-5 18th green for birdie, sinking a 5-foot putt to defeat Dan McCarthy of

Syracuse, New York – who secured the 2016 Order of Merit title – by a stroke.

“I didn’t see this coming. I’ve been working really hard for a long time, and I felt like it was around the corner at some point, but there were really no signs to point to this week. I’m still in shock,” said Pastore, who was making just his third start of the season after missing most of the 2016 season with a wrist injury.

Starting the day tied for the lead with Tahiti’s Vaita Guillaume, the University of Virginia grad found himself trailing McCarthy quickly out of the gate after the Order of Merit leader birdied his first three holes to take the lead by two. But while McCarthy looked to take control, Pastore quietly kept pace with birdies on the fourth and fifth before adding a long birdie putt at the ninth to regain the lead on his own.

But even as he pulled away, Pastore couldn’t shake McCarthy, who looked to add an unprecedented fifth win to his record-smashing 2016 season on Sunday. At the 18th, McCarthy drained a slick 18-footer for birdie to post the clubhouse lead and tie Pastore at 13-under.

“That was a really greasy little putt,” said McCarthy. “If it didn’t go in it was about 12 feet by, and I didn’t hit it that hard. It just barely got over the slope, but it was all or nothing at that point and I had nothing to lose. I was trying to put some pressure on him.”

With the scene unfolding right in front of him, Pastore knew where things stood and what was at stake.

“I heard he had birdied, and he wasn’t going to make it easy on me,” said Pastore. “I wanted to give myself a putt. I figured if I hit two solid 3-woods up around the green, I could give myself a chance.”

After executing the first two parts of his plan to perfection, Pastore did his best to keep the thoughts of what an up-and-down would mean out of his head. A birdie would change his season from a wasted year to a crowning achievement, and he knew it.

“You’re thinking of so many scenarios. ‘What if I do this? What if I do that? How can I mess that up?’ You have to take it one shot at a time and put all those thoughts out of your mind, and it was not easy. It was very uncomfortable,” admitted Pastore.

The chip was executed well, and the putt was even better. After leaving himself a delicate 5-footer, Pastore poured the putt right in the middle of the hole, pumping his fist as he secured his first professional win.

“I gave myself that putt that I wanted, and I’m happy it went in,” Pastore said.

For McCarthy, the disappointment of finishing second quickly washed away. Though it seemed inevitable throughout the year that he would claim the top spot on the Order of Merit, he was not mathematically guaranteed to do so until today. He’ll be fully exempt on the Web.com Tour next year thanks to a season that has seen him win four times and set numerous records, including a new mark set today: the all-time single season earnings record with \$156,783.

Four shots behind Pastore in a tie for third were Brock Mackenzie, Jonathan Garrick and Talor Gooch.”

The players did not disappoint us, having served up a course record, an exciting finish, and a Mackenzie Tour record broken as well. Our course did not disappoint us either as it held up admirably after the early first round scare. For the players, Cherry Hill



Left: Fist bumps after Pastore sinks the winning putt.

Below: Winner, David Pastore, and tournament chairman, Bill Kerr.





was unquestionably the finest course they played in competition that year. Statistically for that year on the Mackenzie Tour the second most difficult par 3 was the 5th hole at Cherry Hill. The number one most difficult par 3? The 11th at Cherry Hill. And in a year-end survey conducted among Mackenzie Tour players, Cherry Hill was rated as number one or best in literally every category. As people gathered in the Clubhouse Sunday evening the players expressed to members and the staff, sincere and heartfelt appreciation of the course and for the membership. Once again, Cherry Hill had proven itself, as a course and a Club, capable of hosting a first-rate professional event. A final accounting of the event indicated that we had netted just about \$5,000 from the \$25,000 hosting fee paid to the Club.

Head Professionals

Having an outstanding golf course is a key ingredient for an exceptional member experience at a private golf club such as Cherry Hill. Having a great Head Professional is the icing on the cake. Jeff Roy is the longest tenured of all our Head Pros, having served in that capacity from 1990-2012. From an early age, Jeff was enamored with golf. At age 10 he took a junior membership (his parents were neither golfers nor members) at Port Colborne Country Club for \$99 for the year. In a chance meeting at Bodner's Market in 1975, Jeff was encouraged by Cathy Sherk to work as a caddie at Cherry Hill where she was Assistant Professional under Head Pro, Tony Evershed. The prospect of being able to play Cherry Hill was reason enough for the young golf enthusiast. Later, Jeff was asked to help out in the back shop (bag storage was located in the back of the Pro Shop then), and he worked his way up through the ranks to the position of Assistant Professional in 1977, having gone through the CPGA apprentice program under Tony's mentorship. After a hiatus from the Club from 1981-1984 Jeff returned as Assistant Professional. Two days after his 30th birthday, Jeff assumed the role of Head professional on February 22, 1990. He achieved his Class A Professional status in 1991. He remained our Head Pro until being named Director of Golf Emeritus, Cherry Hill Club in 2013. In 2022, Jeff was hired as General Manager, CEO of The Connaught Golf Club in Medicine Hat Alberta. Also founded in 1922, Connaught will be in capable hands as it celebrates its own centennial.

As a Head Pro, Jeff was well liked by every segment of the membership, running Junior Golf, leading the Ladies Golf clinics, and running all of the tournaments. He played a key role in the development and design of the new Pro Shop and Cart Storage building. He was also heavily involved in decisions on the golf course and worked closely with Cecil Hoekstra and John Gall. When the Club hired architects for improvements and renovations, Jeff was a primary contact and advisor, for Rene Muylaert and Ian Andrew. Jeff even had a role in the Joe Lee design of the proposed third nine which never was built. Jeff, Bob Rich, and Joe Lee were flying back from Florida on Mr. Rich's corporate jet looking over Lee's plans. Jeff pointed out that the design had not taken into consideration the significant ridge that runs west of the parking lot, which prompted Mr. Lee to revise it altogether. The unexecuted plan for the "new nine" should be referred to as a "Lee/Roy design."

A certain feature of the actual course is due in large part to Jeff's efforts. While playing Bandon Dunes in Oregon, Jeff inquired about the sets of tees that were located well down the fairway. When told that some of the women and senior players like to tee off from there, he realized that some of the players at Cherry Hill might also like a similar advantage. The implementation of temporary forward tees at Jeff's suggestion coincided with the growing trend to "play it forward" in the golf world. Today we have permanent forward tees enhancing the playability of Cherry Hill for many.



Cathy Sherk and Jeff Roy.

As Jeff continued to lead the Professional Staff at Cherry Hill, he also took on leadership roles in professional golf associations in Canada. He served as President of the Ontario Golf Association (now Golf Ontario) from 1997-1999. They liked him so well he stayed on an extra year beyond the normal two-year term. Jeff was a member of the National Board of Directors of the CPGA (now PGA of Canada) from 1997-2006. In these capacities, Jeff was instrumental in attracting course raters to Cherry Hill to help maintain our status as a premier club. Jeff was inducted in the Professional Class of the inaugural Niagara Golf Wall of Recognition in 2021. Cathy Sherk, who is responsible for bringing Jeff to Cherry Hill, was inducted in the Player Category.

If you are confused by all of the variations in the names of Canadian golf associations, you can partially blame Jeff Roy. Representing the National Board of the CPGA, Jeff flew once again on the corporate jet of Bob Rich to the PGA of America in 2011, to speak with the PGA lawyers about the possibility of renaming the CPGA as the PGA of Canada. The mission was successful, and the PGA lawyers agreed to the name change, which only helped to enhance the “PGA” brand worldwide. Jeff’s work was not complete, however, until \$300 was sent to the Potato Growers of Alberta for usage rights in Canada for “PGA.”

Throughout his many years at Cherry Hill, Jeff endeared himself to literally generations of members, management, and Pro Shop Staff. The stories, the golf anecdotes, and the confidential information that Jeff carries with him would likely fill volumes. One anecdote that is safe for publication takes us back to the second most recent renovation in the Men’s Locker Room, which took place in the 1980’s. A worker was preparing to commence demolition of the showers, when Jeff stopped him saying, “We must first have a moment of silence before you destroy that shower.” In response to the worker’s puzzled look Jeff declared, “Arnold Palmer showered there!” After a solemn moment in deference to Arnie, the shower was no more.



Many outstanding Assistant Professionals worked under Jeff at Cherry Hill. Steve Barkley continues as one of the longest serving employees at the Club today.

Bob Culig and Rod Blair both went on to Head Pro positions in southern Ontario and Western New York.



Professional staff (l. to r.) Walker Arnott, Steve Barkley, Jeremy Broom, and Daryl Maclean.

Another such individual was Aaron Pye, affectionately referred to as “Pye.” Aaron had the good fortune of having John and Anne Campbell on his paper route as a boy. Those in the HR field will tell you that seeing “paper boy” on an applicant’s resume is a good sign of a reliable worker. At the encouragement of the Campbell’s, Aaron came to Cherry Hill in the 1990’s as a caddie. On occasion players would fight over who would get Pye as a caddie. Like Jeff Roy, Aaron worked his way from the caddie shack to the back shop, to the position of Assistant Professional. With Jeff as his mentor Aaron served as Head Professional in 2012 and 2013 before taking a position at The Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Course in Alberta.



Jeremy Broom came to Cherry Hill as Head Professional in April of 2014 with a solid track record at premier clubs in the Toronto area. He worked in various roles for a ten-year period at Lambton Golf & Country Club and for two years as Director of Golf Instruction at The Toronto Golf Club. Members immediately saw the results of Jeremy's efforts to enhance the level of professionalism in the Pro Shop and golf events, starting with sports jackets worn by the Professional Staff during tournaments. With the purchase of some large format printers, the scoreboards took on a new appearance as well for tournaments. Participants were photographed out on the course, and when it came time to post scores, every team's picture was printed on professionally prepared sheets on the scoreboard. Another feature that Jeremy initiated was a registration tent on the first tee for tournaments, which would find its way up to the patio and the scoreboard area for the post round activities. Making the extra effort on the part of the staff to elevate the event experience made a big difference for members and their guests. And this was true for all events, not just the major Club tournaments. That same level of professionalism was on display for the 2016 Niagara Championship as well.



The 1st and 10th tees are set up for tournament play.

The practice range was enhanced with chairs and accessories. In the cart shop Jeremy oversaw the acquisition of a fleet of new lithium battery powered carts. Cherry Hill was among the very first courses

in Canada to adopt the new technology which is now a standard in the industry. In keeping with the times, Jeremy began to promote Cherry Hill through social media, and to court the golf media in Canada. Any time Lorne Rubenstein or Rick Young wrote about Cherry Hill, Jeremy was quick to re-Tweet it and maximize exposure.

Jeremy's influence went beyond golf operations when in 2016 he assumed overall management of Cherry Hill as Executive Professional. The extent of his responsibilities including the course, Pro Shop and Clubhouse was monumental, and Jeremy brought the same level of professionalism to all aspects of the Club. While the membership was extremely appreciative of all his efforts, Jeremy's expertise did not go unnoticed by the golf industry either. One Assistant Pro working under Jeremy, Daryl Maclean, received national recognition earning the PGA of Canada Stan Leonard Class A Associate Professional of the year award in 2015. In 2017, Jeremy was honored by the PGA of Canada Ontario Zone with the Golf Professional of the Year award. Nothing is more gratifying to the membership than to see our own staff recognized by their peers.

In 2019 Jeremy took the position of Director of Golf at The Mississauga Golf and Country Club. At age 26 Sam Snead won the 1938 Canadian Open at Mississauga, 34 years before he would tee it up at age 60 in the Canadian Open at Cherry Hill.



Another Assistant Professional who benefitted from the tutelage of Jeremy Broom was Walker Arnott, a native of Lindsay, Ontario. Walker worked as a young man for six years at the Lindsay Golf & Country Club and developed a keen interest in golf. He received his diploma in Business Administration, Professional Golf Management from Niagara College, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario in 2015. Before coming to Cherry Hill, Walker enjoyed the mentorship of Warren Crosbie, who was one of Walker's instructors at Niagara College. Crosbie was Head Professional at Bayview Golf & Country Club in Toronto for over 30 years. He was inducted into the Golf Ontario Hall of Fame in 2018. In 2020, the PGA of Canada created The Warren Crosbie Community Leader of the Year Award. And, for a number of years, Warren was a member of Cherry Hill.

He was instrumental in bringing Walker to Cherry Hill in 2015 after graduation. Walker experienced firsthand the high level of professionalism with which Jeremy Broom led the Pro Shop and conducted golf operations at Cherry Hill. He was caddie master for the Niagara Championship in 2016 and had a front row seat along with the rest of us at that professional tournament. A skillful player in his own right, Walker had some success on the local professional circuit winning his share of the prize money. When in 2019 the position became open at Cherry Hill, the Board of Directors made a wise decision in hiring Walker Arnott, at the age of 25 as Cherry Hill's twelfth Head

Professional. Walker credits Crosbie and Broom for the encouragement and mentorship they both offered to him, and those relationships continue to flourish today.

Walker received his Class A Professional Status with the PGA of Canada in 2019, and enjoyed an excellent first year as Head Pro. In 2020, Walker and his staff had to adapt to the pandemic, with lockdowns, restrictions, and compliance headaches. When the course opened for play in May of 2020, players were required to book a tee time for the first time in the history of Cherry Hill. As such, members of the Pro Shop Staff became more phone receptionists than



golf pros, as everyone struggled through the rigors and regulations imposed by the government and the local health department. Walker also had to manage the expectations of members without access to the Club and functioned as a booking agent for players at the many clubs in Western New York that offered reciprocal arrangements for Cherry Hill. A limited sense of normalcy returned to the Club in 2021. Despite the continuing pandemic, many of the usual events were held, including the Club Championships. The membership, along with Head Pro Arnott, look toward the future with eagerness and optimism.

Marking 100 Years

If the love of golf is “the common thread of the game that influences us all,” then the common wish of all is the full return to normalcy so that we may enjoy the course, the game, the friendships, the competitions, and all that the Club offers in a most wonderful setting as we mark 100 years at Cherry Hill Club.



Cherry Hill Club
1922 - 2022



IF YOU CONSISTENTLY MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES,
YOU'RE DESTINED FOR GREATNESS.





PLAY THE BALL AS IT LIES



“Play the course as you find it and play the ball as it lies.”

– Rules of Golf, Rule 1

Depending on whether you are a pessimist or an optimist, the first rule of golf may come across as a threat rather than an opportunity. Even when a bad break turns a good shot into a challenge, the optimistic player is grateful just for the opportunity to hit the next shot... as it lies. This basic rule of golf is often used as a metaphor for life, and much has been said of how the game of golf parallels the vicissitudes of life. In the book “The Golfer’s Mind,” sports psychologist and coach, Dr. Bob Rotella, says this of golfers:

“They have free will. The choices they make with that free will determine the quality of their golf game and the quality of their lives. If you consistently make the right choices, you’re destined for greatness.”



During the course of its 100-year history, Cherry Hill has encountered its share of “bad lies.” From the time that our founders engaged Walter Travis to design Cherry Hill, no one knew exactly how “the round” would progress. But due to a very loyal and dedicated membership, that has managed to make the right choices, Cherry Hill has persevered and prospered.

The roaring twenties were an era of optimism, and the City of Buffalo was booming as the world’s leading grain port. The 1918 worldwide influenza pandemic and the devastation of the Great War were past. The prospect of a bridge across the Niagara River energized all who summered on the northern shore of Lake Erie. The Cherry Hill Clubhouse had been built, and the golf course had opened for play. One can imagine the sense of satisfaction and accomplishment the founders and early members of Cherry Hill felt as they headed down the first fairway. And everyone had a hero to emulate whether it was Glenna Collett, Walter Hagen, or Bobby Jones.



Collett and Jones - 1928

And then the Stock Market crashed in 1929, and the Great Depression took its toll on everyone and everything, including Cherry Hill. The Club barely held its finances together, yet it survived. One need only glance at the years 1943 and 1944 on the Champions boards to see the effect World War II had on life at Cherry Hill - "NO CONTEST." Despite our total inability to influence the weather, we are more adept at dealing with droughts or storms than facing social upheaval beyond our influence.



September 11, 2001

Most people recall hearing the news as events unfolded on September 11, 2001. Some watched the television coverage in horror and disbelief. Little did we know of the wide-ranging impact that 9-11-01 would wreak on every aspect of our lives. To some that impact became evident quite soon. Within days of the terrorist attacks, certain Americans seeking to cross the Peace Bridge into Canada were denied entry because of past indiscretions that prior to 9-11 had been of no concern to the government of Canada. Whereas proof of citizenship was not required previously, today citizens of both the U.S. and Canada undergo far greater scrutiny when crossing the border. What used to be like an encounter with Andy of Mayberry, now seemed more like Checkpoint Charlie, and the feeling was unsettling to all.

A flier mailed to the membership read:

"The Canadian Members of Cherry Hill Club would like to express the deep sorrow they feel for their American friends and families, during these troubling times, and demonstrate their support in the struggle to keep the freedoms that we have fought side by side to achieve.

A 'Memorial Tree' will be planted to honour the victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. A brief dedication will take place on the day of the Annual Meeting, October 6th."

Members attended the ceremony near the 9th green where an inscribed granite plaque sits at the base of the "The Freedom Tree." While the rest of the world was in turmoil, Cherry Hill members gathered in solemnity, and in unity we proceeded to play from an undeserved "bad lie."



The effects on Cherry Hill in the aftermath of 9-11 have been like unseen termites that have incrementally eroded some of the pleasures and carefree aspect of membership. The negative impact of 9-11 has been felt economically, socially, and culturally, yet the Club perseveres.

The Global Pandemic

When last we left our Board Directors in February of 2020, they were heading down the hallway to the Old Bar at the Buffalo Club with a spring in their step, like the early members heading down the first fairway in the 1920's. Most of those men wouldn't even step foot on the first tee until August of 2021. By that time, Zoom meetings and face masks were commonplace. The atmosphere at Cherry Hill between those dates was as much like any wartime era the Club had ever seen, as the world faced the onslaught of the COVID-19



Flags flew over an empty course in May 2020.

pandemic. While the spirit of this centennial history book is celebratory, no account would be complete without addressing the significant impact of the global pandemic on Cherry Hill. When future historians look back on Cherry Hill history, they will likely characterize the COVID-19 pandemic of the 2020's as a watershed event for the Club.

The U.S.- Canadian land border was closed to non-essential traffic by mutual agreement of the two nations on March 21, 2020. Initially, the Board and the members viewed the closure as a temporary inconvenience that would be alleviated in time for the upcoming golf season. That sentiment shaped the actions of the Board and the members during the first few months of the pandemic. But as the border closure was extended repeatedly to the 21st of the following month, the hopes for a normal summer or even fall were dashed. As a result of the border closure, the membership was unwittingly divided into two categories of members – those with access to the Club and those without. The membership experience was severely curtailed for each of these two groups, but in vastly different ways.

Mark Talarico was Club President in 2020. Mark, the Board, and General Manager, Caroline Molen, faced

challenges and decisions that were unprecedented in the Club's history. Contingency budgets were prepared and updated monthly, based on the border re-opening, or staying closed. Like the rest of the world, the Board learned how to meet virtually, with Directors logging on from both sides of the border.

Members without access constituted close to two-thirds of the membership at that time. They dutifully continued to pay Club dues, in hopes that if the border were to open in June, or maybe July, the season would be salvageable. Those hopes proved to be futile. Cherry Hill reached out to numerous golf clubs in Western New York seeking “reciprocal” privileges for its non-access members, even though we could offer no reciprocity. Many clubs generously opened their course to Cherry Hill members with a variety of options for free rounds or reduced greens fees, in a spirit of good will that was collectively appreciated by Cherry Hill. Some members got a quick refresher course in the public golf experience, while still others took a hiatus from golf and pursued other recreational activities. Tee times, bicycles, and kayaks were in high demand and short supply as people sought an outlet from lockdowns and shutdowns that constrained everyone's options. For non-access members who

owned property in Canada, the frustration and inconvenience were compounded by the border closure. Cottages and summer homes sat dormant. While property taxes continued to become due, the governments on both sides of the border had no sympathy for those with compelling reasons to cross the border. Homeowners relied on the kindness of Canadian neighbors or contracted service providers to maintain properties. No one had ever experienced such calamity, and all the while, not just the Cherry Hill Board, but the whole world struggled to figure out the next right move.

Meanwhile, water continued to flow under the Peace Bridge, and grass continued to grow at Cherry Hill. Golf course maintenance was deemed essential by the Canadian government. Our new Golf Course Superintendent, Jeremy Krueger, operated with a skeleton crew on a ghost course, as the provincial government had closed all golf courses during the first months of the pandemic. Members had “access” to the Club in theory but were locked down in their homes. A majority of businesses and activities were shut down. A notice from Golf Canada issued on May 14, 2020, announced the easing of restrictions, but only incrementally:

“Premier Doug Ford has announced Ontario’s golf courses can open their tees to golfers starting Saturday, May 16.

During a much-anticipated press conference, Ford stated golf courses, among other select retailers and services, would be permitted to open in time for the Victoria Day long weekend, as key public health indicators continue to show progress.

Golf courses will be able to open, with clubhouses open only for washrooms and restaurants open only for take-out. Golfers must adhere to social distancing measures, such as staying at least two metres apart.”

The rules, regulations and restrictions endured by members with access to the Club were draconian and frustrating. The burden of maintaining compliance with all the restrictions fell on the Club’s management and staff, and the government was not shy about enforcement. One violation or one false step could result in closure of the Club. From the moment that a member arrived in the parking lot of the Club, virtually every aspect of the experience was dictated by governmental regulations. Golf clubs could not be

stored at the Club, and players were forced to become “trunk slammers.” Dining facilities were closed except for take-out. Only one player per cart was allowed. Members were asked to take their own trash items with them when they left for home. No locker room, no shoeshine, no touching the flag stick, no shower, no club cleaning, no lingering... no fun! Those with access were grateful for the opportunity to play golf, but the experience was without amenities and lacking Cherry Hill charm.

A major capital expenditure had been authorized in early 2020 by the Board to renovate the wet room area of the Men’s Locker Room as well as the restrooms adjacent to the Club foyer. Despite the uncertainty, the project proceeded while the virus continued to spread. As the pandemic landscape took shape, construction trades were allowed to work, but in a highly controlled manner. The number of workers allowed to operate in the space was limited, and other precautions were in place. The progress was slower than normal, but the lockdown of businesses allowed the deadline to be extended beyond the usual “beginning of the golf season.” The urgency of completing the women’s washroom by Mother’s Day fell by the wayside. The new facilities, completed by Sider Brothers Builders of Ridgeway, were a significant upgrade, but members were not able to enjoy them fully until government restrictions were eventually lifted.

Each month, the Golf Committee rescheduled events to later in the year, until it finally cancelled all of the standard sanctioned golf events. The members were resourceful and improvised unofficial member-guest days, member-member tournaments and the like. Because so much of the membership would be unable to participate, it was determined that holding a Club Championship would be inappropriate, and once again, “NO CONTEST” appeared on the boards in the Grill Room. Nevertheless, a championship-like event was held for the enjoyment of those able to participate.

Everyone supported the Club to the extent possible. Non-access members continued to pay dues throughout 2020. Members with access were called upon to support the Club, and the response was admirable, with the limited number of members spending on guest fees and pro shop merchandise. Because of curtailed hours and operational restrictions, food and beverage revenues were down.

In October of 2020, the Club held its first ever virtual Shareholders Meeting, as the border remained closed.

The saving grace, that allowed the Club to retain financial stability was the government wage subsidy, offered to nearly every type of business in Canada. Those dollars sustained us in 2020 despite the inability of over half our membership to patronize the Club. The wage subsidy also allowed us to navigate the uncertainties of 2021 and to keep the membership intact. Under the leadership of Rob Drake, our second “pandemic President,” the Club initiated a member loyalty program, whereby non-access members paid the equivalent of roughly one monthly dues installment to maintain membership, without further financial obligation so long as the border remained closed. The program was unique and very successful in retaining members, but it never would have been financially viable without the government wage subsidy, which totaled close to \$1 million for the two years that subsidies were offered before ending in 2021.

The Silver Lining

COVID-19 continued its grip on the world and its suppression of normal life at Cherry Hill as 2021 unfolded, but an unforeseen consequence of the pandemic had a dramatic impact on the Club. The popularity of golf in North America was skyrocketing. A December 26, 2020, article in “The Toronto Sun” reports:

“According to numbers released in December by Canada’s National Golf Course Owners Association, rounds played in 2020 was up 18.9% over the 2019 season. This is especially impressive considering rounds were down 25.9% at the end of May.”

The demand for tee times in Ontario far exceeded supply. Private clubs were forced to use a lottery system to assign tee times. Longtime members of clubs were unable to book a round, sometimes for weeks in advance. Prior to the pandemic, Cherry Hill was in a membership building mode. We had incentives in place to attract new members. After the pandemic hit, we were the only course on the Niagara Peninsula that wasn’t overcrowded. After all, the majority of our membership was unable to play. Thanks to the leadership of Bill Kerr and Garry West and other members of the Membership Committee, we were able to attract an unprecedented number of applicants who were invited to join on a one-year basis with incentives to commit to permanent membership thereafter. Word had gotten out that memberships were available at a championship caliber course, where the first tee is accessible without the need to reserve a tee time. Virtually every person who joined under the Exclusive Membership Opportunity program elected to remain as a member. The Club had never seen such a level of activity on the membership front. Every month, applicants were interviewed, sometimes as many as ten at a time, in virtual “Meet and Greet” sessions instead of meeting Directors around the bar in the Grill Room as is customary.



The first wave of cars seeking entry to Canada at midnight on August 9, 2021.

The two governments continued the monthly ritual of announcing the extension of the border closure. Members with access enjoyed ever expanding amenities and continued to play a superbly conditioned golf course. The frustration of members without access was tempered by the suspension of dues. Then seemingly without warning the Trudeau administration announced that as of August 9, 2021, U.S. citizens would be allowed to cross the land border provided they had proof of vaccination and a negative Covid-19 test. To those who availed themselves of the opportunity to once again play golf at Cherry Hill, the experience was nothing short of heavenly. Upon seeing the recent course renovations, longtime members exclaimed that the course had never been in such spectacular shape. Members and staff delighted in seeing one another after nearly two years, and friendships were resumed in person. The return to normalcy was nowhere near complete, yet for a few

months a process of healing took place at Cherry Hill. By the end of 2021, Cherry Hill once more had a waiting list for prospective members. And for the first time in its history, the ratio of American versus Canadian members was “at par.”

The Cloud Begins to Lift

The off-season between 2021 and 2022 was rife with turmoil, as strains of the pandemic drifted in and out unpredictably, causing fear and uncertainty. Although the U.S. – Canadian border was technically open to non-essential travel, COVID-19 testing requirements, and the possibility of government-imposed quarantines raised serious concerns among American members about the prospects of fully enjoying the Cherry Hill membership experience in 2022. Under the leadership of President, John Richmond, the Board again faced challenges unprecedented in the



Club's history, vying to preserve a disconcerted membership. Those concerns evaporated with the Canadian Government's announcement in March, that as of April 1, 2022, fully vaccinated travelers would be allowed to enter Canada without the requirement to present proof of a negative COVID-19 test result.



The golf course opened for play on April 14, 2022, and the first official tee shot of the Club's second century was struck with presumably better results than the previously chronicled attempts of Judge Coatsworth in 1924. The pins were in, flying flags bearing the Cherry Hill Centennial logo. The Pro Shop was stocked with centennial-branded merchandise. Work proceeded on a newly expanded patio in front of the Halfway House,

complete with a new gas fire pit, dubbed "The Cherry Pit" to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Cherry Hill Club. Plans for the yearlong centennial celebration were well underway. The membership welcomed the renewal of the golf course. We yearned for continuing governmental cooperation. And we prayed that the golf gods would shed grace upon Cherry Hill's second century, granting us the opportunity to play the game we love so well in such a wonderful setting.



Cherry Hill Club
1922 - 2022



“FROM THE BEGINNING, CHERRY HILL FUNCTIONED AS AN EXTENSION OF THE
COTTAGE LIFESTYLE ENJOYED BY SO MANY OF ITS MEMBERS.”





THE PEACE BRIDGE



As related in the early account of Cherry Hill, the act of crossing the Niagara River has played a central role in the Club's history. The founders and early members had to go to great lengths to travel to and fro between the United States and Canada when the only option was the car ferry between Buffalo and Fort Erie. With few exceptions, the early members were Buffalonians who owned summer residences on the northern Lake Erie shore. In the early part of the twentieth century, there was much talk of building a bridge for automobile traffic. One can easily imagine the sense of jubilation amongst the members of Cherry Hill when the bridge was finally opened to automobile traffic.



Peace Bridge under construction.



The Prince of Wales (future King Edward VIII) speaks at Peace Bridge dedication, 1927.

According to Wikipedia:

“The building of the Peace Bridge was approved by the International Joint Commission on August 6, 1925. Edward Lupfer served as chief engineer. A major obstacle to building the bridge was the swift river current, which averages 7.5 to 12 miles per hour (12.1 to 19.3 km/h). Construction began in 1925 and was completed in the spring of 1927. On March 13, 1927, Lupfer drove the first car across the bridge. On June 1, 1927, the bridge was opened to the public.

The official opening ceremony was held two months later, on August 7, 1927, with about 100,000 in attendance. The festivities were transmitted to the public via radio in the

first international coast-to-coast broadcast. Newspapers at the time estimated that as many as 50 million listeners may have heard the broadcast.

The dignitaries who took part in the dedication ceremonies included The Prince of Wales (the future Edward VIII), Prince George, Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, British Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin, U.S. Vice President Charles Dawes, Secretary of State Frank Kellogg, New York Governor Al Smith, and Ontario Premier Howard Ferguson.

When the bridge opened, Buffalo and Fort Erie each became the chief port of entry to their respective countries from the other.” (Source: Wikipedia April 2022)



U.S. plaza at the Peace Bridge, 1936.

The name chosen, the “Peace Bridge,” had important symbolic and political significance, as evidenced by the high-level dignitaries, the 100,000 who attended in person, and the 50 million international radio listeners. At the time, the name commemorated over 100 years of peace between the two nations since the Treaty of Ghent was ratified in 1815. Today, the Peace



Bridge remains a symbol of more than two centuries of harmony along the longest international border in the world between two countries. In a very real sense, the Peace Bridge is emblematic of the culture at Cherry

Hill, which is truly unique due to the bi-national nature of our membership.

Our Home Away From Home

Without the Peace Bridge, neither the Lake Erie waterfront communities nor Cherry Hill would have developed as they did. Cherry Hill has always been characterized by a casual, relaxed atmosphere. The easygoing ambiance at Cherry Hill evolved by virtue of the fact that, from the beginning, Cherry Hill functioned as an extension of the cottage lifestyle enjoyed by so many of its members. Today, that same casual atmosphere continues to permeate the Cherry Hill experience even though the percentage of cottage owners has declined. One can feel the pressure drop just a little as one turns onto Cherry Hill Boulevard.

Plans for 2022 envision a year-long centennial celebration on the social and golf calendars. Longtime members and those new to the Cherry Hill family will celebrate the Club’s rich heritage. As we mark 100 years since the founding of Cherry Hill Club, Ltd. the course has never been in finer condition, and the bi-national makeup of our membership has never been more complete - - a fitting embodiment of the symbol that connects us, the Peace Bridge.



This chronicle has focused in large part on issues relating to the course, the Clubhouse, finances, and matters of the Board of Directors. Yet the tapestry that is Cherry Hill is woven from the common thread of the game out on the golf course, one stitch, one shot at a time. It is a beautiful, wondrous tapestry seen in its entirety only by the golf gods. The overall pattern is comprised of the personal golf experiences of individual members as they play, among friends, in competition, or in solitude and silence. Play the course as you find it and play the ball as it lies... and keep weaving the Cherry Hill tapestry, one shot at a time.



Cherry Hill Club
1922 - 2022







The Cherry Hill Club, Ltd.

1922-1997

The Cherry Hill Club, Ltd.

1922-1997



**Ridgeway, Ontario
Canada**

Author's Note

It is with a certain wariness that one undertakes a project such as this. Any attempt to record the history of a private club, for dissemination among its members, carries with it the possibility of disappointing, if not offending, any number of people. There may be those who feel that an important event, or a favorite anecdote, has not been addressed, with the result that the chronicle is either misleading, or inaccurate, or incomplete. On the other hand, there may be those who feel that so much detail has been included that the forest has been lost for the trees.

My intent was to make this book both informative and entertaining. To the extent that I failed, I offer my apologies to both camps.

Needless to say, a great many people contributed to the end product. First and foremost was the late Austin M. Fox who did the research and provided the background information necessary for the writing of the biographies of the Founders. Among those persons who assisted Austin were Joseph H. Morey, Jr., Maria Bissell, Connie Constantine, Ellie Heckman, Jamie May, Dottie Dann, and Roland Hayes. Each is, in one way or another, related to one of the Founders.

My thanks to Charlie Behm Jr., his niece, Mary Ellen Winger, John Plyley, Tony Evershed, Jeff Roy, Cecil Hoekstra, and David Greaves all of whom provided me with invaluable historical data. I would be remiss if I did not express my appreciation to Brenda Washburn for tolerating me in her office for the better part of a year and to Jane Turley, our resident computer expert who put this work together for the printer.

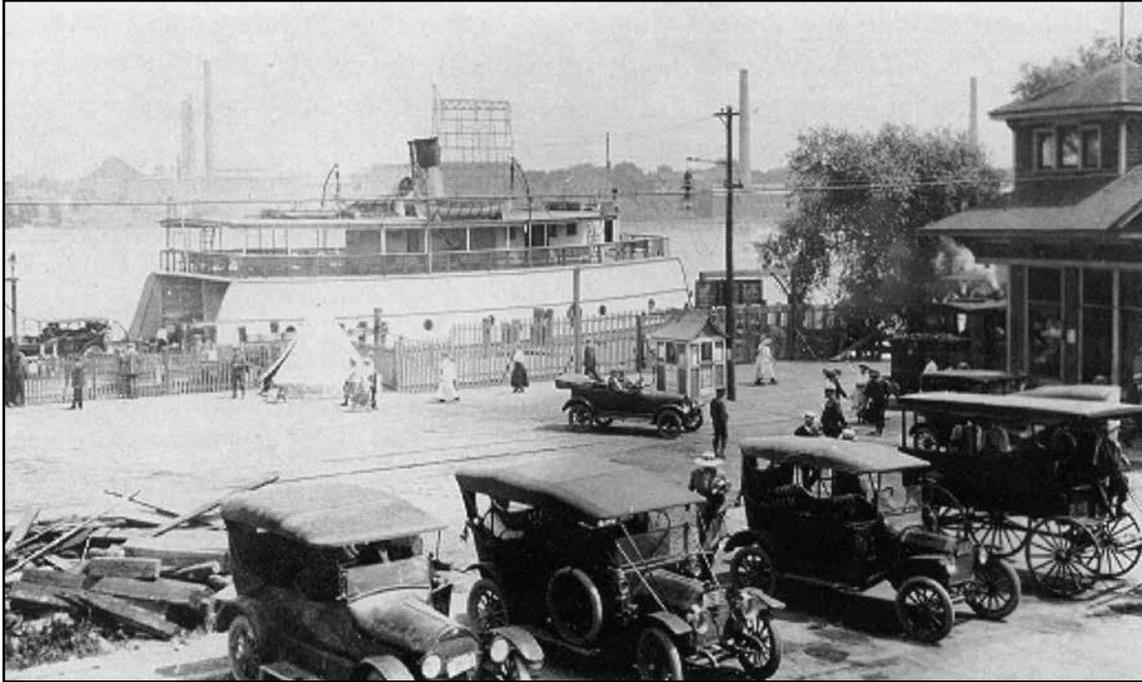
Although he had little choice, I wish to recognize the contributions of Michael Reynolds who was responsible for the development of the 75th Anniversary Logo, and who was our consultant in the layout of the book.

Finally, my thanks to those members and friends of Cherry Hill who came up with documents, photographs, heroic tales, outrageous lies and other reminiscences, all of which made the job easier.

In the text, there are several references to Minutes of Board Meetings. While some have been slightly edited for clarification and syntax, the content and substance remain unchanged.

William S. Reynolds

Ridgeway, Ontario
April 1997



After 1900, the Canadian landing for all ferries, including the well-known Newtown, was the Bertie Street dock.

Prologue

A number of men, possibly as many as nine, were sitting on the porch of a summer residence on the Canadian lakeshore. All were Americans, all lived in the Buffalo area, and all were eminently successful in their businesses or professions. All, save possibly one, owned Canadian lakeshore property. Most were avid golfers, and those who were not had family members who were devoted to the game.

During a lull in the conversation one of them, looking out over the waters of Lake Erie, said softly: "I don't know what I am going to do. I either have to give up golf, or sell my Canadian property, or divorce my wife."

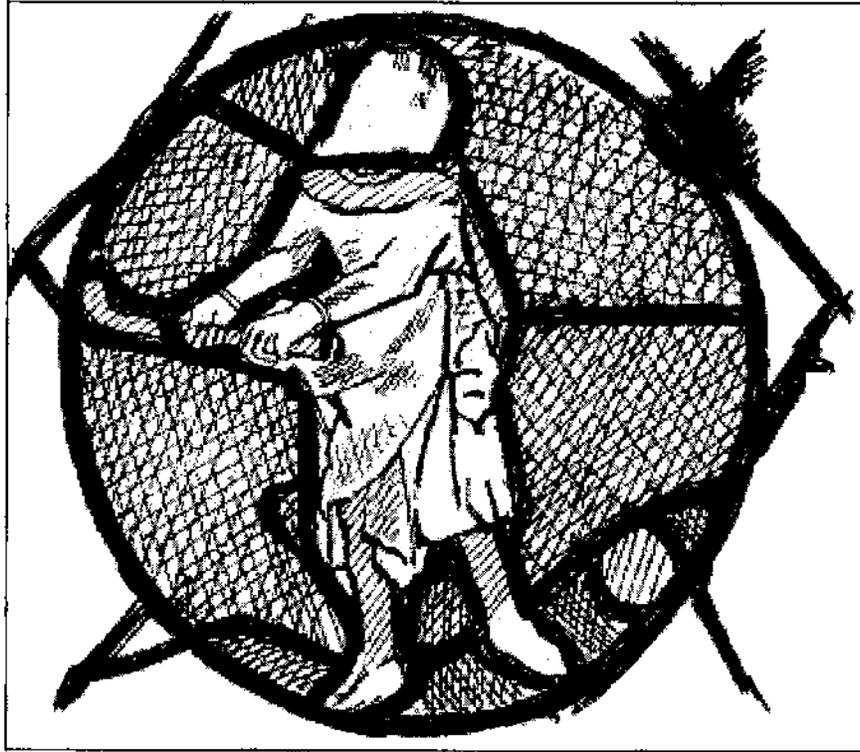
The flurry of conversation which followed indicated that nearly all of those present had been contemplating the same three unpleasant options.

The problem was simple. A day of golf began with leaving the lakeshore in an automobile, unreliable by modern standards, and driving to the Fort Erie ferry dock over roads which would be less than acceptable today.

There was then the wait for the ferry and the crossing of the Niagara River to the foot of Ferry Street in Buffalo. The journey continued to the player's club in Buffalo for the anticipated round of golf. Golf would be followed by some locker room banter, a sip of a bootlegged product, a shower, and a change of clothes. The route was then retraced, with our player arriving home, after an absence of some 9-10 hours, to be greeted by an angry wife and an over-cooked dinner.

After a moment, one of the them said: "Why don't we build a course over here?"

A fanciful tale? Perhaps - but no one can prove that it didn't happen that way. Then again, maybe they were just fed up with Prohibition, which was in effect in the United States from 1920 to 1933, but never in Canada.



Sketch of the stained-glass roundel from the Battle of Crecy window in Gloucester Cathedral c.1350.

An Historical Perspective

Although the Dutch have some supporters, it is generally conceded that the Scots are responsible for the development of the game of golf. Precisely when golf first appeared cannot be accurately determined, but there is a stained-glass roundel from the Battle of Crecy window in Gloucester Cathedral (c.1350) which depicts a man with a club, curved at one end, either half-way up or half-way down in his swing.

By the fifteenth century the game had become so popular that in 1457 King James II and the Scottish Parliament became alarmed that the archers who were the defenders of the small kingdom were ignoring their archery practice. They therefore decreed that "...the Futeball and Golfe be utterly cryit doune, and nocht usit." This did not deter the golfers however, who continued to play despite repression from the Church as well as Parliament. The day was saved in the sixteenth century by James VI of Scotland, later to be James I of England. James was badly bitten by the golf bug and shortly after ascending the throne decreed that golf would be allowed and that golfers could even play on Sunday provided they had first attended church. The first golf club in Scotland was established in 1744 by the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers at Leith Links in the City of Edinburgh. St. Andrews was founded ten years later.

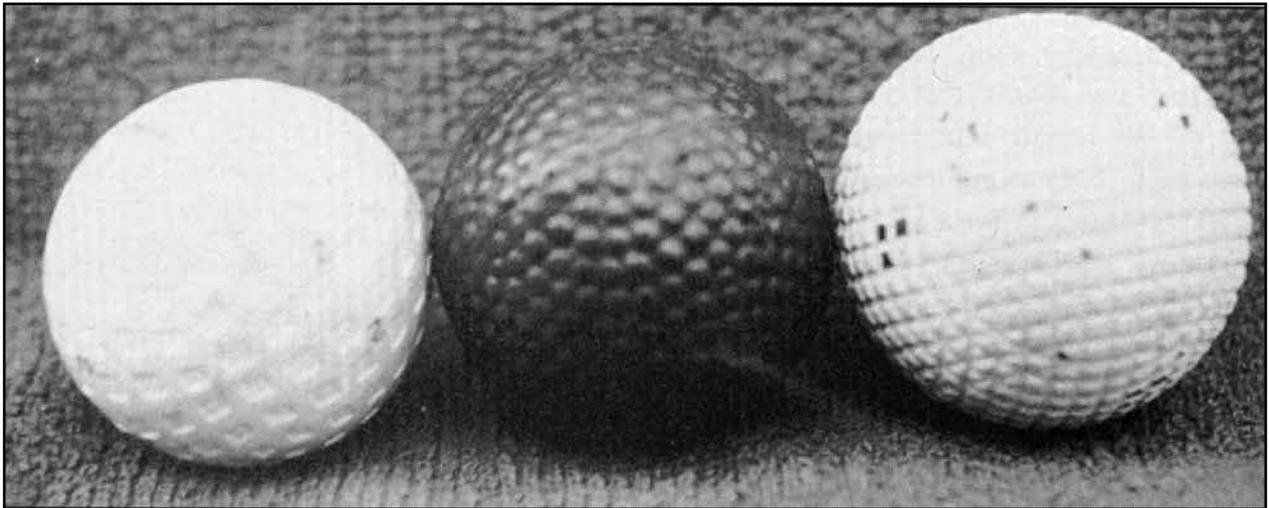
In the late nineteenth century by reason of the emigration of native golf professionals and architects the Scots exported the game to North America. The first club on the continent was Royal Montreal Golf Club, founded in 1873. This was followed by Royal Quebec Golf Club in 1875; Brantford Golf Club in 1880; Toronto Golf in 1881;



Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1881; and Kingston Golf Club in 1886. Niagara-on-the-Lake is the oldest golf club in continuous use in North America. The first golf club in the United States was not established until February 22, 1888 in Yonkers, New York. It consisted of three holes.

In 1895 the Royal Canadian Golf Association was formed and the first Canadian Amateur Championship was played. The winner was Tom M. Harley. In 1904 the first Canadian Open was won by John H. Oke. His prize was \$60.00.

It is estimated that by 1919 there were about 115 golf clubs in Canada. This is the story of yet another one.



Golf Balls: (left to right) Dunlop Maxfli c.1922; Rubber-cored Springvale Hawk c. 1907; Cestrian gutty, c. 1900

The Beginning

Although it is apparent that a great deal of preliminary work had been done, the first formal record of the activities of the Founders is the Memorandum of Agreement and Stock-Book which appears as Figure 1.

By the terms of this instrument dated November 9, 1922 they agreed to seek authority from the Province of Ontario to incorporate the Cherry Hill Club Limited with a capital of \$100,000. There were to be 1000 shares with a par value of \$100.00. Each man agreed to take 10 shares to form the initial capitalization of the Club. The witness, Mr. Harries, was not a Founder but would become an important figure in the future of the Club. Following the submission of a petition to the Province, Letters Patent were issued on December 28, 1922. This document appears as Figure 2.

On February 6, 1923, at the Iroquois Hotel in Buffalo, an organizational meeting was held. Excerpts of the minutes of that meeting appear as Figure 3. You will note that there were forty-eight original members and stockholders, including the nine Founders. Each had subscribed to purchase stock. It was reported that the Barnhardt and Laur farms had been purchased. The Barnhardt farm property, known as Cherry Hill Farm, was adjacent to, and east of, Cherry Hill Boulevard. The Laur property was east of that, the red brick house now used as the Club Office being the Laur farm house. Those properties had been purchased in the names of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bissell and were later deeded to the Club. With the subscription list as security, the People's Bank of Buffalo had loaned the Founders \$14,000. The Laur farm had been purchased for \$8,000 in cash and the Barnhardt property for \$11,000 - \$5,500 in cash and \$5,500 by purchase money mortgage held by the Barnhardt Estate.

It was also reported that Walter J. Travis had been retained, for a fee of \$3,000, to design the golf course. William E. Harries' firm, Harries and Hall, had already started to clear the land.

The nine Founders were elected directors, and the Constitution and By-Laws were adopted by the stockholders at that meeting. Among other things the Constitution, Article II, §2 provided that "women will be eligible for membership". Article VII, §2 of the By-Laws provided that no alcoholic beverages could be brought to the premises under penalty of "expulsion and forfeiture of stock".

Immediately following the organizational meeting the newly elected directors held their first meeting. The following officers were elected:

President	Mr. Coatsworth
First Vice-President.....	Mr. May
Second Vice-President	Dr. Fairbairn
Secretary	Mr. Morey
Treasurer	Mr. Bissell

The date for regular Board meetings was fixed as the first Monday of each month. In the ensuing months, while the clubhouse was being built, the meetings would be held at various locations, including the Statler Hotel, the Hotel Iroquois, and in Mr. Coatsworth's office in the Western Savings Bank.

CHERRY HILL CLUB, LIMITED.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AND STOCK-BOOK

We the undersigned do hereby severally covenant and agree each with the others to become incorporated as a company under the provisions of The Ontario Companies Act under the name of

CHERRY HILL CLUB, LIMITED.

or such other name as the Lieutenant-Governor may give to the Company, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, divided into one thousand shares of one hundred dollars each.

And we do hereby severally subscribe for and agree to take the respective amounts of the capital stock of the said Company set opposite our respective names as hereunder and hereafter written, and to become shareholders in such Company to the said amounts.

Witness our hands and seals.

Name of Sub- scriber.	Seal	Amount of Subscription.	Date and Place of Subscription		Residence of Subscriber	Name of Witness
			Date 1922	Place		
Howard Bissell	Seal	\$1,000.	Nov.9th	Buffalo N.Y.	Buffalo, N.Y.	Wm. E. Harries
Henry May	Seal	\$1,000.	Nov.9th	Buffalo N.Y.	Buffalo, N.Y.	Wm. E. Harries
Jesse Chase Dann,	Seal	\$1,000.	Nov.9th	Buffalo N.Y.	Buffalo, N.Y.	Wm. E. Harries
Walter Fleming Stafford	Seal	\$1,000.	Nov.9th	Buffalo N.Y.	Buffalo, N.Y.	Wm. E. Harries
Joseph Harrison Morey	Seal	\$1,000.	Nov.9th	Buffalo N.Y.	Buffalo, N.Y.	Wm. E. Harries
John FitzGerald Fairbairn	Seal	\$1,000.	Nov.9th	Buffalo N.Y.	Buffalo, N.Y.	Wm. E. Harries
Roland Lord O'Brian	Seal	\$1,000.	Nov.9th	Buffalo N.Y.	Buffalo, N.Y.	Wm. E. Harries
Edward Emerson Coatsworth	Seal	\$1,000.	Nov.9th	Buffalo N.Y.	Buffalo, N.Y.	Wm. E. Harries
Walton Ollis King	Seal	\$1,000.	Nov.9th	Buffalo N.Y.	Buffalo, N.Y.	Wm. E. Harries

Fig.1 Memorandum of Agreement Among the Nine Founders and Stock Book November 9, 1922.

A N D W H E R E A S, it has been made to appear that the said persons have complied with the conditions precedent to the grant of the desired Letters Patent and that the said undertaking is within the scope of the said Act,

N O W T H E R E F O R E K N O W Y E that I
H A R R Y C O R W I N N I X O N,
Provincial Secretary,

under the authority of the hereinbefore in part recited Act

D O B Y T H E S E L E T T E R S P A T E N T H E R E B Y C O N S T I T U T E

the Persons hereinafter named that is to say

Howard Bissell and Jesse Chase Dann,
Bankers; Henry May, Capitalist; Walter Fleming
Stafford and Roland Lord O'Brien,
Brokers; Joseph Harrison Morey and
Edward Emerson Coatsworth, Attorneys;
John Fitzgerald Fairbairn, Physician; and
Walton Olive King, Manufacturer; all of the City of
Buffalo, in the State of New York, One of the United States of
America; and any others who have become subscribers to the Memo-
randum of Agreement of the Company, and persons who hereafter
become shareholders therein, a Corporation under the name of

C h e r r y H i l l C l u b, L i m i t e d

for the following purposes and objects, that is to say:

Fig. 2 Letters Patent (page 1)
December 28, 1922.



TO establish a country club for the encouragement of golf, tennis, bowling and other sports, and for the maintenance of a country place for social meeting and purposes of amusement, and to carry on any other business which may seem to the Company capable of being conveniently carried on in connection with its business, or calculated directly or indirectly to enhance the value of or render profitable any of the Company's property or rights;

THE CAPITAL of the Company to be One Hundred Thousand dollars divided into One Thousand shares of One Hundred dollars each;

THE HEAD OFFICE of the Company to be situate in the Township of Bertie, in the County of Welland and Province of Ontario; and

THE PROVISIONAL DIRECTORS of the Company to be Howard Bissell, Henry May, Jesse Chase Dann, Walter Fleming Stafford, Joseph Harrison Morey, John Fitzgerald Fairbairn, Roland Lord O'Brian, Edward Emerson Coatsworth and Walton Olie King, hereinbefore mentioned;

AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED AND DECLARED that the Company may hold meetings of its shareholders, directors or executive committees (if any) outside of the Province of Ontario.

G I V E N under my hand and Seal of office at the City of Toronto, in the said Province of Ontario this twenty-eighth day of December in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-two.

H. C. Nixon (SEAL)
Provincial Secretary

Fig. 2a Letters Patent (page 2)
December 28, 1922.

Minutes of the meeting of the members and stockholders of the CHERRY HILL CLUB, LIMITED, held at Parlors G. and H., Iroquois Hotel, on Tuesday, February 6th, ¹⁹²³ at 8 P.M., pursuant to written notice of such meeting duly called by the provisional directors of said Club, and mailed to each of the members ten days prior to the meeting.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Lars S. Potter, and seconded by Mr. Jesse C. Dann, Mr. Edward E. Coatsworth was elected chairman of the meeting.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Charles Diebold, Jr., and seconded by Mr. George S. Staniland, Mr. Walter F. Stafford was elected secretary of the meeting.

The notice of the meeting was read, and was ordered inserted in the minutes, and is as follows:

"TO THE MEMBERS OF CHERRY HILL CLUB, LIMITED:

"Our charter has been granted, we own the
"Barnhart and Lear Farms, comprising about two hundred
"acres in the Township of Bertie, Ontario, Our Golf Links
"have been planned and laid out by that eminent golf course
"architect, Mr. Walter J. Travis, of Garden City, L.I., and
"work on the grounds has commenced.

"THEREFORE:

"A meeting of the members will be held at Parlors
"G. and H., Iroquois Hotel, Buffalo, New York, on February
"6, 1923, at 8 o'clock P.M., for the purpose of adopting a
"Constitution and By-Laws, electing Directors and transact-
"ing such other business as may properly come before the
"meeting.

"Howard Bissell

"Henry May

"Roland Lord O'Brien

"John F. Fairbairn

Jesse C. Dann

Walter F. Stafford

Joseph H. Morey

Walton O. King

Fig. 3 Minutes of First Meeting (page 1)
February 6, 1923.

"Edward E. Coatsworth,
Provisional Directors.
"Buffalo, N.Y., January 27, 1923."

Upon a call of the roll of membership, the following
members were present:

Harold B. Alderman,	Charles H. Hyde,
James R. Barnett,	Fred R. Hopkins,
Howard Bissell,	George C. Hall,
Leonard R. Bissell,	James A. Johnson,
Charles A. Booth,	Joseph Kam,
Edward E. Coatsworth,	P. J. Kelly,
Caleb J. Coatsworth,	Walton O. King,
Fred B. Cooley,	William P. Morgan,
Harry L. Chisholm,	Hugh McLean,
James L. Crate,	Edmund D. McCarthy,
George A. Critchlow,	Joseph H. Morey,
Frederick W. Danforth,	Roland Lord O'Brien,
William R. Daniels,	Lara S. Potter,
Jesse C. Dann,	Howard C. Rice,
James H. Dyett,	Alfred H. Sharpe,
Charles Diebold, Jr.,	Edward H. Scheu,
Lucius L. Erb,	Walter F. Stafford,
John F. Fairbairn,	George S. Staniland,
Thomas S. A. Fairbairn,	James D. Warren,
William H. Gorman,	A. E. Wright,
Homer B. Gray,	Henry W. Wendt,
Frank H. S. Hervey,	Fred G. Weber,
William E. Harrie,	W. H. Walker, Jr.,
Paul H. Hyde,	Henry A. Zink.

The Chairman presented to the meeting the Letters
Patent under the Ontario Companies Act incorporating Cherry Hill
Club, Limited, bearing date December 28, 1922.

Upon motion of Mr. Charles Diebold, Jr., seconded by Mr.
Howard Bissell, the said Letters Patent were duly accepted and
adopted as the Charter of this Club.

Fig. 3a Minutes of First Meeting (page 2)
February 6, 1923.



Edward Emerson Coatsworth
c. 1935.

The Founders

EDWARD E. COATSWORTH, a Founder and first president of Cherry Hill (for two terms), was a prominent Buffalo attorney and a pioneer summer resident of Bay Beach from the early 1890s.

Born in 1866 and a graduate of the former Central High School on Niagara Square and Court Street, Coatsworth studied law in the well-known firm of Tabor and Sheehan. Sheehan later became Lieutenant Governor of New York State.

During his long legal career Coatsworth was an outstanding member of various downtown firms. In his later years he was the senior member of the prominent Coatsworth and Diebold office, and attorney and trustee for the Western Savings Bank, later absorbed by GoldDome, and then taken over by the M & T Bank, and Key Bank.

In the 1890s Coatsworth served as Chairman of the Erie County Democratic Committee and as a delegate to National Democratic Conventions. Shortly after the turn of the century he was elected Erie County District Attorney, and in 1916 named to the first Buffalo Board of Education.

Beside having been elected Commodore of the Buffalo Canoe Club on two separate occasions, he was a charter member of the Buffalo Athletic Club. He also belonged to the Buffalo Club and the Buffalo Yacht Club. He died in 1943, at age 77.

In forming the Cherry Hill Club, Coatsworth was less interested in golf than he was in helping to develop this Canadian area he loved. According to his son-in-law Alex Osborn, an avid golfer and co-founder of the nationally known advertising agency, Batten, Barton, Durstine and Osborn, Coatsworth was not what might be called a natural golfer. Osborn recalled that when the course opened, it was determined that the President should strike the first

ball. Coatsworth appeared in a brand new Norfolk jacket (with the belt that buttoned in the front), brand new knickers that buckled at the knee, and a pair of long woolen stockings. He was carrying a new set of seven clubs.

In Osborn's words: " 'The Judge' (as Coatsworth was called) whiffed in his first three attempts to drive the ball off the first tee. So he gave his clubs away but kept the Norfolk jacket and knickers. For many years he kept this outfit for indulging in his favorite sport - digging weeds out of his spacious lawn at Bay Beach."

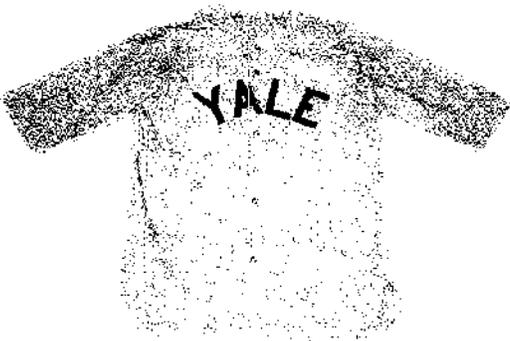


*Howard Bissell
c. 1925.*

HOWARD BISSELL graduated from Yale University in 1900 and joined the Peoples Bank in Buffalo as a messenger boy. At the time of the founding of Cherry Hill he was president of that bank as well as president of the New York State Bankers' Association. It is probably no coincidence that Peoples Bank loaned the initial \$14,000 used to purchase the land for the club.

When the Peoples Bank merged with M & T Bank in 1927, Bissell became chairman of M & T. He resigned that position in 1933 but was later induced to become president of the Niagara National Bank. He died in 1937 at age 59.

Bissell was a relative of Buffalo's Wilson Bissell, who was a close friend and law partner of Grover Cleveland, and who was Postmaster General in Cleveland's first cabinet. Bissell was a member of the Park Country Club as well as Cherry Hill. He was an early opponent of Prohibition and as a delegate to the Democratic Party convention in 1928, strongly advocated the candidacy of Al Smith, the nominee who was running on the "wet" ticket. This may give some support to the "fed up with Prohibition" theory as to the thinking behind the founding of Cherry Hill.



Jesse Dann's College Baseball Jersey.

JESSE C. DANN graduated from Yale University in 1888. He was an outstanding athlete in his college years and was the catcher on the varsity baseball team. As such he was on the receiving end of Amos Alonzo Stagg's pitches. Known as Stagg and Dann they were one of the most noted batteries in collegiate baseball. It was said that Jesse was the only man who could handle Stagg's formidable deliveries.

By 1922 Jesse was a well-known investment banker who founded J. C. Dann & Co., a brokerage firm in downtown Buffalo.

As well as being a Founder of Cherry Hill, he was a member of the Buffalo Athletic Club, the Country Club of Buffalo (past president) and the Saturn Club (former dean).

In 1900 the Dann family built one of the first houses in Lorraine Bay. His eldest grandson, Alexander H. "Sandy" Dann, remembers his grandfather practicing his golf swing at Lorraine with a rock tied to his golf ball with a piece of string so the ball would not go too far when he hit it. Today his descendants include 5 grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, and many more great-great grandchildren, several of whom live in the area and enjoy the game of golf.

JOSEPH H. MOREY, SR. was born in Buffalo in 1877. He graduated from Yale University Phi Beta Kappa in 1899. Thereafter he studied law in his father's office for two years and was admitted to the bar in 1901, which marked the start of a distinguished legal career.

He was active for many years in the Local Council of the Boy Scouts, serving as its president on two occasions. He was an outstanding layman of the Episcopal Church and in 1952 Rt. Rev. Lauriston L. Scaife, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York, conferred upon him the Bishop's Cross in recognition of his many years of devoted service. At various times he served as a trustee of Nichols School, Park School, and Deveaux School in Niagara Falls.

Mr. Morey was a member of the University Club, the Buffalo Club, Saturn Club, Elihu Club, and the Mid-Day Club. He died in 1959 at age 82.

The family home at Rose Hill is now occupied by his son, Joseph H. Morey, Jr., himself a distinguished lawyer.

HENRY MAY was born in Tetrow, Germany, in 1861. At the age of 7 he came to Buffalo with his widowed mother. When he was 12 years old he became an errand boy with the firm of Heintz, Pierce & Munschauer, manufacturers of tinware, bird cages, bathtubs, water filters and washing machines. He became a naturalized citizen in 1881. In 1887 George N. Pierce withdrew from that firm and founded George N. Pierce & Co., with May as his partner. The two partners began by manufacturing children's tricycles and bicycles but in 1901 they produced their first automobile, a 2 3/4 horsepower motorette. The firm was at that time re-named the Pierce-Arrow Motor Corporation. The touring car they introduced in 1903 was named the Arrow, a name derived from the days when bicycles constituted the chief product and the symbol of the firm was an arrow piercing the letter "P". The Pierce-



*Joseph H. Morey, Sr.
c. 1926.*

Arrow would become one of the foremost pleasure cars of its day. The company later became a pioneer in the manufacture of worm-driven motor trucks which played an important role on the Western Front of World War I.

Mr. May retired in 1918. Following his retirement he became interested in golf and fishing. He was a member of the Country Club of Buffalo and the Laurentian Fishing Club. He died in 1944 at age 83.

ROLAND LORD O'BRIAN attended Harvard College for two years and then graduated from the University of Buffalo and its Law School. He practiced law for a short period of time and then began a lengthy and successful career as a stockbroker in Buffalo. His firm of O'Brian, Potter and Stafford was the lead underwriter for the Peace Bridge project. The Stafford in the firm was Walter F. Stafford, also a Founder.

Having spent his summers on the Canadian lakeshore as a child in the 1880s, he became interested in beachfront property and at one time owned parts of Bertie Bay, Windmill Point, and Thunder Bay. The O'Brian home is located on Stonemill Road. His grandson, Roland L. W. Hayes, recalls, as a youngster, playing with his grandfather's golf clubs on the beach, much to the consternation of the other summer residents.

Mr. O'Brian was a member of the North Shore Yacht Club, the Buffalo Club and the Mid-Day Club.



John Fitzgerald Fairbairn.

JOHN FITZGERALD FAIRBAIRN was born in 1880 and spent his summers as a youth at Port Maitland. He graduated from Cornell University in 1902 and from the University of Buffalo Medical School in 1904. He did extensive post-graduate work in his field of otolaryngology in Germany, Austria, and England. During World War I he served as a Major in the Army Medical Corps in France. Following the war he resumed private practice in Buffalo and in 1919 he was named full professor in otolaryngology at the University of Buffalo. In 1936 he became head of that department. He was Chief of Otolaryngology at Buffalo General and Children's Hospital and was on the consulting staff of Mercy and Millard Fillmore Hospitals. He was known as a gifted diagnostician and a skilled surgeon.

Dr. and Mrs. Fairbairn built two houses on Point Abino, the second in about 1919. It was a gracious home enhanced by beautiful gardens. Dr. Fairbairn was a member of the Buffalo Canoe Club, Buffalo Club, University Club,

Saturn Club and Pytonga Fish and Game Club.

In addition to his other efforts on behalf of a fledgling Cherry Hill, Dr. Fairbairn was instrumental in bringing Frank and George Murchie from Troon, Scotland to serve as Golf Professionals.

He was always a benefactor to needy medical students and to patients who could not afford to pay for his services. He died in 1961 at age 81.

WALTER FLEMING STAFFORD was born in July of 1881. Shortly after his birth, his grandfather, Isaac Holloway, bought Point Abino and established the Point Abino Sand Company. Some of that sand would later find its way to the bunkers at Cherry Hill. Mr. Stafford's parents and grandparents were instrumental in the settling of the Point Abino community and he would eventually build his own house on the western shore.

His talents and interests were multi-faceted. His business ventures included a partnership in the brokerage firm of O'Brian, Potter, and Stafford. He was a principal in Iroquois Shore and Walter F. Stafford & Co., and later was associated with J. H. Williams. He had interests in gold mines in the Red Lake region and experimented in simplifying the method for refining gold ore. He invented automobile back-up lights which were probably first installed on Henry May's Pierce-Arrows. He was a director of the Western New York Water Company and with a fascination for flying, once owned an airline which flew between Detroit and Buffalo and Bermuda and Buffalo. He was present for the United States' first moon shot at Cocoa Beach.

He was always closely involved with the Holloway Memorial Chapel which had been built on Point Abino by his parents, James B. Stafford and Harriette Stafford, in memory of the latter's parents, Isaac and Mary Ann Holloway.

Although his health failed in the latter part of his life he never lost his enthusiasm and often spoke of the creation of a golf club in the area. He recalled finding the farm land upon which Cherry Hill would be built, securing options to purchase it, and walking the property with the man who would build it, William E. Harries. Mr. Stafford died in 1973 at age 92.

WALTON O. KING - Very little information is available about Walton O. King, the ninth founding member of the Cherry Hill Club. Long-time summer residents of the area

know nothing about him, nor do veteran members of the club. The local Canadian libraries have no record of him either. The lack of an obituary of King in the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society suggests that he did not die in the Buffalo area.

King does, however, appear in the Buffalo City Directory of 1923, and each year thereafter until 1927, after which he drops from sight.

The first King entry lists him as living at 1093 Delaware (about opposite Highland Avenue) and being president and general manager of the English Woolen Mills, Manufacturing Tailors, 79-81 Ellicott Street and 521 Main Street.

By 1924 the Directory shows King had merged with the Buffalo Clothing Manufacturers at 535 Marine Trust Building and he is listed as secretary.

In the last entry, 1927, King was living at 728 Linwood and was once again president of English Woolen Mills.

Architects and Builders

WALTER J. TRAVIS was born in the State of Victoria, Australia, in 1862 and came to the United States while still a young man. He first played golf in the fall of 1896 when he was 35 years old.

In his second full year of golf he reached the semi-finals of the United States Amateur Championship. In 1900, his fourth year of golf, he won the U. S. Amateur. He won it again in 1901 and 1903. In 1902 he was runner-up in the U.S. Open.

In 1904 he won the British Amateur Championship, being the first American to do so. However, his visit to the British Isles could not be termed a triumph in Anglo-American relations. He and his friends were not allowed to stay in the quarters usually reserved for guests of the club, Royal St. George's, and Travis considered this to be an insult. The British, for their part, felt Travis to be rude and impolite for refusing their invitations to mingle with them socially. The American felt he was purposely assigned a cross-eyed caddy whom he believed to be "a congenital idiot". As he marched through match play to the Championship, he repeatedly asked the Committee to assign him the caddy of the man he had just defeated. His requests fell on deaf ears.

Lord Northbourne, whose family had lived for centuries in a castle near the course, made the remarks for the hosts at the closing ceremonies. After extolling past glories of British golf, he briefly congratulated the American and expressed the solemn hope that such a disaster would never again befall Great Britain.

Some time later, the Royal and Ancient barred the use of the so-called Schenectady putter used to such advantage by Travis in the tournament. The club was unique at the time but was nothing other than a center-shafted



Walter J. Travis.

putter so common in the game today. Bob Jones credits Travis with being the first to use the reverse overlap putting grip.

As his competitive life waned, Travis turned to other golfing interests. He founded and edited The American Golfer and was the author of Practical Golf and The Art of Putting. And, of course, he designed golf courses.

He was responsible for courses in eight states in America including Sea Island in Georgia and Westchester in Rye, New York. Locally, in addition to Cherry Hill, he designed Lookout Point and Orchard Park. He also remodeled the Park County Club.

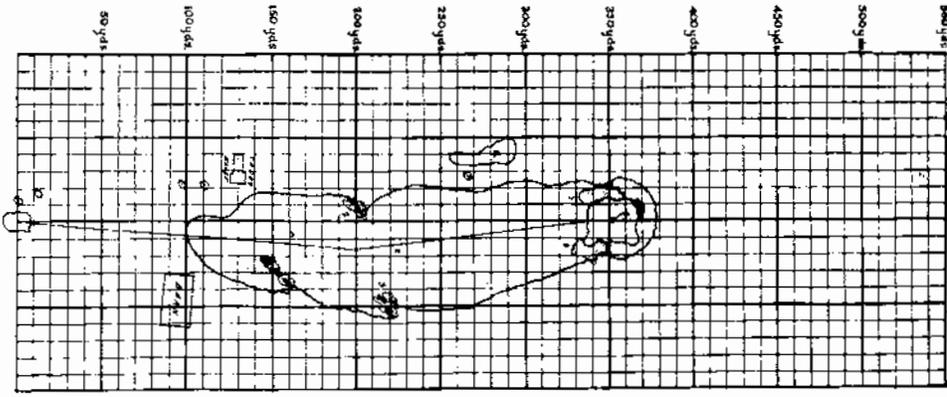
Although a thoroughly sound golf course architect, Travis is not thought to have been an innovator. Rightly or wrongly, he has been placed closer to the penal rather than the strategic school of design. The penal school demanded long carries over hazards combined with rough, punishing the unwary as well as the unworthy. "A shot poorly played should be a shot lost forever." The strategic school, on the other hand, allowed the golfer to play a longer but safer route at some sacrifice but without suffering an undue penalty.

A review of Travis' original drawings, which appear as Figure 4, reveals some evidence of penal design. There are several instances of the use of cross-bunkering in conjunction with mounds which were called "chocolate drops". The cross-bunkers required long carries and the chocolate drops in addition to being obstructions in the middle of the fairway, were akin to upside-down pot bunkers requiring the player to get the ball up quickly with resulting loss of distance.

You will note that the two nines were designed to be played in the reverse order that we now play them. According to club records the nines were reversed to "accomodate the location of the clubhouse". They appear in the order in which we play them today, as Figure 4.

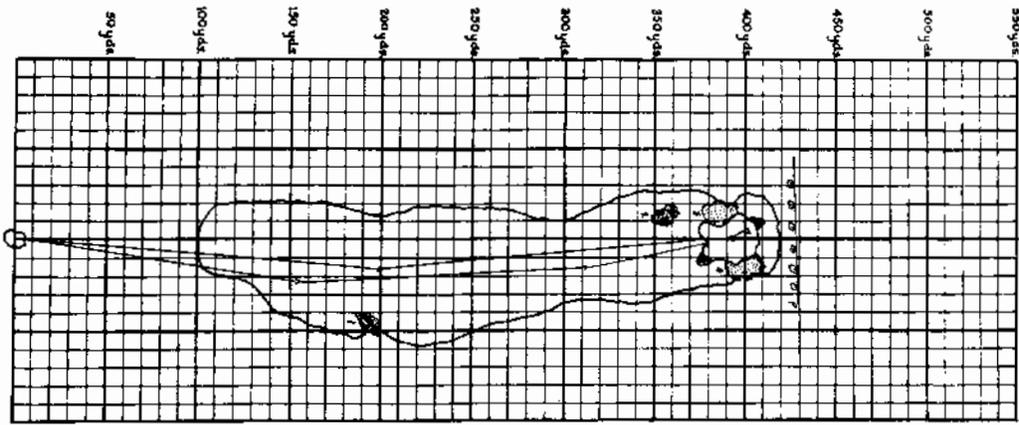
All in all, we must agree that Mr. Travis did a remarkable job with what was then not only flat, but basically uninteresting land. The course is perfectly balanced in the sense that starting at either number 1 or number 10, the par for every 3 holes totals 12 strokes.

WILLIAM E. HARRIES was one of the original subscribers of stock in Cherry Hill. He operated the firm of Harries and Hall which was based in Buffalo and for a short time included a branch office in Toronto. After



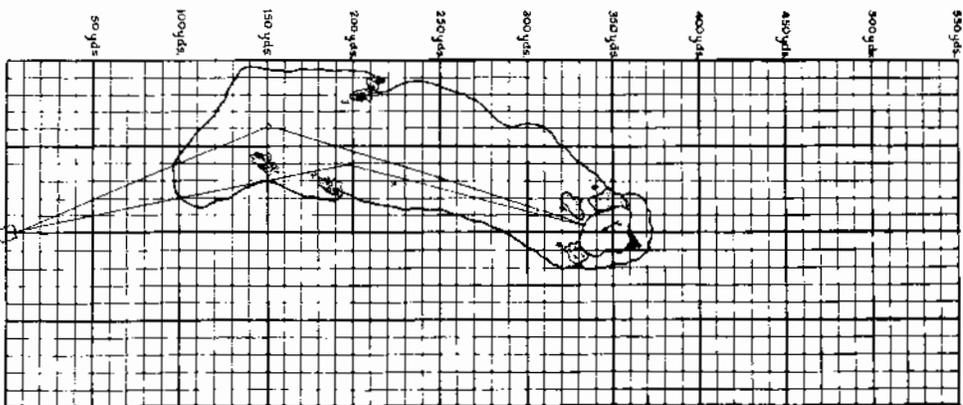
SCALE 1"=100' EACH SQUARE = 30'
WALTER J. TRAVIS
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT
CHERRY HILL CLUB 125 YARDS
NEW PLANTING 45.2 ACRES

108 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
108 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
108 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
108 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
108 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
108 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
108 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
108 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
108 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
108 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'



SCALE 1"=100' EACH SQUARE = 30'
WALTER J. TRAVIS
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT
CHERRY HILL CLUB 125 YARDS
NEW PLANTING 45.2 ACRES

102 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
102 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
102 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
102 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
102 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
102 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
102 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
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102 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
102 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'



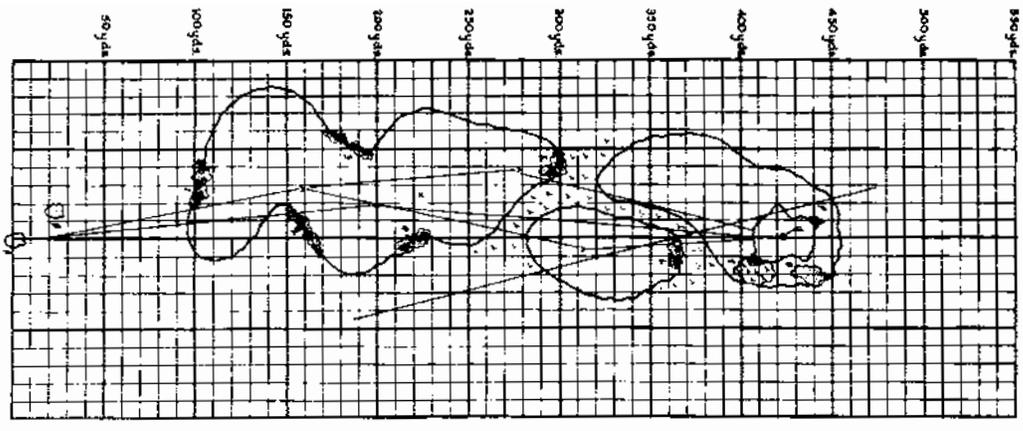
SCALE 1"=100' EACH SQUARE = 30'
WALTER J. TRAVIS
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT
CHERRY HILL CLUB 125 YARDS
NEW PLANTING 45.2 ACRES

108 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
108 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
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108 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
108 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'
108 1-20 3 - 184 1/2 57 9'

Fig 4

SCALE 1"=100' EACH SQUARE = 30'
WALTER J TRAVIS
 GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT

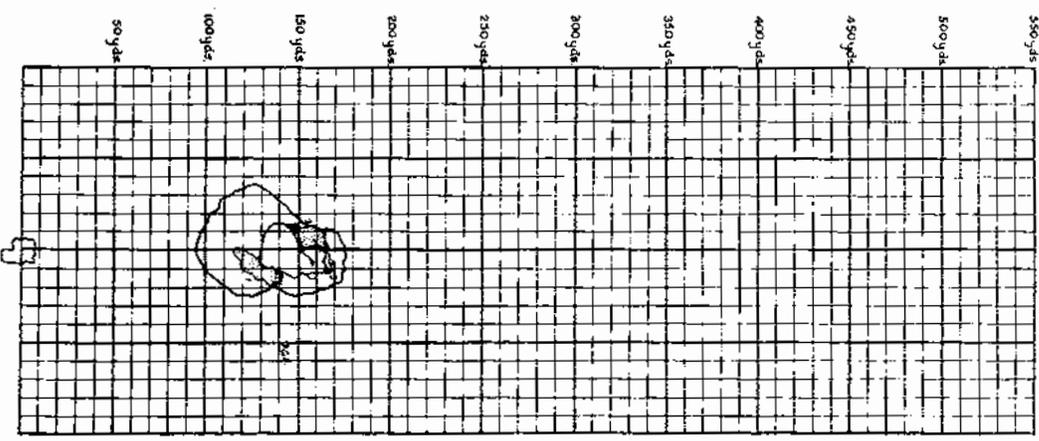
CRANBY HILL CLUB 18 HOLE 36 HOLE 72 HOLE
 NEW YORK STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION



NO. 1: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 2: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 3: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 4: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 5: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 6: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 7: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 8: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 9: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 10: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 11: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 12: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 13: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 14: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 15: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 16: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 17: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 18: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.

SCALE 1"=100' EACH SQUARE = 30'
WALTER J TRAVIS
 GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT

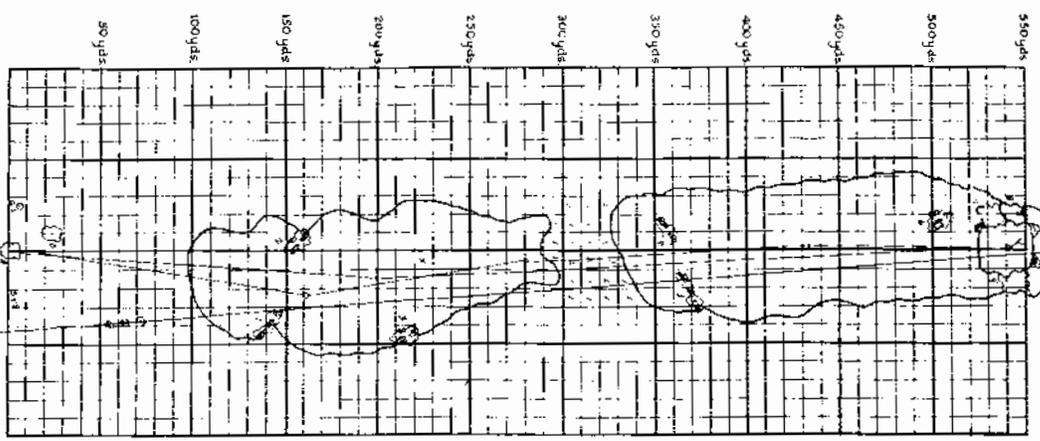
CRANBY HILL CLUB 18 HOLE 36 HOLE 72 HOLE
 NEW YORK STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION



NO. 1: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 2: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 3: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 4: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 5: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 6: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 7: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 8: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 9: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 10: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 11: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 12: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 13: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 14: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 15: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 16: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 17: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 18: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.

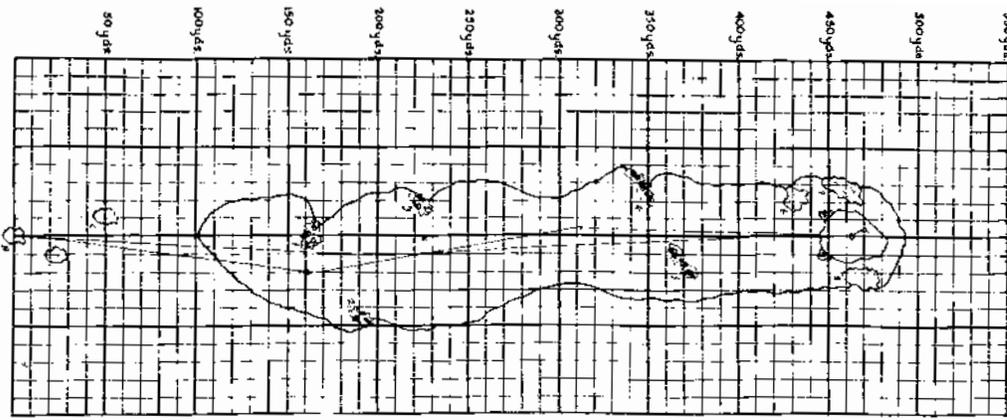
SCALE 1"=100' EACH SQUARE = 30'
WALTER J TRAVIS
 GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT

CRANBY HILL CLUB 18 HOLE 36 HOLE 72 HOLE
 NEW YORK STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION



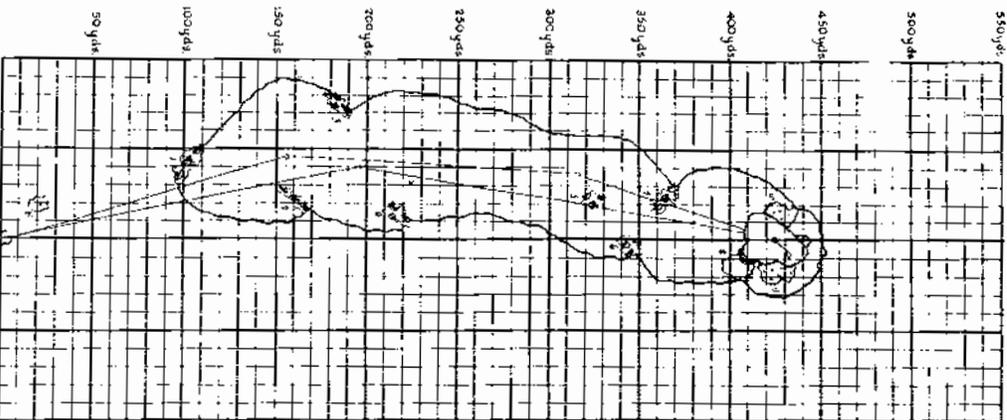
NO. 1: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 2: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 3: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 4: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 5: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 6: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 7: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 8: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 9: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 10: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 11: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 12: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 13: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 14: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 15: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 16: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 17: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.
 NO. 18: 18 H. 36 H. 72 H.

Fig. 4a



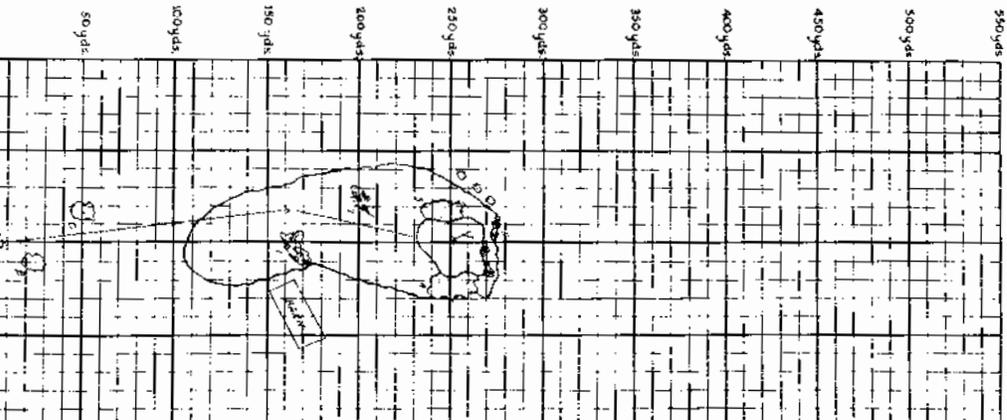
SCALE 1"=100' EACH SQUARE = 30'
WALTER J. TRAVIS
COURSE ARCHITECT
CHERRY HILL CLUB 18 HOLE 6,500 YARDS
1922-1923

NO. 1 - 18 HOLE 6,500 YARDS
NO. 2 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 3 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 4 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 5 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 6 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 7 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 8 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 9 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 10 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 11 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 12 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 13 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 14 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 15 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 16 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 17 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 18 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
TENNIS COURT 200' x 100'



SCALE 1"=100' EACH SQUARE = 30'
WALTER J. TRAVIS
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT
CHERRY HILL CLUB 18 HOLE 6,500 YARDS
1922-1923

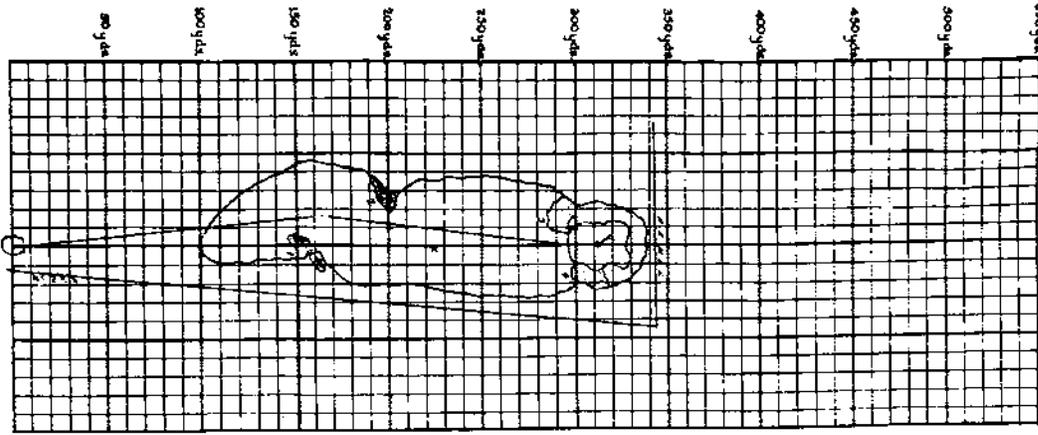
NO. 1 - 18 HOLE 6,500 YARDS
NO. 2 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 3 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 4 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 5 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 6 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 7 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 8 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 9 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 10 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 11 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 12 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 13 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 14 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 15 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 16 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 17 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 18 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
TENNIS COURT 200' x 100'



SCALE 1"=100' EACH SQUARE = 30'
WALTER J. TRAVIS
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT
CHERRY HILL CLUB 18 HOLE 6,500 YARDS
1922-1923

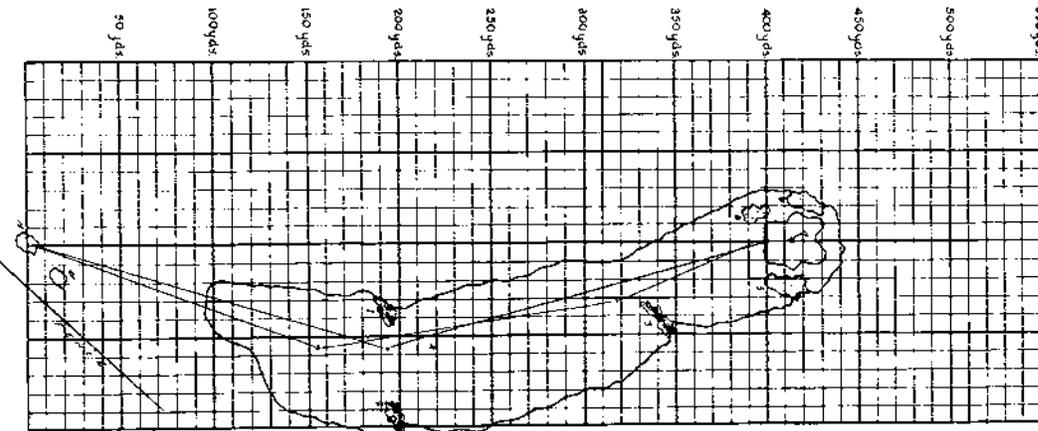
NO. 1 - 18 HOLE 6,500 YARDS
NO. 2 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 3 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 4 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 5 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 6 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 7 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 8 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 9 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 10 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 11 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 12 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 13 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 14 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 15 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 16 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 17 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
NO. 18 - 9 HOLE 3,250 YARDS
TENNIS COURT 200' x 100'

Fig. 4b



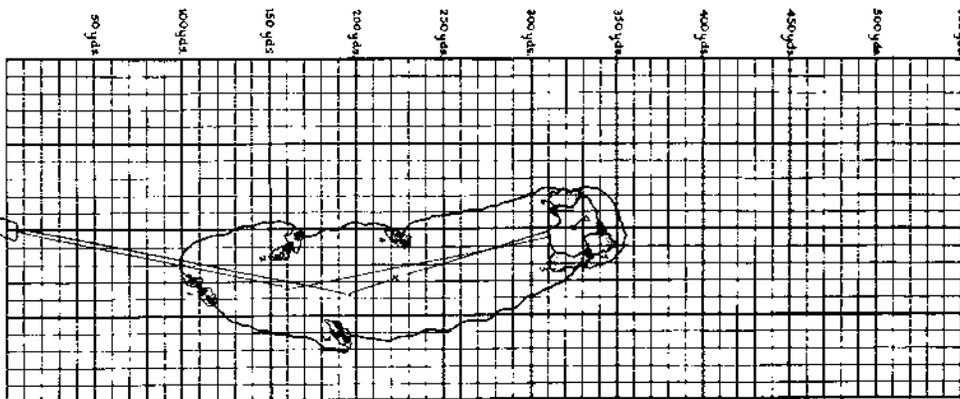
SCALE 1"=100' EACH SQUARE = 30'
WALTER J. TRAVIS
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT
CHERRY HILL CLUB
4 HOLES - 313 YARDS
NOW PLAYING AS 13 HOLES

NO 1 - 142' - 141' 11" TO 71' 11" FROM
NO 2 - SAND PITTS, 3 THE
TERRACE - 40' x 25'



SCALE 1"=100' EACH SQUARE = 30'
WALTER J. TRAVIS
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT
CHERRY HILL CLUB
4 HOLES - 313 YARDS
NOW PLAYING AS 13 HOLES

NO 1 - 142' - 141' 11" TO 71' 11" FROM
NO 2 - SAND PITTS, 3 THE
TERRACE - 40' x 25'



SCALE 1"=100' EACH SQUARE = 30'
WALTER J. TRAVIS
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT
CHERRY HILL CLUB
6 HOLES - 313 YARDS
NOW PLAYING AS 15 HOLES

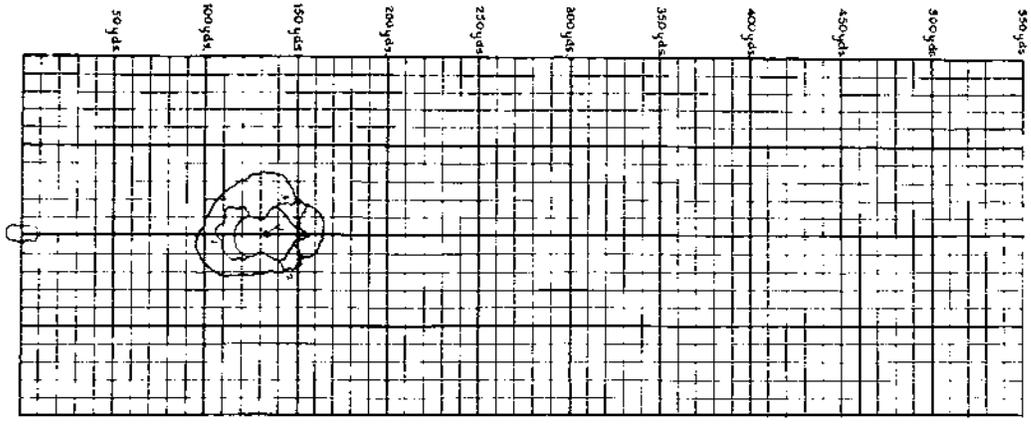
NO 1 - 142' - 141' 11" TO 71' 11" FROM
NO 2 - SAND PITTS, 3 THE
TERRACE - 40' x 25'

Fig. 4d

SCALE 1"=100' EACH SQUARE = 30'

WALTER J. TRAVIS
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT

CARRIE HILL CLUB 7 HOLE 126 YARDS
NEW PLANTING AS PER PLAN

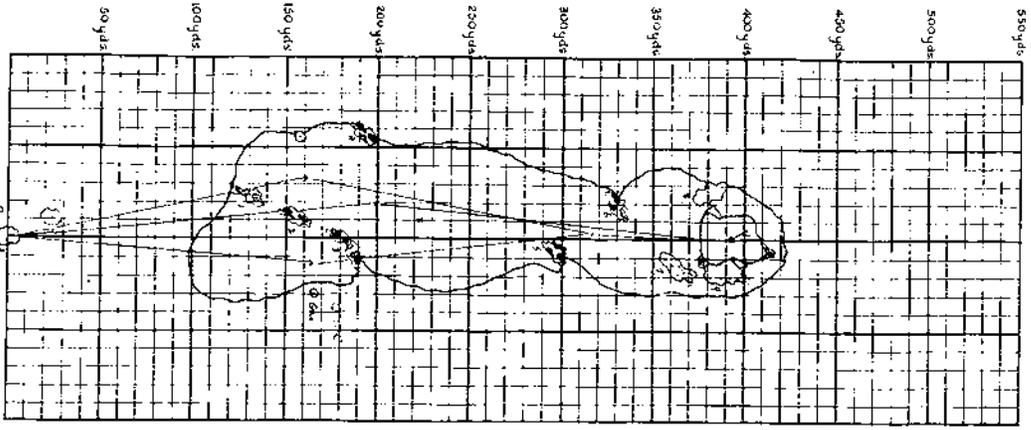


NO. 1 TO 6 - 126 YARDS
NO. 7 - 126 YARDS
NO. 8 - 126 YARDS
NO. 9 - 126 YARDS

SCALE 1"=100' EACH SQUARE = 30'

WALTER J. TRAVIS
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT

CARRIE HILL CLUB 8 HOLE 126 YARDS
NEW PLANTING AS PER PLAN

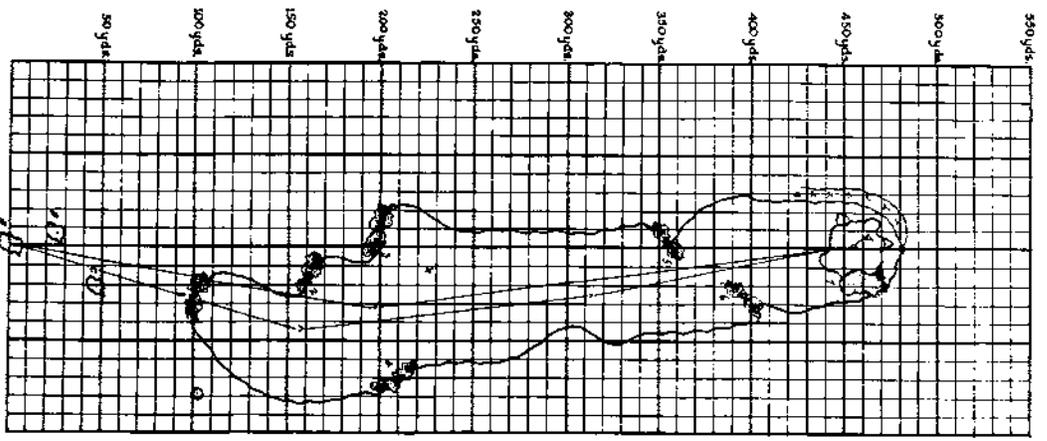


NO. 1 TO 6 - 126 YARDS
NO. 7 - 126 YARDS
NO. 8 - 126 YARDS
NO. 9 - 126 YARDS

SCALE 1"=100' EACH SQUARE = 30'

WALTER J. TRAVIS
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT

CARRIE HILL CLUB 9 HOLE 126 YARDS
NEW PLANTING AS PER PLAN



NO. 1 TO 6 - 126 YARDS
NO. 7 - 126 YARDS
NO. 8 - 126 YARDS
NO. 9 - 126 YARDS

Fig. 4e

World War II, Mr. Harries was associated with Tryon and Schwartz & Associates, Inc. in East Aurora, New York. He was a landscape architect and engineer, and was a well known and successful golf architect in his own right. In Western New York, he designed Audubon, Beaver Island, Brighton, Westwood, Moonbrook, and what is now Brookfield. He remodeled East Aurora and was also responsible for Brooklea in Rochester.

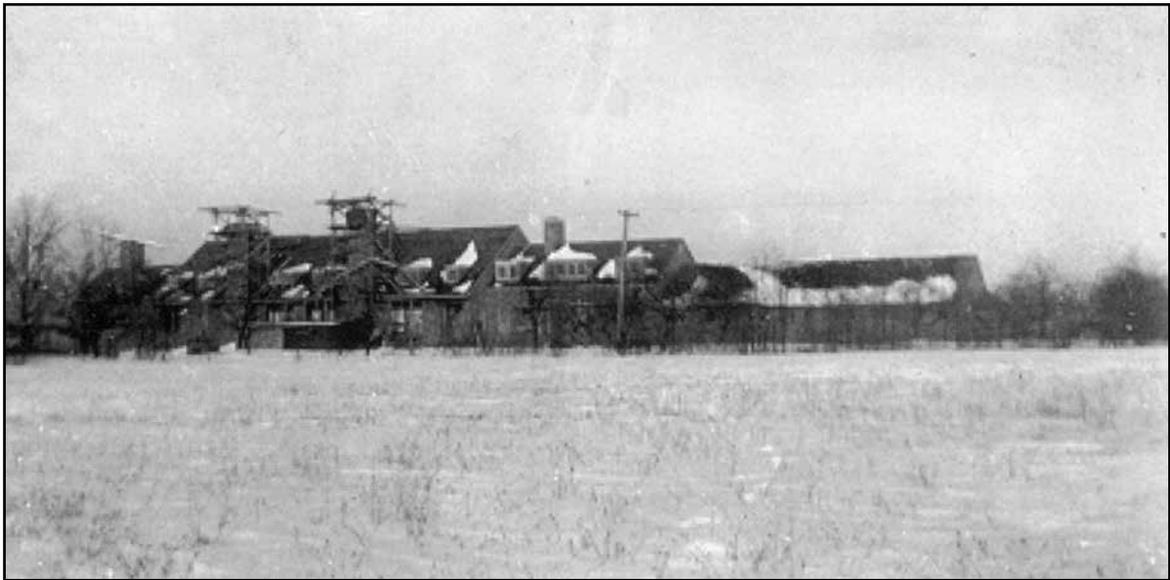
In 1922, well before Cherry Hill was incorporated, Mr. Harries' firm began to clear the land at the request of the Founders. They continued with this work into 1923. In March of 1923, Harries and Hall was formally retained by the Board to supervise construction of the golf course for a fee of \$3000. He had reviewed Walter Travis' plans and specifications and reported that his estimate for building the course exactly as specified was \$52,245.72. He felt he could reduce this figure somewhat by eliminating "the practice hole" and some bunkers. His proposed changes were sent to Travis for approval but there is no record of any response from the designer.

In the Spring of 1923 three signs bearing the name of the club were installed on the Garrison Road - one at Ridge Road and one each at the east and west borders of the property. Inquiries were made of the Canadian Niagara Power Company concerning the running of a line to the point where the clubhouse would be located. The land was surveyed by two firms with a view toward the installation of an irrigation system, and 5000 evergreen seedlings were ordered from the Canadian government. A well driller was engaged to drill one or more wells on the east side of the property. By June of 1923 all but two fairways had been plowed and harrowed. Nine greens had been roughed in and three more were under construction.

The construction of the course progressed rapidly through the balance of the 1923 season and into the Spring of 1924. A team of horses and driver was hired, at \$1.25 per hour, to haul sand from Point Abino. The man was remarkably efficient, often delivering as many as five loads a day to the site.

George Langlands was hired to act as Grounds Superintendent and James H. Swift was retained as Golf Professional. Their salaries were, respectively, \$150.00 and \$50.00 per month.

By July, nine holes were ready for play. On July 9, 1924, immediately following Judge Coatsworth's futile efforts, chronicled elsewhere, the first round of golf was played at Cherry Hill. History does not record who



*Cherry Hill Clubhouse under construction
c. 1924.*

actually struck the first ball, but we know Judge Coatsworth did not.

ESENWEIN and JOHNSON, a Buffalo architectural firm, was retained in June of 1923 to design the clubhouse. August C. Esenwein was born in Germany in 1856 and studied and practiced architecture in that country and in France before coming to Buffalo in 1880. James A. Johnson was born in 1865 and had been an assistant in the Buffalo firm of McKim, Mead, and White before forming the partnership with Esenwein. By the turn of the century they had one of the most active architectural practices in the Buffalo area. A listing of their projects includes the Niagara Mohawk Building on Washington Street and the Calumet Building on West Chippewa Street in downtown Buffalo. They were also responsible for the Colonel Francis G. Ward Pumping Station, the Harlow C. Curtis mansion, now the International Institute, Lafayette High School, the Buffalo Museum of Science, and the Elephant House at the Buffalo Zoo.

The architects chose the high point of the Barnhardt farm upon which to place the clubhouse. There can be no denying that it sits most comfortably on the site. Its clean lines, beamed ceilings and large stone fireplaces reflect the influence of the Arts and Crafts school of design. The dining room was to seat 100 and the locker rooms were to have 200 lockers and 5 showers for men and 50 lockers and 2 showers for women. There was to be a cellar for use as a cool storage area and the second story would contain sleeping quarters for club employees. The pro shop was located in the southeast corner of the men's locker room. What is now the porch dining area was an open terrace with steps leading down to it from the main dining room. In later years this area was screened in and covered with an awning. There was a small office to the right as one entered the front door and the entrance to the grill was immediately behind it. Although some interior alterations have been made over the years, the basic design remains unchanged.

ALBERT D. NIE of Fort Erie was selected in October of 1923 to be the general contractor to build the clubhouse. His bid was \$51,044.00. The sub-contractor for plumbing was E. C. Caldwell of Welland (\$8887.00) and John W. Danforth of Buffalo for heating (\$8500.00). The electrical work was done by J. C. Linder of Buffalo (\$2326.00). The architects' fee was \$6500.00 and the cost of equipment and furnishings were estimated by the



Dining Room at Cherry Hill Club.

Board to be \$16,600.00. It was thus contemplated that the clubhouse would cost a total of \$93,857.00. The targeted completion date was June 1, 1924.

Work began almost immediately and continued through the winter. Mr. Nie offered to buy the Barnhardt farm house for use as an office and storage facility for his equipment. The Board sold it to him for \$300.00 upon condition that he tear it down when he was finished, which he did.

As the construction progressed, the Board attended to the myriad details leading up to the opening. Mr. May was commissioned to buy china. The House Committee was authorized to purchase lockers, kitchen equipment, and silverware. Bids were solicited for the furnishings and interior decoration. A contract with Welland Telephone was approved, the annual rental of the telephone being \$56.00. Charles G. Thorne, formerly of the Country Club of Buffalo, was hired as Steward.

On July 2, 1924 the first Board Meeting was held at the clubhouse. The club officially opened July 11, 1924 with a dinner dance for members and family only. On July 19 there was a buffet supper and dance for members and guests. The cost at each affair was \$3.00 per plate.

The year-end audit showed that the total cost of building the clubhouse and a caddie house was \$97,584.54.

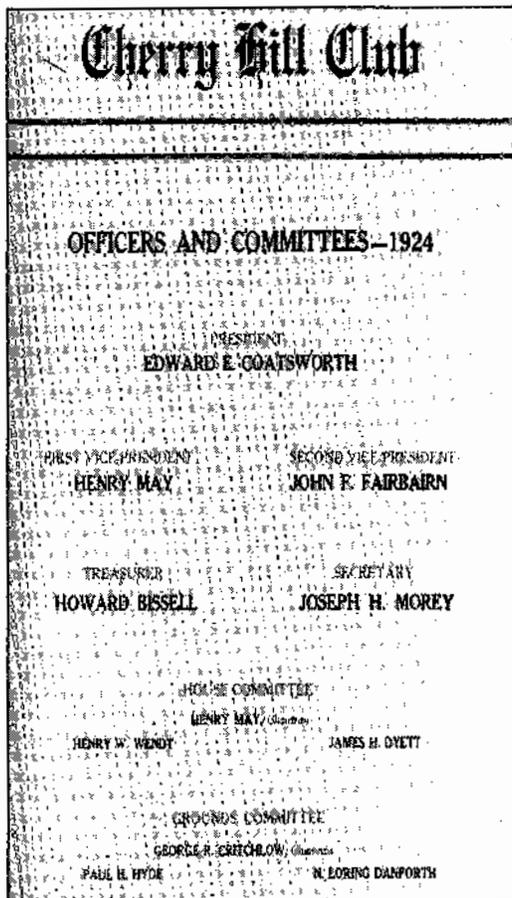


Albert D. Nie and crew, of Fort Erie, contractor for the Cherry Hill Club c. 1923.



Cherry Hill Golf Course under construction c. 1924.

The Twenties



Cherry Hill Club Officers and Committees - 1924.

As might be expected, the new club was faced with financial problems. Calls were made in 25% increments on the original subscribers but considerable borrowing was made necessary by the need for additional funds. On more than one occasion the Directors made personal guarantees on the notes. At a special meeting held October 25, 1923, the stockholders approved an increase in the membership limit from 250 to 300. Three classes of stock were created. Life Membership would cost \$2000 with no dues, but subject to assessment; Preferred Membership would cost \$1000 with \$100 dues and subject to assessment; General Membership would cost \$400 with \$150 dues and subject to assessment. The capital stock was increased from \$100,000 to \$250,000 at that time.

Board Minutes - December 5, 1923

(A member had submitted a bill for services he had performed for the club).

RESOLVED that the Treasurer be authorized to pay the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to Mr. _____ on receiving from Mr. _____ payment of the balance of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) due upon his stock subscription.

At the March 26, 1924 Board Meeting it was reported that there were 102 members - 44 Life, 47 Preferred, 8 General, and 3 Unclassified. In July of 1924, the first woman member was admitted. She was Kate M. Hatch of Buffalo. The second woman member, Mrs. J. Napoleon Falls, of Memphis, Tennessee, was admitted in August of 1924. A Mr. Hayes succeeded Mr. Thorne as Steward. Also in 1924, a Committee on Equestration was

appointed to study the feasibility of constructing a polo field in the area to the left of the present 14th fairway. The idea apparently was never pursued. The Grounds Committee, however, was authorized to build two tennis courts in the area where they are presently located.

The recruiting of new members was a high priority. In 1925 Mr. Stafford was appointed chairman of a membership drive. The goal was 140 new members. All members were asked to participate. They received a brochure which explained the advantages of Cherry Hill and contained a list of most-asked questions by prospects. It stated that the clubs around Buffalo were "vastly overcrowded" and pointed out that the Peace Bridge was scheduled to open in early 1927. Separate committees were set up to recruit in all of the Canadian lakeshore beaches. (See Fig. 5)

Board Minutes - May 7, 1925:

(A man had paid \$400.00 for a General Membership, changed his mind, and asked for a refund.)

The Secretary was directed to write Mr. _____ enclosing a membership application, and informing him that when he secures a new member who pays for his stock, the Board will refund his subscription.

Same meeting:

The Board authorized a golf tournament for early June (without prizes). The entry fee shall be \$2.00 per man, the proceeds to be used for the purchase of a Victrola.

At the annual meeting held December 12, 1925, the stockholders approved a Loan Agreement designed to assist the club's finances for 1926 and 1927. Under its terms each Life and Preferred member would loan the club \$250.00 and \$150.00 respectively, one-half to be paid on or before January 1, 1926 and one-half on or before July 1, 1926. The club would repay the loans in 1928 and 1929 by giving credits for clubhouse charges, not including dues and assessments, to a maximum of one-half the loan per year. Thirty-seven members signed the agreements before leaving the meeting. As of that meeting there were 155 members - 49 Life, 49 Preferred, and 57 General. The Loan Agreements were later modified to allow General

<p style="text-align: center;">Social Events</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CALENDAR</p>
<p>June 13th—Waverly Beach Night June 27th—Crescent Beach Night July 11th—Rose Hill Night July 25th—Windmill Point Night August 8th—Thunder Bay Night August 22d—Bay Beach Night Sept. 5th—Point Abino Night Sept. 19th—Lorraine Night October 3d—Ridgeway Night</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cherry Hill Club</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  RIDGEWAY, ONTARIO</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">  </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SEASON OF 1925</p>

Fig. 5 Calender and Schedule of Events 1925.

Members to participate on the same terms for \$100.00.

While the club's financial condition was less than ideal, the golf course was not faring too well either. In 1926 one Charles Michael was retained to assess its condition. He reported as follows:

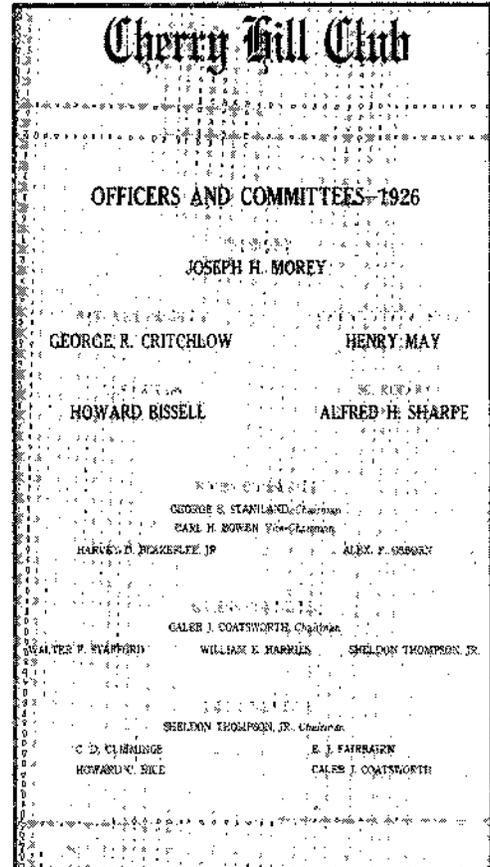
On Wednesday October 13th, I visited your course, met Mr. Langlands and we went over the entire course. I was surprised to find your greens in such bad condition and it will require a considerable amount of money and time to put them in shape.

FAIRWAYS:

The best treatment for your fairways would be to go around and sand the bad places with some good sharp sand, before winter if possible. If this cannot be done, do it early in the spring. Then stake the bad spots with long stakes that can be seen thru the snow and put manure over these spots anytime during the winter, regardless of the sand. In the spring when the manure begins to thaw and loosen, it should be worked and scattered evenly over the surface with a wooden rake or a manure fork. After the frost is out of the ground and the fairways are dry so you can use a tractor, have the men make a brush harrow out of some branches of trees and drag the fairways with that. Then rake off the loose straw and other material that will not work in and reseed the following fall (about Sept. 1st) with a mixture of Red Top, Canada Blue Grass and Red Fescue.

GREENS:

Purchase a sod perforator for the greens and perforate them first lengthwise and then crosswise. Then sand the greens with sharp sand, preferably with sand about like the "Port Jefferson" grade. Use about a yard of sand to a green. Do that this fall if possible and work it in well with



Cherry Hill Club Officers and Committees - 1926.

a wire mat. Do not use this in freezing weather and not until late in the morning after the frost is off the ground. About the 1st of December, top dress the greens with about 150 lbs. of clean bonemeal to a green. Then about 200 lbs. of bonemeal to a green about the second week in March of next year. As soon as possible in the spring sand them again with about a yard of sand to a green. When the growth starts, spike them both ways and seed with about 50 lbs. of seed to a green using a mixture of 75% of the very best re-cleaned Red Top and 25% of German Creeping Bent. Then top dress lightly with good compost, mixing with that about 35 lbs. of bonemeal and 20 lbs. of poultry manure to a green. In about three weeks repeat this same process and so on thru the summer about every three weeks. DO NOT use any more sulphate of ammonia or any green manure mixed in your compost. Personally I think it would be best to discontinue the use of stolon on your greens. Do not cut the greens quite so short next season but give them a chance to grow stronger. In regard to watering, I would not condemn your water. During the summer, water the greens at night. Each green should, in dry weather, get at least from two to four hours per night depending a great deal upon how the grass dries out. Some of them will not need that much and some may need more. Mr. Langlands should also start a compost pile of some good black light soil with the sod thrown in and plenty of manure and sand. This should be put through the mixer twice a year. Add to that pile every year so that you will always have some on hand. I would also advise that you take your four section rollers to the blacksmith and

have one section removed as they are now too wide. Also that you purchase a lighter tractor for the fairways. The Worthington tractor is the one I would recommend at present.

Modern Turf Grass Management?

Someone on the Board may have had advance notice of the advice to discontinue the use of stolon (a variety of grass) on the greens. There are earlier instances where the Board approved the sale of as much as 550 square feet of stolon to Erie Downs, now known as Bridgewater Country Club.

The year 1927, which would be an active one, began on a high note. Mr. A. M. Grier, President of Canadian Niagara Power Company cancelled a \$657.17 bill for electricity and in return was given a complimentary membership. That year saw the resignation of George Langlands as grounds superintendent and the hiring of Charles A. Behm, who would faithfully serve the club in several capacities until 1962. It was apparent that year that something had to be done about re-financing the club. The result was a \$100,000 bond issue. The bonds would cost \$1000 each, carry a 5% interest rate, and were for a term of 20 years. One-half of the interest due would be paid on March 1 and the other half on September 1. Principal would be paid on September 1 at 5% per year for 20 years. The bonds were secured by a first mortgage. The plan was that the bonds would be paid off in 1947. The membership responded and in a few months the \$100,000 was raised. However, as we shall see, the outcome of the project was not entirely satisfactory to all concerned.



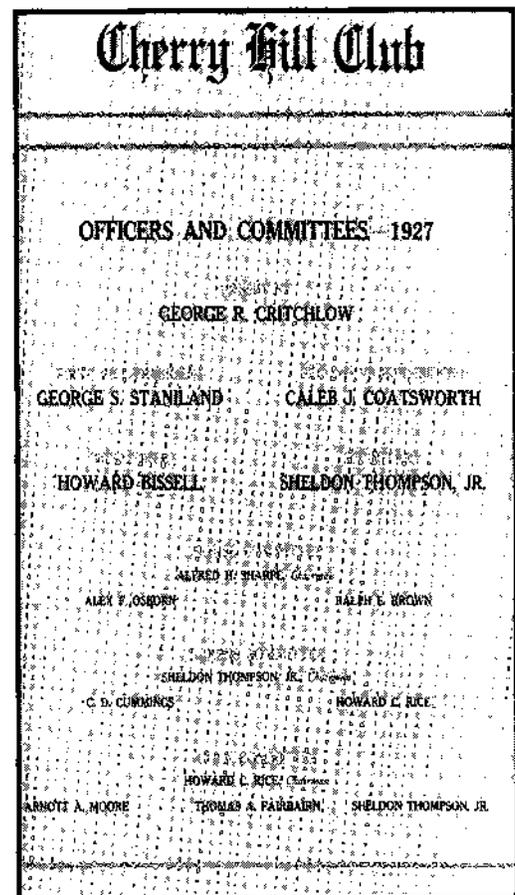
Charles Behm.

Finances were not the only problems the Board would encounter:

Board Minutes - July 1, 1927

(The House Committee asked for and received permission to send the following notice at its discretion).

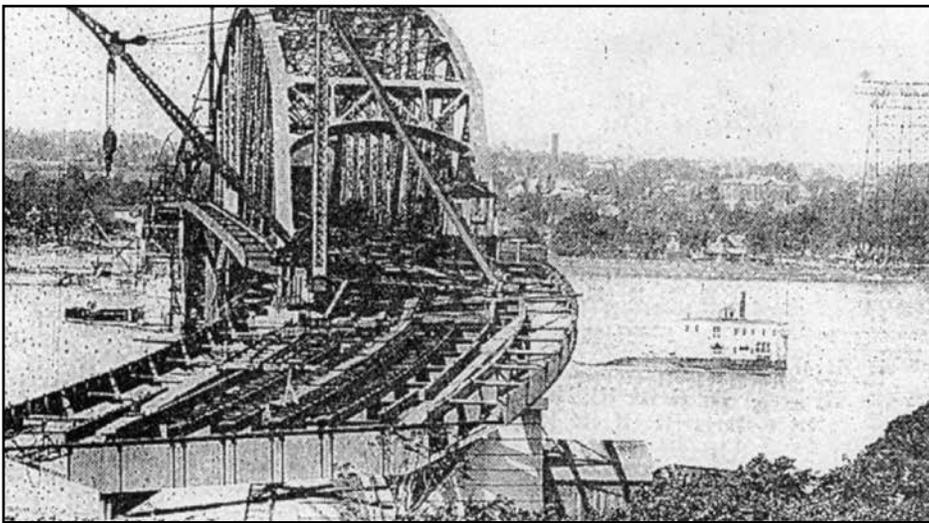
Your attention is especially called to the fact that Cherry Hill is a family club, and that the vast majority of its members are resolved that behavior at the Club should be maintained on a high plane.



Cherry Hill Club Officers and Committees - 1927

The fact that the club is located in Ontario definitely obligates the club itself, and all its members and guests to respect the liberal laws of the Province, and not to abuse them.

Therefore, your Board deems it just and necessary to point out to you, personally, that intemperance on the part of any member cannot be tolerated on the Club premises, and that each member owes it to the Club to make sure that any Guests of his shall fully respect the Club's standard of sobriety.



*Peace Bridge Under Construction
c. 1926.*

Access to Cherry Hill was immensely improved with the opening of the Peace Bridge in 1927. Club records indicate that the Peace Bridge Authority was offered the use of the club facilities for opening ceremony purposes but do not reflect whether the invitation was accepted. The year 1927 saw the arrival of Frank Murchie from Troon, Scotland, to replace James Swift as Golf

Professional. Frank would serve in that capacity until 1933 when his brother George succeeded him. Frank had a pet crow named "Joe" which was his constant companion. In those days the club did not own the property west of the club where the present range is located. The practice tee, which could accommodate no more than 2 or 3 players, was then located behind the ninth green. Balls were hit on a line parallel to the eighteenth fairway in the direction of the tee. It was not an uncommon sight for players coming up the fairway to see Frank giving a lesson with Joe perched on his shoulder. Not infrequently, golfers playing the eighteenth had to dodge errant shots from the practice area.

In the minutes of a Board Meeting held August 24, 1927 we see the origin of an irritant which would serve as a source of controversy at the club for at least the next seventy years. At that meeting the Golf Committee was directed to send a notice to all members stating that ladies, and children under the age of 16, should not start play on

Saturday during July, August and the first Saturday in September, between the hours of 12 noon and 3:30 P.M. Thus, discrimination reared its ugly head at Cherry Hill.

In August of 1928 the Buffalo District Golf Association's Mens Individual Championship was held at Cherry Hill. Ganson Depew, the founder of the BDGA, and its president, had been Chairman of the National Public Links Championship that year and knew something about running golf tournaments. Following the District tournament he sent the club a glowing letter of appreciation which read as follows:

On behalf of the Buffalo District Golf Association, I wish to express to you, and your Board of Governors its deep thanks and appreciation for the use of the links in our recent Individual Championship which was one of the most successful and enjoyable we have ever conducted. Absolutely everything was done by your various committees to promote its success and contribute to the pleasure of the players.

No golf chairman has ever given us more of his time and attention than did Dr. Moore in looking after the smallest detail. Mr. Thompson and the green keeper gave us splendid fairways and greens which were highly praised by the players and I wish to congratulate you on their upkeep and maintenance and having such fine links. Mr. Rice, House Chairman, gave us food and service which was a credit to any Club. Your Professional, Mr. Murchie, his assistant, the caddy master, locker man and steward showed a keen interest which I have never seen excelled in any Championship with Mr. Murchie arranging certain details in advance of the Tournament which are usually over-looked. In fact from the President down through the Chairman of the various committees and everyone in your service at the

Club, we received the same attention and co-operation as is given to National Championships and I have attended many.

It was a wonderful week of golf favored by perfect weather and I cannot speak too highly of your treatment of our Association and wish to acknowledge the delightful courtesy and Hospitality extended to me as President at all times.

I regret as much as anyone the unfortunate and utterly unwarranted and inexcuseable article not based on facts which was written by Tommy Hughitt, a reporter for the News, especially as he is the Secretary of our Golf Association which he seemed to have over-looked. This fact alone should have made the article impossible and I can only say that our Association deplores its publication. It was a glaring abuse of kind privileges, cordial help and splendid hospitality extended by your Club to the players of our Association which should have prompted praise instead of unjustifiable criticism.

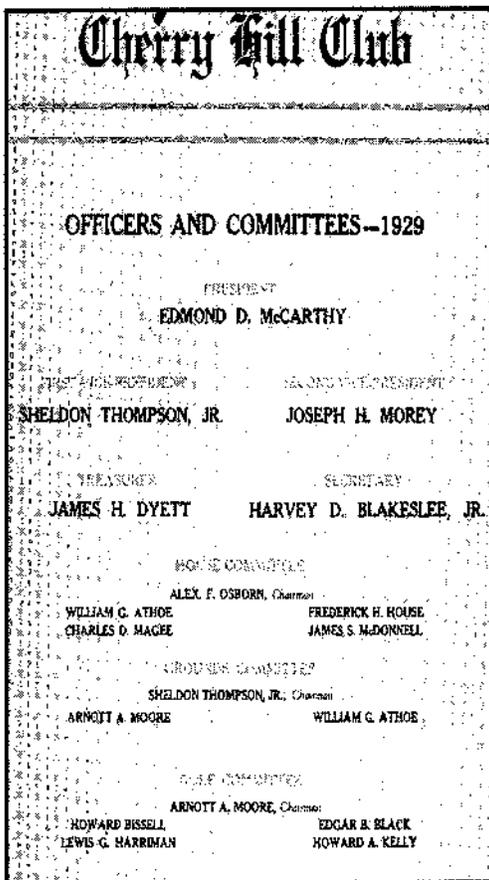
Again expressing to you the deep appreciation which our Association feels in the most cordial and hearty co-operation which we received at Cherry Hill in the 8th Annual Championship and your contribution to the interest of golf in Western New York which I have worked pretty hard to promote for so many years, I am

Sincerely yours,

*(Signed)
Ganson Depew
President*

(The offending article by Mr. Hughitt, to which Mr. Depew referred, could not be found.)

In 1929 the Constitution was amended to increase the number of Directors from 9 to the present 15 and the initiation fee was raised from \$100.00 to \$200.00. New members were required to buy at least four shares of stock (\$400.00) and the dues were \$75.00 annually.



Cherry Hill Club Officers and Committees - 1929.

The Thirties



(left to right) Mrs. Sheldon Thompson, Jr. and Mrs. William A. More, teeing off c. 1931.



Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Sharpe c.1931.

It comes as no surprise that the Depression had a heavy impact upon Cherry Hill. Capital expenditures were deferred and every effort was made to reduce budgets. Architect James Johnson had submitted plans for some major renovations in 1930 but these were not carried out except for the installation of dormer windows in the men's locker room roof, and the re-decoration of the grill room. The Grounds

Superintendent was instructed to make do with the original greens mowers. The first recorded assessment, in the amount of \$25.00, was made on July 1, 1930.

Greens fees were certainly a possible source of revenue:

Board Minutes - May 5, 1930

RESOLVED that any member may introduce to the club any person of good character and reputation and shall enter his or her name in the visitor's book. Greens fees in the amount of \$2.50 shall be paid whether gentleman or lady.

The Board agreed to consider accepting outside parties, in a proper case, and set greens fees for those affairs at \$5.00.

The Board created a Junior Membership with an initiation fee of \$75.00 and dues of \$15.00. The first Junior Member was Richard H. Means who was accepted in June of 1930. Mr. Means would become President of the club 33 years later. The House Committee promoted a program whereby table d'hote dinners would be served every night of the week for \$1.50 and the large a la carte

menu reduced. Throughout the early 1930s delinquent accounts were a constant concern. However, the Board often refused to act upon resignations, preferring to carry a member rather than lose him. The Treasurer, in his discretion, was authorized to ask a delinquent member for an interest bearing note, secured by the member's stock certificate, thus allowing the member to retain his membership. Holders of bonds from the 1927 bond issue were allowed to pay dues by surrender of an equivalent amount of bonds. It should be noted that all through this period the club was defaulting on those bonds.

Still there was progress in 1930. The caddie house, which had been located south of the clubhouse, was moved across Cherry Hill Boulevard with the permission of the landowner, Mr. Coatsworth. The pro shop, designed by Architect Johnson, was built on the site where it presently stands. A new well was drilled in an attempt to alleviate chronic problems with irrigation. The Golf Committee was also active. A new handicap system, calling for the use of 5 low scores, was inaugurated, to be operated "on a strict honor system checked by the Golf Committee". Distance markers, noting distance to the green rather than from the tee were put in place. The 13th green was remodelled by sloping it from back to front and by building a bunker across the front with a path in the center leading to the green.



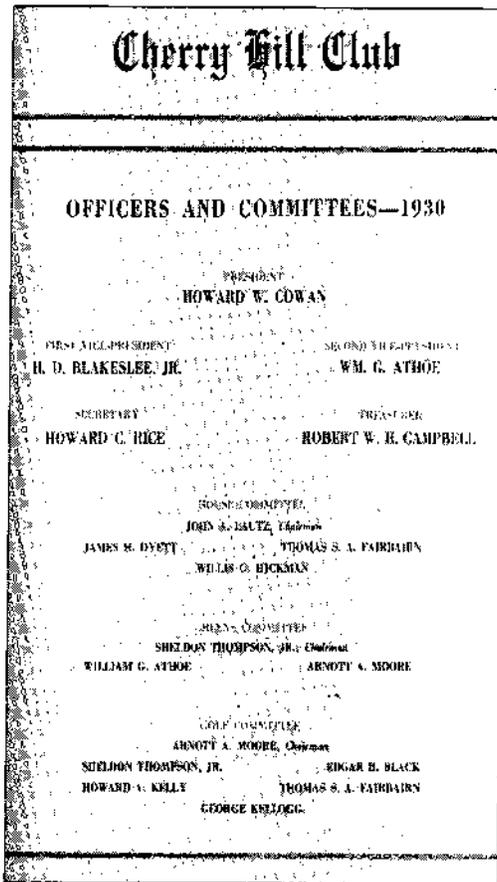
(left to right) James S. O'Donnell and George Murchie c. 1930s.

No freeloaders:

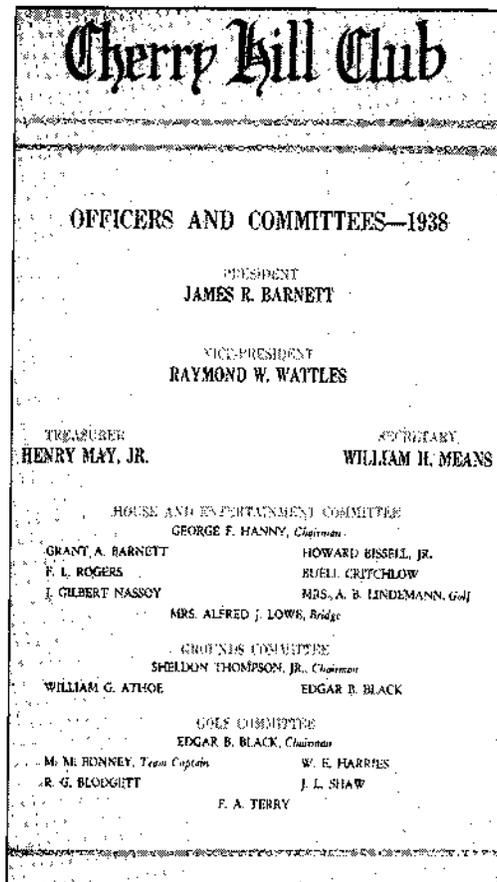
Board Minutes - August 21, 1931

The House Committee is authorized to charge \$0.50 per person coming in after dinner on dance night.

As the 1930s progressed, the club collected dues from summer memberships, whose holders had no vote in the affairs of the club. The Secretary was instructed, upon receipt of an application for such a membership, to notify the applicant to make immediate use of the club pending election. The Board also approved a non-resident membership. Curiously, the criteria for the latter were that one had to conduct one's business more than 30 miles from the Buffalo City Hall and not live within that radius for



Cherry Hill Club Officers and Committees - 1930



Cherry Hill Club Officers and Committees - 1938

more than two weeks from May to September.

In January of 1936 the Constitution was amended so as to limit membership to 300 persons to be comprised of 50 Life Members with 20 shares and dues of \$25.00, 50 Preferred Members with 10 shares and dues of \$50.00, and 200 General Members with 4 shares and dues of \$60.00. There was also created a membership with no requirement of stock ownership. This apparently proved to be attractive as 119 new members, without stock, were taken in between March and June, 1936.

James R. Barnett was elected President in 1936 and would hold that office for 15 years. He was a successful businessman who operated a recreational and sporting goods store on Main Street near Tupper in downtown Buffalo. During the first year of his administration three slot machines were installed in the grill room. It was not uncommon in those days for the club to bestow honorary memberships on local and regional public officials. This perhaps explains the fact that whenever the police arrived at the club looking for violations, the slot machines had already been moved either upstairs in the clubhouse or into the red brick house, then the residence of Ground Superintendent Behm and now the club office. The slot machines provided a steady source of revenue for the next several years.

The Board was always on the lookout for other sources also:

Board Minutes - June 25, 1937

There will be a suitable charge to members who order ice and glasses without ordering liquid refreshments.

The Forties

As the 1930s drew to a close and the 1940s were entered financial problems continued to plague the club. Resignations outnumbered admissions most of the time. At the Board Meeting on April 29, 1941, 37 resignations were discussed and 10 new members were accepted, one of the latter being George J. Weimert. The first annual Three Day Invitational Tournament, was played in 1941.

Board Minutes - April 29, 1941

It was noted that many members who do not compete for prizes are complaining about being charged for the prize fund.

RESOLVED, that the locker charge be raised from \$7.00 to \$10.00 and the charge for prizes be eliminated.

With the advent of the war the prospect of closing the club was a subject of serious discussion. The Board eventually made the decision to remain open but the operation was profoundly different from what it had been. George Murchie resigned at the close of the 1941 season and there would be no Golf Professional for the next four years. Military service stripped the membership of nearly all its young men. Gas rationing made it difficult for all who stayed at home to get to the club. It is said that Mrs. Howard Starrett, a fine player, was not going to allow a war to interfere with her golf. She made the round trip from Buffalo on her bicycle.

The one person most responsible for keeping the club in operation during the war was Charles A. Behm, the Grounds Superintendent. He and his one-man grounds crew, Oscar Sherk, maintained the course. Mr. Behm acted



Charlie Behm, Jr. (left) and friend in front of Clubhouse c.1942.



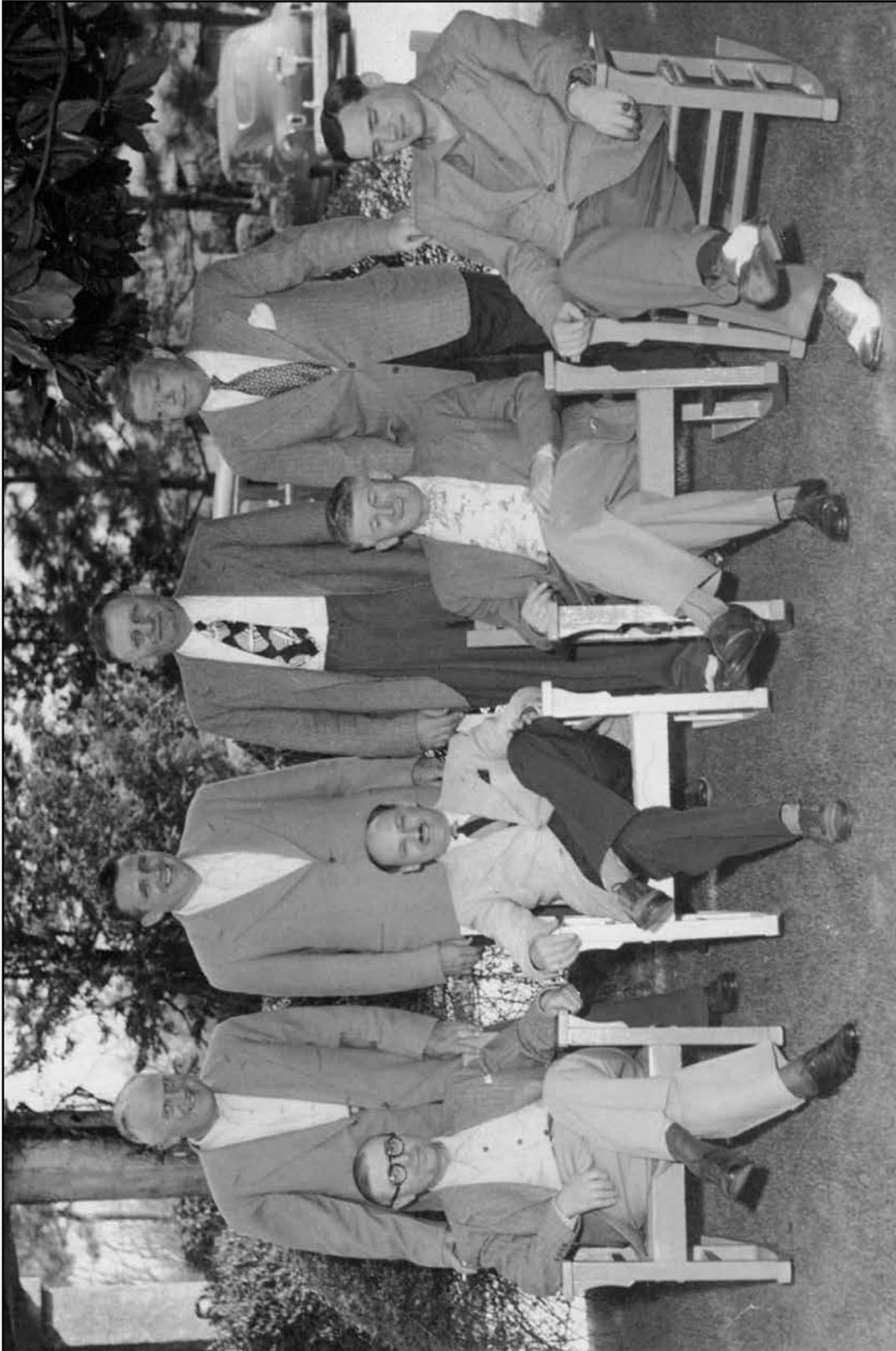
Fashion Show Committee - 1946

Back Row - (left to right)

Helen Atwood, Lucille Downing, Mary Love, Mil Brautigan, Marie Kress, Pauline Gauthier, Peg Arnold, Evelyn Witkop, Sally Templeton

Front Row - (left to right)

Mabel Borneman, Charlotte Stillwell, Honor Kirtland, Mary Murphy, Stella Roth, Ruth Kayser.



Pinehurst - 1948
Back Row - (left to right)
Les Hudson, Bill Kreiner, Bill Borneman, Goerge McMahon
Front Row - (left to right)
Gerry Durant (Park C.C.), John Kress, Tom Dowd, Chuck Young.



*Second Fairway Emergency Landing
c.1942 No Greens Fees Paid.*

as manager and he and his wife did the cooking and the cleaning. Their daughter, Helen, worked in the kitchen and served as waitress until October of 1944 when she resigned, got married, and moved to the South. Mr. Behm was both bartender and waiter. In his spare time he ran the pro shop.

In 1945 the Erie Downs (now Bridgewater) Clubhouse was destroyed by fire. Members of that club were extended an invitation to play Cherry Hill upon payment of greens fees.

At the annual stockholders' meeting held in October of 1946 a change in dues structure was approved. Married adults were to be charged \$150.00 per year and single men and women over 30 would pay \$100.00.

This caused a problem which was very easily solved by our resourceful Board:

Board Minutes - September 13, 1947

Married members, who pay \$150.00 in dues, are complaining that they are forced to pay \$50.00 more in dues than unmarried members most of whom make more use of the club facilities.

RESOLVED, that effective January 1, 1948, dues for single members over 30 will be \$150.00.

With the war over things began to return to normal. A man named Lee Smith was the Golf Professional in 1946. Tommy Hunt succeeded him from 1947 to 1949. During this period two golfing dynasties were begun at Cherry Hill. In 1947, George Weimert won the first of his 17 men's championships. In 1949, Dorothy ("Dottie") Thompson won the first of her 11 ladies' championships. The name on the championship board changed in 1956 but that was only because she had married Carl Henzelman. Dottie came by her golfing talents honestly. The 1926 ladies' champion was her mother, Dorothy K. Thompson.

As the 1940s wound down there was concern over how to handle the 1927 bond issue. Those bonds matured in 1947 and although a few interest payments were made, nothing had been paid on the principal.

The Fifties

The year 1950 marked the arrival of Bob Burns as Golf Professional, a post he would hold until 1970. He was an exceptional player, having won numerous tournaments including the Canadian Professional Golf Association championship in 1942. Before coming to Cherry Hill he was the professional at the Hampstead Club in Montreal and the Weston Country Club in Toronto. He was also at Erie Downs for a short time.



He was a fine teacher who had a keen appreciation for the basic fundamentals of the golf swing. Some of the concepts discussed today as being “new” or “modern” were being taught by Burns all during his tenure at Cherry Hill. He brought with him to Cherry Hill his two sons, Bob, Jr. and Al, both of whom worked in the pro shop and on the lesson tee.

From the beginning, Cherry Hill, not having access to municipal water, had had a problem with water supply. There was a well and pump near the clubhouse which was used for drinking and cooking. There were two shallow wells east of the third fairway which contained water that was not drinkable. Water from these wells was pumped into two 5000 gallon tanks in the cellar of the clubhouse and used for showers and toilet facilities. Those two wells also supplied water for irrigation but their capacity was limited. Holes 12, 13, 14, and 17 were unwatered. Over the

*(left to right)
Jack Maloney, Pat McGroder (Park C.C.), Dick Collard (Unatt.), Bob Rich
c. 1950's.*

years the possibility of bringing Bertic Township water to the property was explored and rejected not only because of cost but also the Township's lack of pumping capacity. The only answer seemed to be the development of a satisfactory water system from wells on the club's own property.

In 1950 the Board retained the services of a "dowser" to search for water. Dowsing is a form of divination which utilizes a slender forked branch or twig. The operator holds the forked ends close to his body with the stem pointing forward. When he walks over an area under which there is water, the stem supposedly dips down. Mr. Behm was skeptical to say the least. The man walked around the area east of the third fairway with his dowsing branch and finally said "right there!". He drove a stake into the ground to mark the spot.

Mr. Behm was not at all convinced and a few days later he hired his own dowser to prove that the procedure was nonsense. Before the second dowser arrived, Mr. Behm removed the stake and placed a small stone in the hole. The second dowser came, walked around, and said "right there!". The second "right there!" was about eight inches from the hole with the stone in it. The fact that the well digger hit an aquifer of mammoth proportions solved Cherry Hill's irrigation problems for all time. It also made a believer out of Mr. Behm.

On November 1, 1950 the reign of Mr. Barnett was ended when Reid S. Moule defeated him in the election for President. At that same meeting it was announced that the total cost of redeeming the 1927 bond issue, including interest, would be about \$150,000.00. Shortly thereafter a bondholder commenced a lawsuit against the club seeking recovery on his bond. Throughout the year the Board discussed how to deal with the problem both from the legal as well as the moral standpoint. (The dissident bondholder was discreetly bought off to shut him up). After legal research by Canadian counsel it was determined that a 20-year Statute of Limitations applied, meaning that the bondholders' claims had become outlawed as of 1947. Nevertheless, with stockholder approval, the club offered to redeem all bonds whose owners could be found, for ten cents on the dollar.

In 1952 the first starter was hired. He would work Saturdays and Sundays in June, July, and August. Also in that year a "Cherry-Ho" day was held on Wednesdays in June, July, and August - an obvious forerunner to Cherrypickers. At the June 4, 1952 meeting the Golf



*(left to right)
Al Burns and Bob Burns.*

Committee was authorized \$75.00 to hold a “Canadian-American Day.” This event would prove to be immensely popular for the next twenty-five years. It evolved into a format whereby invitations were sent to several Canadian clubs as far away as Toronto, inviting their members to Cherry Hill. Greens fees were waived and the cost for each guest was underwritten by a Cherry Hill member. Our guest list often included two of the finest amateurs ever produced by Canada. One was Nick Westlock who won the Canadian Amateur in 1957, 1963, 1964, and 1966. The other was Gary Cowan who won the Canadian Amateur in 1961 and the United States Amateur in 1966 and 1971. Cowan was a particularly good friend of Cherry Hill playing as a guest several times in the Annual Invitation Tournament and winning it once, probably due in large measure to the fine play of his host, Bill McGennis.

In 1953 some major projects were undertaken. Commencing at the 13th green a pipeline was laid in order to give the clubhouse access to Bertie Township water. The line ran up the 13th and 12th fairways to Cherry Hill Boulevard and then northerly to clubhouse. The club was thus able to abandon the two 5000 gallon tanks in the cellar which had been used for 30 years to supply water for toilet and shower facilities.

The interior of the clubhouse was also addressed. A ladies powder room was constructed on the first floor in the area which is now behind the bar. The terrace located to the east and below the main dining room was raised and enclosed to create what is now the porch dining area. The object was not only to increase the dining facilities but to provide a more informal atmosphere for members and guests. At the same time improvements were made to the men’s locker room and showers.

A year or so earlier, on the eighteenth hole, Rev. Albert G. Butzer of Westminster Church, and a new member, was struck on the chest by a ball from the practice area. The fact that Dr. Butzer was a man of the cloth may



Dining Room c.1950s.

not have been involved but the incident did accelerate the movement to acquire other land for a practice area. The Board in 1953 entered into a lease with Mr. Behm for use of the land west of Cherry Hill Boulevard where the present range is located. The club purchased this land from Mr. Behm the following year for \$1000.00 down and \$1000.00 per year for nine years without interest.

In addition the pro shop was enlarged to accommodate more storage for hand carts, and the first lavatory on the course was built. History does not record its location or the extent of its sophistication. A starter's booth was built at the first tee and a loud speaker-communication system was installed. A large flag pole was placed in front of the club at the time. The first record of dissatisfaction with the format of the Annual Invitation Tournament appears in 1953. The initial format, which later evolved into the Chapman System at Cherry Hill, was imported from Scotland and is still the most popular form of club golf in that country. Using one ball, the partners play alternately from the tees and then alternately until the ball is holed. In a poll of the members, 57 voted to continue alternate shot and 46 opted for better ball.

Finally, the ill-fated 1927 bond issue was laid to rest. Despite the fact that the Statute of Limitations had run, the club had offered to redeem the outstanding bonds for ten cents on the dollar. Approximately one-half of the bonds were not involved, either because the holders could not be found or the bonds had been purchased by the club. The Liberty Bank of Buffalo was acting as Trustee for bondholders whose bonds had a face value of \$54,730. On September 3, 1953 the club paid the bank \$5,473 and at the annual meeting on October 3, 1953 the stockholders declared the bonds null and void.

All during this time Mr. Behm had been acting both as Grounds Superintendent and as Club Manager. In 1954 his son, Charles J. Behm, was retained to be his father's assistant for Grounds. Although he was not technically a Junior, having a different middle name, he was referred to as "Charlie Behm, Jr." Charlie, Jr. became Grounds Superintendent in 1962 when his father retired and acted in that capacity until 1976.

From the beginning, ladies golf had been under the jurisdiction of the Golf Committee. In 1954 the formation of the first autonomous Ladies Golf Committee is recorded. It was headed by Gertrude Bald.

During this period several employees who would faithfully serve the club for many years joined the Cherry



*Bridge Party Committee
(left to right)
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Atwood, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Davis, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Mueller (c. 1950's)*



Clubhouse Staff Members

(left to right)

James H. Caton, Accountant; John Robinson, Head Chef; Mary Cauthard, Controller;

James Mewha, Manager; Jean Lewis, Hostess



*Canadian Champion of Champions, September 1958 Lookout Point
(left to right)
John Finck, Dottie Thompson Henzelman, George Weimert*

Hill family. Mary Cauthard became the bookkeeper and would later be appointed administrative assistant to the Manager. Jean Lewis became the dining room hostess, and Hughie Chisholm was hired as bartender and locker room attendant. Hughie operated a greenhouse near Cherry Hill Boulevard and provided the club with a steady supply of fresh flowers. Charles "Red" Collison and Lynn Hyde were hired as year-round members of the Grounds Crew. Vic Lovegrove became the permanent starter. The men's and women's locker rooms were expanded to their present proportions and the card room in the grill was paneled. The area between the pro shop and the clubhouse was paved. An acoustical ceiling was installed in the grill room by club employees.

Mr. Behm, in 1955, asked to be relieved of his duties as Club Manager and in 1956 James Mewha assumed that post.

In 1957 the club accepted Mr. Behm's offer to sell 40 acres of property behind and north of the driving range. It was purchased for \$4000, to be paid at the rate of \$500 per year, without interest. That same year Mr. Harries presented a plan for a new nine-hole course on that land, noting that construction would be expensive because it was heavily wooded with considerable rock outcropping.

In the late 1950s electric carts, privately owned, appeared on the scene. A small structure was built across Cherry Hill Boulevard and the cart owners were charged \$50 per year for storage and battery charging. However, as more members brought their own carts to the course, the Board found the arrangement to be unsatisfactory. The privately owned carts were eventually phased out in the late 1960s first by banning any additional carts and then by the club's offering to buy the existing carts from their owners. The club then began to acquire its own carts, the rental of which would soon become a major source of revenue.

Meanwhile, Dottie Henzelman and George Weimert continued to win club championships. Ed Landt, George's close and long-time friend, once remarked that while he had no intention of questioning the record or reputation, he felt it should be pointed out that George had never played a round of golf with a hangover.

An incident occurred in 1959 which bordered on the hilarious, but only in retrospect. In those years the Annual Invitation Tournament was always played on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during the third weekend in June. The closing dinner dance and awarding of prizes was held on Sunday night. Ontario's Blue Laws were then in effect

which prohibited the sale of alcoholic beverages on Sunday. As is chronicled elsewhere, Cherry Hill, from the beginning, had always been careful to court the favor of local and regional officeholders and officials, and the local Liquor Control Board was no exception. Those charged with the enforcement of the law were regularly given the privileges of the course and otherwise entertained. As a consequence, whenever the club was holding a Sunday event, the local Liquor Control Board officials were busy making sure that there were no violations in Welland or St. Catharines.

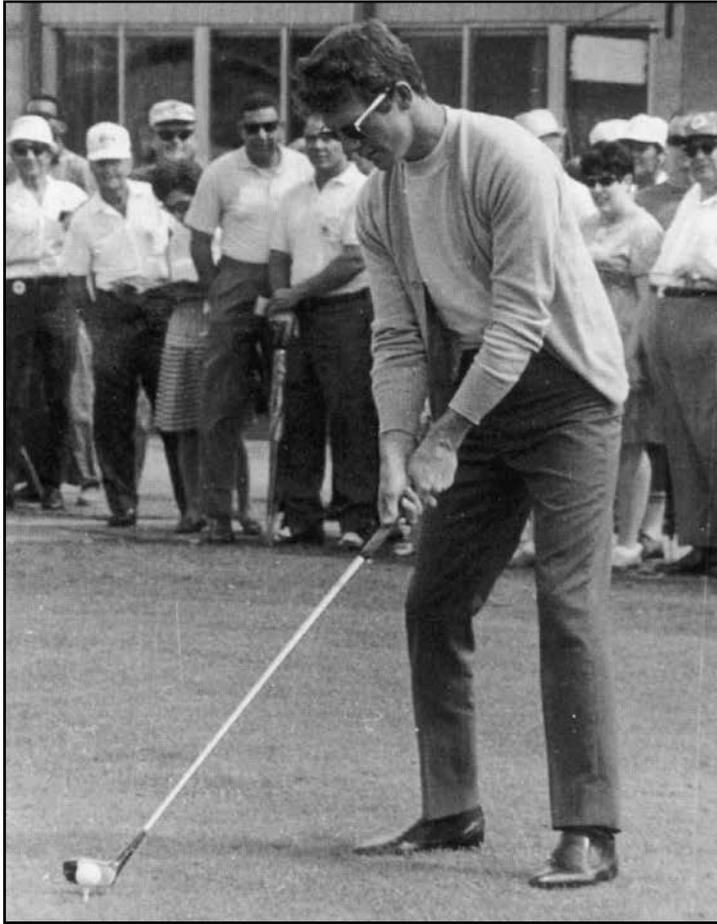
At about 9:30 on the evening of Sunday, June 21, 1959 the front door suddenly burst open and three strange men stormed in. They quickly identified themselves as the "Flying Squad" from the Liquor Control Board's Toronto office. With the possible exception of prostitution, we were violating every liquor regulation on the books. Alcohol was flowing freely and there were some youngsters draining the dregs of creme de menthe glasses. Evidence of gambling was everywhere. Dice were rattling on the bar. There were signs in the front hall indicating where one could invest in the flight pools and the pari-mutual payoff listings were on the porch. To cap it all off there was a huge Calcutta Pool board in front of the fireplace in the dining room. The loss of our liquor licence seemed a real possibility.

The club retained an attorney from Toronto who was also a Member of Parliament. He and President Roger T. Cook attended a meeting before the Liquor Control Board in Toronto the following month. The result was a letter of reprimand and a severe warning that any further violations would result in loss of licence. Needless to say, the ensuing strict compliance with the law had a negative effect on bar revenues.

Of course we wondered who had blown the whistle on us. Inquiry revealed that there was nothing sinister or mean-spirited involved. A director at Erie Downs had innocently written a letter to the Liquor Control Board in Toronto asking how his club might acquire a licence which would allow the service of liquor on Sunday, "like Cherry Hill."

The Sixties

THE ONTARIO OPEN



*George Knudson – Winner
1960 Ontario Open.*

In 1959 the Ontario Golf Association solicited the club to host the 1960 Ontario Open. The dates for the tournament were June 9, 10, and 11. The OGA Tournament Chairman was J. V. Cressy of Rosedale. President Bill McGennis was the Cherry Hill Chairman. The event was sponsored by Dow Kingsbeer Brewery Ltd. which donated the professional prizes totaling \$5000. Approximately 3000 tickets were sold and about \$4400 was generated from sales in the clubhouse and on the course.

The tournament winner, George Knudson, had grown up at the St. George Golf and Country Club in Winnipeg. At the time of the tournament he was the professional at Oakdale and was on the threshold of a brilliant career. The win at Cherry Hill was his first as a professional. His final round of 66 stood as the competitive course record until the Canadian Open in 1972.

The leaders were:

George Knudson.	275
Gary Cowan (A).	286
Bob Hill	288
Toby Lyons.	289
John Molenda (A).	291
Moe Norman	291
Rudy Howath.	291
Alvin Thompson.	294

In his annual report to the Ontario Golf Association for 1960, President John B. Nash included the following:

Also I would like to mention the wonderful co-operation we had from President Bill McGennis and members of the Cherry Hill Golf Club during the Ontario Open.

As the 1960s were entered several physical changes were made. On the course, a program of modernization was begun. This endeavor would include elimination of the chocolate drops, renovation of some bunkers, and the lengthening of some tees. An electric water fountain was placed at the 13th green together with a lavatory at the same location. Alex Osborn donated some new cherry trees and tee markers, and a macadam driveway was installed in front of the club. A large tree to the right of the third fairway was hit by lightning and eventually had to be replaced. Mr. Osborn donated the replacement. The foyer in the clubhouse was completely paneled and acoustical tile was put up in the dining room.

In 1962 two major personnel changes were made. Mr. Behm retired as Grounds Superintendent and was replaced by his son, Charles Jr.. Mr. Behm would stay on as a consultant for several years. In the house, James C. Babcock replaced James Mewha as Manager.

Jim Babcock would prove to be not only an outstanding manager, but a man of extraordinary grace, charm, and tact. He handled the day-to-day operations in a quiet and efficient manner, preferring to solve most problems himself without burdening the officers and directors of the club. He did however recognize that situations would arise where he would need assistance:

Mr. _____, President

Dear Mr. _____,

Re: Mr. _____, Member

Mrs. _____, Guest

With reference to the above mentioned persons, I reluctantly report the following situation to yourself and the Board of Directors. Mr. _____ has visited the club 14 or 15 times this past season, always in the company of one Mrs. _____. On each and every occasion these two persons have reached the state of drunkenness to

make them unwelcome in the club either as member or guest. On two occasions differences between the two were aired in the open with much recrimination and profane language, to the embarrassment of other club members. On two other occasions Mr. _____ has reached the state of helplessness from liquor, and on both occasions found insensible somewhere on club property. Several times they have left the club in a condition that would be considered dangerous to the general public, yet insisted on driving themselves.

I would suggest that Mr. _____ has violated the code of decency and good manners among club members, and invited undesirable guests into the club.

Respectfully submitted,

James C. Babcock

Mr. Babcock also wrote a pretty good letter.

There is in the clubhouse a collection of books compiled by Dr. Leon H. Smith over a lifetime of investigation into the vagaries and nuances of the golf swing. The doctor was born in 1893. He was an ear, nose and throat specialist and first joined Cherry Hill in 1932. For a short time in later years he belonged to Erie Downs, but returned in 1950 to continue his association with Bob Burns, who came to Cherry Hill from Erie Downs that same year. Dr. Smith carried a low handicap but was never satisfied with the results of his study and endless hours of practice. He installed a driving net in the bedroom of his summer home at Crescent Beach, presumably so he could try out every new swing thought without delay. He was a big robust man who did not suffer fools easily. He could be as brusque as he could be charming. One evening as he was finishing the last of his buckets of balls for the day, two younger members who were in their thirties joined him on the practice tee. The two both carried low single-digit handicaps, were good friends, and often practiced together. As they were hitting balls, one said to the other,

“Take a look at this and tell me what you see.” After he hit a shot, the other said “I think you’re taking it back a hair on the outside”. Moments later, the second man asked the first to take a look at his swing. After the shot, the first said “As you start down, your left hip is moving down the line instead of slightly across it”. After witnessing this performance, Dr. Smith hoisted his bag onto his shoulder and started to walk toward the clubhouse, snorting loudly, “Funniest sight in the world - one amateur trying to teach another!” On another occasion, Dr. Smith found himself in the presence of Bob Jones, whom he revered. He owned the Jones instructional films long before they were released on videotape. Summoning his courage, the Doctor said “Mr. Jones, I’d like to ask you a question about the golf swing”. The ever gracious Jones quickly acceded. The question was, “What is the function of the right hand in the hit?” Jones thought a moment and then replied, “I haven’t the slightest idea”. The Doctor told this story many times, always ending it by gleefully chortling, “See?”, secure in the thought that not even the Great Man could truly fathom the game.

After his father’s death in 1963, Leon Jr., presented the golf library consisting of over 200 volumes to Cherry Hill and the Board inaugurated an annual member-member tournament, naming it the Dr. Leon H. Smith Memorial.

The course renovation program continued in 1964. In May it was announced by the Grounds Chairman that 15 bunkers were done, with only 67 to go. Pipe was being purchased to expand and update the course irrigation system. That same month Ken Steeves arrived from Vancouver to assume his duties as Assistant Professional. The bridge over the ditch on the 14th fairway was built and the retaining wall around the practice putting green was installed. On the negative side Dutch Elm Disease was beginning to take its toll.

A Long Range Planning Committee, consisting of former presidents, was formed. It would study and make recommendations in three general areas - 1) Corporate Structure and Dues; 2) Golf Course Layout, Extension, and Improvement; and 3) Club Operation and Buildings.

In the mid 1960s the decision was made to ban the storage of members’ hand carts because of lack of space. Henceforth the club would provide hand carts at no cost. The bag storage area in the pro shop was expanded by building double deckers. A sprinkler system for the clubhouse was installed with the line running across the course from behind the 13th tee. The cost was \$31,264,

but that figure was soon amortized by the significant decrease in fire insurance premiums.

In 1965 the School House west of Cherry Hill Boulevard came on the market. The Board secured three appraisals which came back at \$4000, \$4500, and \$6000. The asking price was \$10,000. The building had no public water or sewers. A Long Range Planning Sub-Committee Relative to Grounds Management was appointed to study the matter. The Sub-Committee report strongly urged the purchase of the property. Although there were protracted negotiations over the next two years, the Board eventually decided not to pursue the matter. When he was convinced that Cherry Hill was not interested, Bill McGennis, in 1967, bought the property.

On April 1, 1966 Mr. Babcock resigned and became the manager of Hamilton Golf Club in Ancaster. He was replaced by Robert Meldrum.

Periodically the question of a swimming pool arose:

Board Minutes - July 21, 1966:

Mr. Finck stated that inquiries have been made to him as to what the thinking or intentions of the Board were with respect to the construction of a swimming pool. The subject apparently being so distasteful to many members of the Board, a motion for adjournment was made and accepted.

In the late 1960s the area near the 15th green was excavated and the natural flow of water formed a pond.

Board Minutes - July 18, 1968:

We have acquired four ducks @ \$2.00 apiece to keep the pond at the 15th hole clean of algae. Charlie Behm is already planning on some duck dinners unless some golfer pops them first.

It had been known for some time that the Ontario Highway Commission had plans for the widening of Highway 3 which runs parallel to the 2nd hole. It was also known that those plans contemplated the taking, by eminent domain, of a strip of land on the north side of the

club property which would include the tree line to the left of the 2nd fairway. Accordingly, Charlie Behm, in 1967 and 1968, had planted 75 Northern Spruce to replace the trees which would be lost. In 1968 the highway contract was awarded to Campbell Construction which was owned and operated by Cherry Hill Club members John and Don Campbell. The club had for some time been considering the installation of two lakes between the 8th and 9th holes and in November of 1968, John Campbell appeared before the Board and offered to dig them at no cost when he had his equipment in the area. Despite some concerns on the part of some Board Members that the lakes might pose some safety hazards for children, his offer was accepted. The lakes were dug in early 1969 and some of the excavated material was placed at those locations designated by Mr. Harries as future greens and tees in his plans for the new nine holes.

It should be noted that two more outstanding golfing records were begun in the 1960s. In 1966 Claire Moeschler won her first Ladies Club Championship. She would win the event 15 more times through 1995. In 1967, Lolly Lenahan won her first and would win it 7 more times through 1987.

As the 1960s drew to a close, the club could look back at considerable progress. The noted Canadian golf course architect, Clinton E. "Robbie" Robinson, had toured the course and presented the Board with a long term program for course improvement. Eric Hansen, a Canadian consultant, had surveyed the area of the proposed new nine and submitted a development plan which would incorporate residential lots on the periphery of the course. The 7th and 8th tees had been elevated and two new tees had been added at the 5th hole. Twilight Golf, a Tuesday evening event featuring 9 holes and dinner for couples, had been inaugurated and was proving to be immensely popular. Finally, Ontario changed the laws so that the club could sell liquor on Sundays, this time legally.

One last observation on the busy 1960s. Of no great significance, but noteworthy nonetheless, is the fact that



Mrs. Edwin Lenahan Mrs. G. Robert Moeschler Jr.

Runner-up congratulates winner after championship

Mrs. Moeschler Wins at Cherry Hill

Mrs. Robert Moeschler successfully completed defense of her women's golf championship at Cherry Hill on Friday, turning back Mrs. Edwin Lenahan.

In the three-day event, Mrs. Moeschler had scores of 83, 87 and 81 for 251 against 263 for Mrs. Lenahan, who shot 89, 86 and 88.

Mrs. Willard Pottle took net honors with 222. Mrs. Thomas McGrattan was next with 226.

Newspaper Article August 23, 1969.

the Buffalo District Golf Association's Men's Individual Championship was held at Cherry Hill in 1964. The opponents in the 36-hole final match were Karl J. Englert, Jr., D.D.S. of the Moonbrook Club in Jamestown and Bill Reynolds of the host club. Dr. Englert won 8 and 7. If it had been a prizefight they would have stopped it. Golf Digest picked up the result with a little squib headlined "Dentist Drills Lawyer".

The Seventies

The Board opened 1970 by raising the initiation fee from \$750 to \$1000. Although the club was fairly sound financially there was some concern that a 1969 survey revealed that of our 440 members, 190 spent less than \$25 per month at the club. Bob Burns was becoming less active and a new arrangement was entered into whereby he and Ken Steeves would split pro shop revenues on a 2/3-1/3 basis. Paul Whitfield was hired as an assistant professional for the year.



*Gay Brewer, Jr. - Winner
Canadian Open 1972.*

A traditional approach to a familiar subject:

Board Minutes - February 19, 1970

Since Cherry Hill now falls within the Township of Fort Erie, upon the recommendation of the President and upon motion duly made and seconded, the Mayor of Fort Erie will be extended an Honorary Membership in the Cherry Hill Club.

Early in the year the club's fleet of electric carts was expanded from 40 to 50. Campbell Construction completely renovated the two tennis courts which re-opened for play on July 4, 1970.

At the Board Meeting held August 27, 1970, President John Campbell reported the receipt of a "feeler" from the Royal Canadian Golf Association about the 1972 Canadian Open.

THE CANADIAN OPEN

It is no exaggeration to suggest that Cherry Hill's hosting of the 1972 Canadian Open had its genesis in the 1960 Ontario Open. In the earlier tournament many Cherry Hill members formed close friendships with the principals of the Ontario Golf Association and the latter became well acquainted with Cherry Hill and what the club had to offer. During the 1960 tournament Phil Farley of Scarborough, one of Canada's outstanding amateurs, and a past president of the OGA, remarked to Bill McGennis that the Canadian Open should one day be played at Cherry Hill.

These friendships were further nurtured in subsequent years by the warm and wonderful camaraderie which developed as a result of the annual Canadian - American Days held at Cherry Hill. These events threw together two separate groups, in many ways diverse, but with one common ground - the game of golf.

Care, sometimes tongue-in-cheek, was given by each group to respect the cultural background of the other. The dinners which followed golf always included a solemn toast, "To the Queen" (usually followed by a not-so-solemn, "To the President"). It is unfortunate that this tradition came to an end in the late 1970s.

By the time President John Campbell, in August of 1970, received the "feeler" about the 1972 Open, a great many of our friends had achieved important ranking in the RCGA. In those days Glen Abbey had not yet been designated the "permanent" site for the Open and many highly qualified clubs from all over Canada sought to be chosen to host the event each year.

A committee consisting of President Campbell, Bill McGennis, Bert Mewha, Charlie Roesch, John Mooney, and Charlie McCarthy was appointed to meet with the RCGA. Cherry Hill's Grounds Chairman, Bill Griffin, was also heavily involved. There are many things that the RCGA, or any such organization, looks for in selecting the site for a major tournament. Naturally the golf course itself is important. But of equal importance is the make-up of the membership and the question of whether the members will throw themselves wholeheartedly into the effort. Other factors involve proximity to major population centers, highway access to the club, the availability of parking facilities and whether the course lends itself to efficient and safe crowd control. Cherry Hill apparently passed in all respects, and the contract between the Club and the RCGA was signed in

May of 1971. The holding of the tournament would coincide with the club's fiftieth anniversary.

Bill McGennis was appointed the Cherry Hill Chairman and for the next 14 months he would work closely with Richard H. "Dick" Grimm, the RCGA Tournament Director and Jack Tuthill, the American PGA Tournament Director. The sponsor of the tournament was the Peter Jackson Division of the Imperial Tobacco Company which put up the \$150,000 in prize money.

Predictably, there was a portion of the membership which was against having the event. They groused about being unable to play their own course for a week, having to move out of their lockers and worried that the golf course would be destroyed by the players and the crowds. Two events followed in short order which helped immeasurably to get everyone on the bandwagon.

The Peter Jackson Company and the RCGA arranged for Gary Player to play an exhibition round on May 28, 1971 in conjunction with the official announcement that Cherry Hill would be the site for the 1972 tournament. Despite the fact that the day was cool and overcast, Gary was his usual charming self, bantering with the members all through the round and often asking their advice on how to play particular shots. On the 9th tee, he looked at the hole, looked at the score card, and announced loudly that he intended to speak to the Golf Committee about making number 9 a par four for the members. In the press conference that followed he expressed in strong terms his opinion that Cherry Hill was a first class golf course, was far superior to most of the courses he encountered on tour, and was an outstanding choice as the site for the 1972 Open. His remarks were widely quoted by the media on both sides of the border. Our publicity campaign was underway.

The second event referred to above began to unfold in mid-June when all members received in the mail a mysterious notice which strongly recommended that they be at the club at noon on June 28. There was no other explanation and verbal inquiries yielded nothing.

The June 28 event gave rise to an apocryphal tale which involved a member, who, with his wife, was very strict about bad language in the family. He came to the club with his young son on the appointed date. The father went into the locker room and the boy wandered in the direction of the 1st tee. Moments later the boy burst into the locker room and shouted, "Jesus Christ, Arnold Palmer's here!", to which the father responded, "No s - - -!".

With absolutely no publicity, the sponsor and the RCGA had arranged for Gary Player, Al Balding, Doug Sanders, Tommy Aaron, Bob Charles, George Knudson, Raymond Floyd, and Palmer to visit Cherry Hill. They played with a number of businessmen and bankers who sponsored and otherwise promoted the event. Some of these men were not exactly serious golfers. One, who played in his shirt sleeves and street shoes, asked Floyd if he had ever won anything. When Raymond mentioned the PGA, the man asked what PGA stood for. There were no crowds and no ropes. The professionals were most



Arnold Palmer.

gracious, freely talking and joking with everyone. Gary Player capped the day by giving a 5 year-old a piggy-back ride up the 18th fairway. There was considerable newspaper coverage after the fact. The following day, Ken McKee of the Toronto Daily Star, commenting upon the secrecy surrounding the event, wrote, "The United States Defence Department should have such security!"

The initial reluctance of a portion of the membership was soon overcome when nearly everyone became personally involved. In the summer of 1971 over 20 committees were formed, each with its own manual

supplied by the RCGA and the PGA. The detail required was mind-boggling. As a partial listing, committee heads planned and arranged for publicity, ticket sales, drivers, markers, hospitality, parking, press relations, uniforms, caddies, concessions, communications, security, on-course rest rooms, medical services, score boards, marshals, enclosing the course, and roping off the holes. Bert Mewha, in the name of the club, reserved every motel and hotel room in the area. Through the efforts of Bill McGennis, General Motors of Canada donated the use of 50 automobiles for player transport. George Weimert was in charge of scoring. Ray Weil and Honey Atwill arranged with area clubs to provide marshals and lady scorers. Lou Berger provided, at cost, the uniforms for both men and women. Charlie Tracy, a member who was with New York Telephone, planned and supervised the installation of the communications network which involved the burying of miles of cable on the course.

The RCGA and PGA came to the course in the fall of 1971 and staked the fairways on the par 4 and par 5 holes, telling us not to cut the grass outside the stakes. Although the club had been required to do nothing to prepare the course except to let the grass grow where indicated, it was decided to accelerate the long-range plan which involved the relocation and renovation of bunkers and the installation of ground white quartzite in them. The lake on number 5 was dug at this time. Architect "Robbie" Robinson came to assist in this program which was carried out in the fall and subsequent spring, and paid for with tournament revenues.

In the early months of 1972 the employees' parking lot was paved, a new roof was put on the clubhouse, and the exterior of the clubhouse was painted.

As tournament time approached the Cherry Hill landscape changed drastically. The tennis court was covered with a tent to be occupied by the press. Concession stands and public telephones appeared in the parking lot and elsewhere. Bleachers were installed to the left of the 18th green and behind the practice tee. Scoreboards were erected, and a leader board was placed next to a TV tower located to the right of the 18th green. Sponsors' flags and pennants fluttered everywhere. Cherry Hill would, for a week, become in every sense a small self-contained and self-sustaining city with a population of about 1000 people.

Everything seemed to be in readiness. There was prevalent an uneasy feeling that because of lack of



Resembling a yawning chasm awaiting to snare its next victim, this sand trap at Cherry Hill is one of the many obstacles to be overcome by entrants in the Canadian Open Tournament this week.

The Canadian Open Golf Tournament — and Cherry Hill

By Deborah Williams

IT'S LIKE putting a city of 20,000 people on our golf course and grounds and taking care of everyone's needs." That's how William J. McGenis, general chairman of the Canadian Open Golf Tournament which begins tomorrow at the Cherry Hill Country Club, Bridgewater, Ont., describes the work involved in preparing for this top-rated golf championship.

McGenis, who clearly loves golf and especially Cherry Hill, recently traced the history of the Canadian Open back to 1960. "The Ontario Open was held that year and officials from the Royal Canadian Golf Assn. were here and they liked what they saw," he explained.

He listed some of the advantages of the Cherry Hill Course: "We are close to Toronto and Buffalo, have great parking facilities, a lot of distance between the fairways and a course which lends itself to gallerying or watching the players.

"Finally last year, after talks with officials, we agreed that the 63d Canadian Open would be held here. There hasn't been a major golf tournament in the Buffalo area since 1947, and we felt the time was ripe."

RIDING OVER the golf course and grounds, McGenis waved his hand majestically. "I played golf all over the world and this course is one of my favorites. Ever see such a parking lot? And the grounds—they're in terrific shape."

He is such a golf and Cherry Hill enthusiast that three years ago he converted a more than 100-year-old stone schoolhouse across from the clubhouse into the living room of his summer home from which he can see the course and grounds.

The grounds are under the direction of Charles



William J. McGennis, Canadian Open general chairman: "It's like putting a city of 20,000 people on our golf course."



Serene and picturesque, this watery obstacle is one of four lakes which dot the fairways at Cherry Hill Country Club.

J. Behm, who took over as head groundskeeper in 1969 when his father, Charles A. Behm, retired after serving as groundskeeper since 1927—a year after the club was founded.

In preparation for the upcoming tournament, 30 traps have been added to Cherry Hill for a total of 110. A lake was added at the fifth hole for a total of four lakes on the course.

The course was modernized by the Canadian golf architect, Robbie Robinson. One thousand

trees were planted. An automatic watering system for the tees and greens also was installed. Every third green will have a telephone nearby so scores can be transmitted almost instantly to a central board.

BYOND THE improvements in the course, most of which were completed last year, there are a tremendous number of volunteers and

Continued on page 6

experience we might not be able to pull the thing off. Nevertheless we were eagerly awaiting the arrival of the players who were due on Monday, July 3. And then, on June 21, it started to rain. And it rained, and it rained, and it rained, and it rained. We were truly concerned that the tournament might not be held at all. It did not help to learn that the previous week's tour event, in Cleveland, had been a disaster because of rain.

Advance ticket sales for the tournament indicated that we would have to handle large crowds. We had planned to park spectators' cars east of Cauthard Road and west of Cherry Hill Boulevard but this idea was scuttled by the rain. Both properties were swampy bogs by the end of June. We therefore made arrangements for spectators to park at the Fort Erie racetrack and engaged shuttle buses to transport them to and from the course. Signs to this effect were posted at the Peace Bridge and on all Canadian highways leading to Cherry Hill. We lost the parking revenue and had to pay for the buses, but the procedure worked very well.

On Tuesday, July 4, the rain stopped. The players were on hand but their activities that day were limited to practice areas because the course was completely unplayable. The sun came out that afternoon and remained throughout the tournament. The grounds were not much better on Wednesday, but we had to turn the players loose for course orientation and practice rounds. A large number of spectators, beyond the ropes, watched as the best players in the world charted the course and noted their landmarks for yardage purposes.

As tournament time approached we nervously wondered whether Cherry Hill could withstand an all-out assault by touring professionals. This apprehension was not helped by comments in the media and at area clubs to the effect that Cherry Hill would be "torn apart." We needn't have worried, even though there would be no rain and virtually no wind during the four days. The course's main lines of defense were the rough and the greens. The clipped portions of the fairways had been considerably narrowed and the second cut of the adjacent rough was ten inches high. This rough was not the "rough" from which the members customarily played. With the fairways narrowed as they were, this rough was thick and healthy fairway grass which had been fertilized for years and then rained on for two weeks. The pitching wedge was the only useful weapon.

The greens presented other problems. The putting surfaces were of course lightning fast. In addition, the

grass was cut to a height of about 5 inches in an area about 10 feet wide around all the greens. Even though the ball was only a few feet from the green, the shot required nearly a full swing with a sand wedge. Shortly before the tournament a television crew came to Cherry Hill to interview Chairman McGennis. Those who watched the news that night saw Bill standing next to the ninth green explaining to the interviewer that even the pros considered it nearly impossible to get the ball anywhere near the hole from that position. The interviewer asked Bill to demonstrate for the camera. He holed it.

Thursday dawned under clear blue skies and the course was unbelievably green, lush, and beautiful. The first round leader, Bunky Henry, gave us a momentary scare when he opened with a course record 65. There was one other 65, that by Lanny Wadkins in the third round. The following day, after birdies on the first two holes, his second shot to the third green struck the flagstick on the fly and bounded into a bunker. He finished the day with 79. So much for attempts to embarrass the Grand Old Lady of Ridgeway.

As the tournament progressed the course dried out and the action picked up. Lou Graham and Dave Hill were tied for the lead at 136 after the second round. The original field had 150 players. After Friday's round, 73 of them made the cut at 147 or better. This was five over par, the 7th hole having been designated a par 4. By Saturday the crowds were overwhelming, swarming over the course following their favorites. They were superbly well-behaved, remaining totally silent when the occasion demanded and exploding with the distinct noises that only golf galleries can make when a long putt drops, or conversely, stops an inch away. Before we were done, 84,000 people would come to the tournament which would make it the most successful Canadian Open ever held up to that time.

Gay Brewer led after three rounds with 205. Gay, who would win the tournament with a nine under par 275, provided the drama on Sunday. Playing number 15, he was eight under par, tied with Dave Hill and Sam Adams who were in the clubhouse. He hit his second shot over the green. The hole was cut on the upper level and he was faced with a delicate little pitch shot which had every prospect of rolling past the hole and down the hill to the bottom of the green. He left his pitch shot short but he chipped the next one in. His victory, and the \$30,000 first prize, came from a birdie on number 17. Dave Hill, who was in the locker

room, heard the roar from 17. He said "That's it", and took off his golf shoes. The low amateur, at 287, was Nick Weslock.



Sam Adams - an inch away?

By mid-afternoon clouds had begun to roll in. The closing ceremonies were held on the 18th green, in English and French, before a huge crowd, many dignitaries, and television coverage from both countries. After accepting the Eskimo carving, symbolic of the Canadian Open Championship, the winner made a modest and charming speech of appreciation to all concerned. Just as he finished, it started to rain.

On Monday, with the course set up just as it had been on Sunday, a members' tournament was held. Scores ranged from 10 to 20 strokes above normal. If the party that followed involved a lot of self-congratulation, the participants can be forgiven. They had, after all, with the whole continent watching, run off a national championship without a hitch. The nearest thing to a problem was that the press tent always seemed to need more ice.

Both during and after the Open there were multiple media references to the magnificent condition of the



Charles A. Behm

Charles J. Behm

Cherry Hill's well-known father-son groundskeepers meet at club

Canadian Open Will Help Cherry Hill's Anniversary

THE CHERRY Hill Country Club will be celebrating its 50th birthday when one of the ranking events on the North American sports schedule, the Canadian Open Golf Championship conducted by the Royal Canadian Golf Assn., is presented at the nearby Ontario layout July 3-9.

The 18-hole course was designed to occupy two 100-acre farms owned by the Philip Benner and John Barnhart families near Ridgeway, Ont., on the Garrison Road. Today, with plans roughed out for an additional nine holes, the facility covers 260 acres.

CHERRY HILL'S first president was Edward E. Coatsworth, and the first vice president was Henry May. The other officers included John Fairbairn, second vice president;

Howard Bissell, treasurer, and Joe Morey, secretary.

The original board of directors also included Jesse Dann, Walter King, Roland Lord O'Brian and Walter Stafford.

In following its policy of serving equally its Canadian and American members, Cherry Hill joined the United States Golf Assn. and the Royal Canadian Golf Assn. in 1923, and has maintained memberships in each since.

IN 1924, James H. Swift became Cherry Hill's first golf professional. He was followed by the Murchie brothers, Frank and George; Lee Smith, Bob Burns and the present pro, Ken Steeves.

Charles Thorne, formerly of the Country Club of Buffalo, was Cherry Hill's first steward. Bob Meldrum is the current club manager.

The membership at Cherry Hill was some 300 at its outset, and is now being held at 400. The present president of the club is Ed Atwill.

WILLIAM LANGLAND was named Cherry Hill's first groundskeeper in 1926, and the care of the course has been in the hands of the Behm family since 1927.

Charles A. Behm, 84 and retired since 1962, was succeeded by his son, Charles J. Behm, and the younger Behm is readying the course for the Canadian Open, being presented by Peter Jackson.

Order forms for tickets for the Canadian Open may be obtained in Western New York at any branch of the Marine Midland, Liberty Bank, Bank of Buffalo, the M&T Trust Co., and at all L. L. Berger stores. In Southern Ontario, the Royal Bank of Canada has the forms.

Buffalo Courier-Express, Sunday March 5, 1972.

course. Articles were written noting the fact that the course had been in the knowledgeable and loving hands of the Behm family for 45 years. Mr. Behm, Sr. who was then 84 years old, lived on Cherry Hill Boulevard, and had made himself available to his son as a consultant. Charlie, Jr. and his grounds crew worked tirelessly for over a year to prepare the course, with Mother Nature not always being co-operative. A tribute to the Behms and the crew was well expressed in a national publication:

Cherry Hill...drew more genuine and unstinting praise from the pros than any course in recent memory, even Augusta.

Golf World Magazine, July, 1972.

* * *

As the euphoria following the Open waned, the club returned to everyday business. Within two weeks following the tournament, Charlie Behm reported that the course and grounds showed no signs that the event had ever been held, with the exception of the practice tee which was pretty well denuded. The club had borrowed a trap raking machine for use during the tournament. It worked so well the election was made to purchase it. At the October 1972 Board meeting a trophy was presented to Bill McGennis and a golf bag to Bill Griffin for their efforts in support of the Open.

In 1973, Tom Kays succeeded Bob Meldrum as manager. The golf course was re-measured and the red, white, and blue tee markers were installed. Work was under way on the wooden plaques with the burned-in yardages for all tees.

Not all matters coming before the Board are routine:

Board Minutes - May 17, 1973

A request for worm picking privileges on the golf course was referred back to the Golf Committee.

There had been in place for some years, a Tree Program whereby members were encouraged to donate funds for the purchase of mature trees to be planted in memory of a member, relative or friend. When planted, a

small plaque bearing the name of the person in whose memory it was given was placed upon the tree. The idea did have a slightly ghoulish element, but there were other negative considerations. One member said it was disconcerting to find himself stymied by a tree with his deceased mother-in-law's name on it. In August of 1973 it was decided to discontinue the plaques and enter donors' names on a board in the grill.

From time to time construction of the new nine holes was discussed:

Board Minutes - January 24, 1974

The nine additional hole course has been ruled out as a luxury which the club cannot afford.

In early 1974 James J. Lee was hired to replace Tom Kays as Manager. When the season opened in 1974 there appeared behind the counter in the pro shop a thoroughly pleasant and self-effacing young woman who always had a smile on her face. She was Cathy Graham Sherk who would remain at Cherry Hill in that capacity until 1978. Cathy was 24 years old when she arrived. She had married in 1973 and gave birth to a son in 1975. Because of her unassuming personality, the thought occurs that many of the members did not quite appreciate what the club had in Cathy. This changed in 1977 when she won the Canadian Women's Amateur and was runner-up in the United States Women's Amateur. In 1978 she not only won both those tournaments but the World Amateur as well. She turned professional in 1978 and played the American tour for 6 years. Jeff Roy often caddied for her on tour. She won the Canadian Professional Golf Association Women's Championship in 1987 and 1990. She gained a reputation as a marvelous teacher and operates the Sherkwood Golf School in St. Catharines, having opened it in 1989. She is in Canada's Golf Hall of Fame.

In August of 1974 a "mini-invitation" tournament was held with the field limited to 72 teams. This event would continue and become known as the "Two-Day". Ken Steeves resigned to become the professional at Hamilton Golf Club and his assistant, Tony Evershed, replaced him. By March of 1975 the clubhouse had been redecorated and the lake to the right of the 12th fairway was in place. The excavated material was used to form the hill behind the 13th tee and several trees were placed in order to protect



Cathy Sherk.



*(left to right)
Tony Evershed, Bill Wallis (long-time starter) and Ken Steeves c. 1971.*

the left side of that tee. Flowering bushes were planted between the lake and Nye Road.

You can't please all of the people all of the time:

*Board of Directors
Cherry Hill Club
Ridgeway, Ontario
Canada LOS INO*

Gentlemen:

Please consider this letter as a formal request for the Board of Directors of the Cherry Hill Club to take some action to correct the deteriorating quality of the Cherry Hill club. As a dues paying member, and being the only person in my family playing golf, I resent being confronted with women, juniors, slow playing members, outside parties and who knows what else to encumber play at Cherry Hill.

On Monday, June 9, there was an outside party playing golf at Cherry Hill. Tuesday I discovered a \$55 pair of golf shoes belonging to myself were missing. The rules of Cherry Hill state plainly; outside parties will be discouraged at Cherry Hill from June 1 to September 30. On Wednesday, June 11 there was an unannounced outside party of 28 playing golf at Cherry Hill. The rules state plainly that any outside party consisting of 20 or more players will be approved by the Board of Directors. Certainly, strong disciplinary measures are warranted in this circumstance.

On Wednesday, June 11, Men's Day, there were no flags on the pins of any of the greens. While I do not know the reason for this, there is absolutely no excuse for flags to be missing on the one weekday reserved for dues paying

members. On Wednesday, June 11, Mr. _____ asked for bacon and eggs for lunch. You will be interested to know that a member of the staff informed Mr. _____ that bacon and eggs are not served after 11:30 A.M. This raises the question whether the dues paying members of Cherry Hill are paying dues and maintaining this club for the convenience of the staff or the convenience of the members. On Wednesday, June 11, Men's Day, because the grill was filled with women and children, the men were required to eat in the locker room. The locker room incidentally, is beginning to look like the men's room at Memorial Auditorium with stickers and other graffiti on several of the lockers. You have a responsibility to turn situations such as these around and restore Cherry Hill to a quality golf club.

As of June 12, with the exception of Mr. _____ and Mr. _____, there is not a member of the Board of Directors who has played golf more than 8 times this season. I would like to point out that Cherry Hill is a private golf club, not a restaurant, not a Twin Fair, not a public golf course but a private golf club. Let me emphasize the word golf. Further, Cherry Hill is not a babysitting service or a local chapter of the ladies aid. This club is for members and their limited guests to play golf.

You gentlemen are not living up to your responsibilities. We need a well run club for golfers more than we need new dining rooms, terraces, swimming pools or tennis courts, and it would seem the members responsible for running the club, namely the Board of Directors, ought to spend a little time at the club and familiarize

themselves with the requirements of the dues paying, golf playing members, who support this club and pro shop by spending their money at Cherry Hill 4 or 5 times a week.

Let's get off dead center and go to work.

Yours very truly,

Because of the hazards presented by errant golf balls the fence at the southeast corner of the tennis court was raised 6 feet. By the end of 1975 all of the steel pipe in the fairway watering system had been replaced with plastic lines. In early 1976 Reno Martin became Manager in place of Mr. Lee. A severe ice storm caused considerable damage to the trees on the property and there was a break-in with several items being stolen from the grill.

A familiar refrain:

Board Minutes - June 24, 1976

Permission was granted for the Niagara Regional Police to hold their annual golf tournament at Cherry Hill.

The year 1977 saw the arrival of Cecil T. Hoekstra as Grounds Superintendent. "Cec" had been an outstanding hockey player with the Buffalo Bisons and the Cleveland Barons. More importantly for Cherry Hill, he had had 24 years experience as a grounds keeper, the last 6 as Superintendent at River Oaks on Grand Island and then at Windsor Park north of Toronto. The club was most fortunate to secure the services of Cec, who would carry on the tradition of superior groundskeeping at Cherry Hill. His willingness to work, his administrative and budgetary skills, and his knowledge in the field of turf grass management are unsurpassed. Charlie Behm would stay on as a member of the grounds crew until 1983.

At Cec's suggestion, a major project involving the

irrigation system was undertaken in 1977. Although the water supply was more than sufficient, there was a problem with the existing pumping system. The pump was 60 feet below the surface and the intake was covered with a screen. However, the sulphur content of the water caused the screen to rot periodically. As a result the pump would pull shale and stones from the aquifer into the lines and clog the sprinkler heads, necessitating a shut-down until they could be taken apart and the material removed. A contract was entered into for the purchase of an automatic packaged pump station, the construction of a pump house, and a 60 foot silo going down to the well.

Key to the system was the digging of a large reservoir east of the well. The reservoir was 300 feet long, 150 feet wide, 23 feet deep, and held 5,000,000 U.S. gallons. Water was to be pumped from the well into the reservoir and then pumped from there into the irrigation lines out on the course. All pumping was electronically controlled. With the approval of the authorities, a sluice with valves was dug leading from the ditch south of Highway 3 into the reservoir, to take advantage of water from that source. The system became operational in June of 1977.

Problems, problems:

Board Minutes - June 29, 1977

*Members are bringing lady guests
(Significant Others) to play golf
without paying greens fees.
Mr. _____ will look into it.*

Because of its seasonal nature, the club has always had a shortage of resources over the winter months. Historically, after the club closed for the year, money had to be borrowed to carry the club during those months when there was no income. Those loans were paid back early the following year when dues and assessment payments began to come in. This cycle has always been difficult to break. A most difficult time was experienced in 1977-1978. At that time interest rates in Canada topped 22% which made the loans unacceptably expensive. Board member Cliff Vogelsang entered into protracted negotiations with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Ridgeway, the objective being to procure long-term financing at much lower rates. The result was a \$175,000 loan to be paid off at \$25,000 per year for 7 years. As part of the agreement,

the bank did not require a mortgage provided that the club did not default on any payment, which it never did.

On the course, because of chronic drainage problems in multiple areas, a comprehensive program for installing French drains was begun. This work would be done by Cec and the grounds crew, and would go on for several years. The gabions, or retaining walls, were installed around the lakes on holes 5 and 15. An expert was called in to examine the large oak tree on the left side of number 6 at the corner of the dog-leg. He estimated its life expectancy at a maximum of five years. A Red Maple and a Silver Maple, each 15 feet high, were planted near the oak, the expectation being that they would double in height in 5 years and preserve the integrity of the hole when the oak tree died. As of this writing, the maples are doing very nicely. On the other hand, so is the oak.

One very nice thing happened in 1978. Brenda Washburn arrived to become the club Bookkeeper and Office Manager. Always pleasant, and working quietly and efficiently behind the scenes, she is a major factor in the smooth day-to-day operation of the club.

Tony Evershed hired Jeff Roy to be his first assistant in 1979. Al Kmety was the second assistant. Jeff would become the club Professional in 1990 and Al served the club for several years both in the pro shop and in the cart shack where he serviced and maintained the fleet of electric carts.

It was in 1979 that Bob Loweth first put together the Tree Committee. It was and is composed of a group of volunteers who periodically trim trees on the course. In addition to Bob, the original members were Bill Wright, David Jones, Jack Lundrigan and Jack Teach. Always enthusiastic, the Committee has been of great assistance to the grounds crew and has performed a valuable service to the club.

There was an incident late in the year which was funny provided one wasn't involved. Some members hosted a party for their teen-age children and several of the latter's friends. Supervision apparently broke down. They somehow got into the cart shack and had what amounted to a demolition derby with the carts. Twenty-five carts were damaged and one was a total loss.

The Eighties

In March of 1980, Bob Meldrum was re-hired as Manager, replacing Reno Martin. To comply with regulations, cooking and hot water equipment was installed in the Halfway House, thus allowing the service of beer and ale.

The fall of 1980 saw Cherry Hill as the object of some national notoriety. On September 12 and 13, a team consisting of Tony Evershed, Ken Thompson, Ralph Del Bello and Ed Marine, representing Ontario, won the Crown Life Pro-Am Canadian Club Championship in Edmonton. Begun by Crown Life in Manitoba in 1973, the event became officially sanctioned by the RCGA in 1979. Teams were comprised of the club professional and three club members with high, medium, and low handicaps respectively. The Stableford format was used for scoring. Over 10,700 amateurs had entered the qualifying rounds.

Getting to Edmonton was not easy. On August 29 the team got up at 4:00 A.M. to make its 7:45 A.M. tee off time at the Board of Trade in Toronto. There were 48 teams in the Ontario final. The Cherry Hill team finished at noon and booked a room at a nearby hotel to rest for the afternoon. This proved to be a sound decision because at the end of the day they had to beat Scarboro in a three-hole playoff. In the 36-hole final, Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, in addition to Ontario, were represented. The Cherry Hill team posted a 14-point lead the first day and never looked back.

The minutes of the Board Meeting of September 23, 1980 record that consideration was being given to re-



*Jim Thorpe - Winner
The CPGA Championship 1982.*

aligning the 1st hole to protect the tennis court and to allow for the expansion of the clubhouse easterly into the existing 1st fairway. This idea would be a source of controversy until July of 1982 - discussed later.

It was discovered that the mortgage executed in connection with the 1927 Bond Issue was still a lien on club property. Club counsel and member Earle Blackadder petitioned the County Court of the Judicial District of Niagara South and on February 5, 1981 it was decreed that the mortgage was no longer a charge against the land.

Not so easily solved, and eventually not solved at all, was the problem of stock ownership in the club. When Cherry Hill was founded all members were stockholders. The initial subscription cost was \$1000 which represented 10 shares with a par value of \$100 each. In 1936 the Constitution was amended to provide for four classifications of membership. Included were Life Members with 20 shares, Preferred Members with 10 shares, and General Members with 4 shares. The Life and Preferred Members enjoyed a discount on dues. The critical change was the creation of the fourth membership which had no requirement for stock ownership and thus no vote in the affairs of the club. It did not take long for those members who did not own stock to greatly outnumber those who did. The result was that a minority of the members was effectively making decisions for the whole membership. Any move by the non-stockholders to dilute the power of the stockholders could easily be put down.

This situation was cause for concern on two fronts. The first had to do with the liquor licence issued pursuant to The Liquor Licence Act. Counsel Blackadder researched the question and determined that Cherry Hill had a "club" licence. Under the Act a "club" was defined as a "club... in which the members may vote for all purposes of the club." Mr. Blackadder advised that although this provision of the Act was not being enforced at the time, it should still be a cause for concern. If Cherry Hill was not a "club", as defined, because all of its members could not vote, the club could not technically hold a "club" licence.

The second cause for concern stemmed from an incident at Lookout Point Golf and Country Club in the mid 1970s. Lookout Point had a stockholder structure very similar to that of Cherry Hill. The stockholders ran the club and the non-stockholders had no voice in its management. In addition, like Cherry Hill, some of the stock, by reason of death or otherwise, was owned by individuals who were not members. In 1974 someone

approached Lookout Point and expressed a strong interest in purchasing the club's land for operation as a gravel pit. The stockholders stood to reap enormous profits from such a sale. Several of the stockholders attempted a takeover, but were narrowly defeated by other stockholders who felt that Lookout Point should be a golf course and not a gravel pit.

As of 1981 the club had an authorized capital of \$250,000 - 2500 shares with a par value of \$100. In April of 1981 the Board proposed an amendment to the Constitution which would increase the authorized capital to \$287,500 and issue 2500 additional shares with a par value of \$15. These new shares would have no equity in the club, but would have voting rights. The intent was to comply with The Liquor Licence Act, give more members a voice in the management of the club, and also to prevent the kind of takeover attempt that Lookout Point had experienced. The proposal was to be voted upon at a meeting of the stockholders scheduled for May 9, 1981. However, so intense was the negative reaction from many of the stockholders that the meeting was cancelled and never rescheduled.

In the fall the By-Laws were amended so as to create the office of President-Elect, to be filled by a director in his third year of service. In October John Carter was elected President for the second consecutive year and Bill McGarva became the first President-Elect.

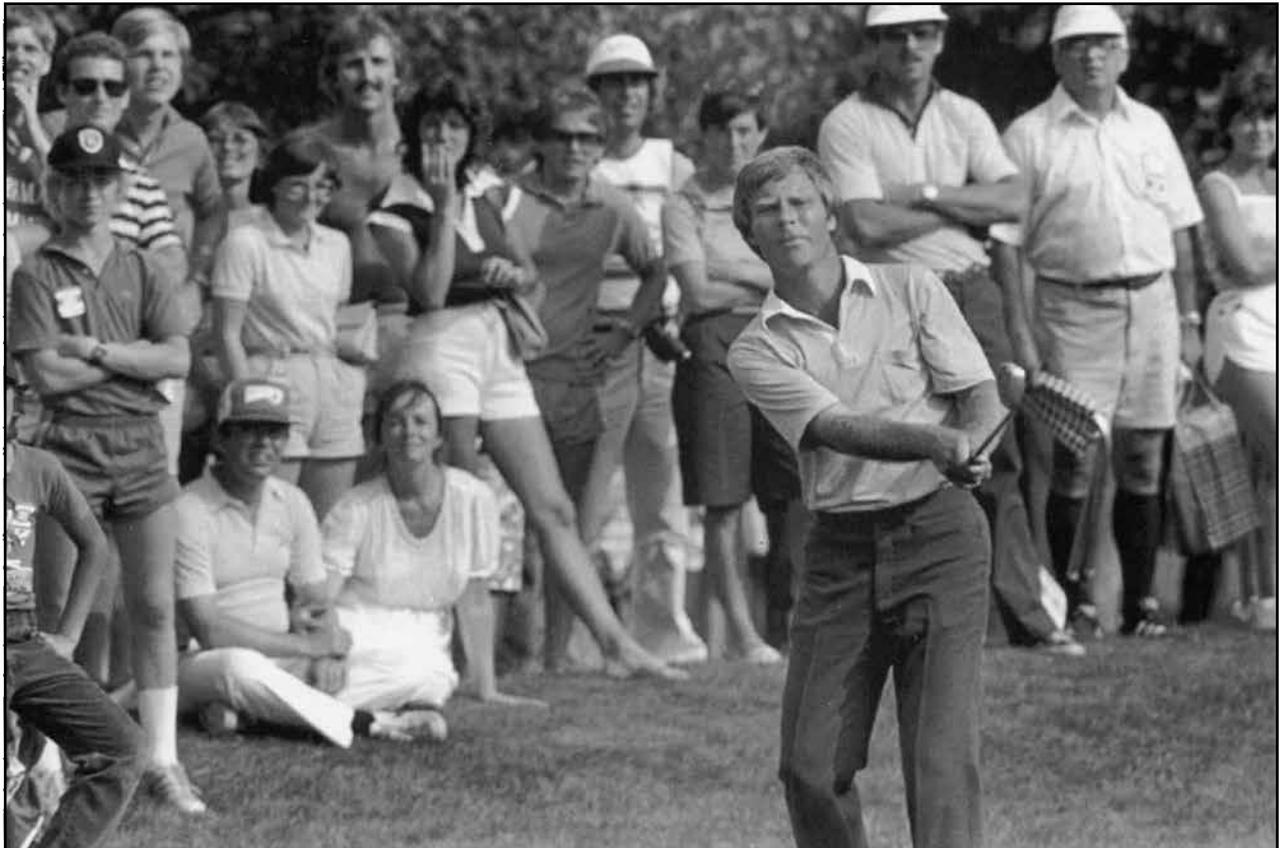
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THE CPGA CHAMPIONSHIP

For some time the club had been considering the hosting of another professional tournament. In 1980 contact had been made with Dave Zink, whose company, TourPro Management Ltd., had a contract with the Canadian Professional Golf Association to run the latter's tournament on an annual basis. Mr. Zink was receptive and indicated that Cherry Hill would be considered in ensuing years - possibly 1983. In October of 1981, Gerry Weber, John Carter, Bill McGarva, Bob Meldrum and Tony Evershed went to Westmount and met with the club's committee which had run the tournament that year. Quite unexpectedly, in November, Mr. Zink asked the club to host the event in 1982. Shortly thereafter a meeting was held with Zink and Dick Bradbeer who was Director of Media Relations for Labatt's Brewery. Labatt's, which

would sponsor the tournament, had a budget of \$400,000 which included \$100,000 for the purse. TourPro would rope off the holes, and provide fencing and score boards. However, the actual running of the tournament was up to the members. Gerry Gugino was appointed Tournament Chairman. The contract with Tourpro Management Ltd. was signed in December of 1981.

The tournament dates were July 5-11. The field was made up of 140 Canadian professionals and 6 non-Canadian invitees. One was a club pro named Tom Smack



Ben Crenshaw, 1982.

who was Director of Golf at Castle Harbour in Bermuda. The others were regulars on the American Tour - Ray Floyd, Jim Thorpe, Ben Crenshaw, Bob Charles, and Denis Watson. Among the well-known Canadian players were Gar Hamilton, Jim Nelford, Dave Barr, Moe Norman, Bob Panasiuk, Dan Hallderson, and George Knudson.

After a successful pro-am on July 6, the tournament began on July 8. As had been the case 10 years earlier, par was 71 and the course more than held its own. In the first round 62 players shot 80 or higher and one player shot 100. Norm Jarvis was the first round leader with 68, but Ray Floyd got all the publicity. He made a hole-in-one on 9 but finished by four-putting 18. His score was 71. In the post-round interview he was obviously hot under the collar. He

said, "The person responsible for the pin placements on 15, 16, 17, and 18 ought to have his pants taken off and should be paddled like a little boy - it takes that mentality to put the pins there." After Floyd stormed out, Tony Evershed, who had been paired with him that day, was asked his reaction to Floyd's comments. Tony made three observations which did not endear him to Raymond, but which, under the circumstances, appealed to nearly everyone else. He first noted that Floyd did not criticize the pin placement on 9. He then said that the pin placement on 18, on the left side halfway back, was routinely played by the Cherry Hill members without significant complaint. Finally, he said that Floyd's first putt on 18 was "maybe the worst putt I've ever seen." In fairness to Floyd, there were other complaints about the placement of the holes the first day. The holes were cut pursuant to the directions of Ross Thomson, the CPGA Tournament Co-ordinator. (Gerry Gugino had nothing to do with it).

Norm Jarvis matched his first round 68 with another to lead with 136 after the second round. Dave Barr at 142 and Jim Thorpe at 144 were well back at this point. Ray Floyd at 145 refused to be interviewed after the round. Barr and Thorpe came out of the pack in the third round, Barr shooting 69 for a total of 211, and Thorpe 70 for 214. Floyd had 73 for 218 and once again refused to be interviewed.

In the final round Barr had 72 and Thorpe had 69. Playing behind Thorpe, Barr had a one stroke lead until he bogeyed 17. Thorpe in the meantime birdied 18. Barr hit a remarkable 70-yard pitch-and-run shot on 18 resulting in a birdie, which tied Thorpe at 283, one under par for the four rounds. In the sudden death play-off 15 and 16 were halved in pars. On 17 Barr hit his second shot about 15 feet from the hole. After a ruling, which gave him relief from a French drain in the fairway, Thorpe hit his second shot three inches from the hole. When Barr missed his putt, Thorpe claimed the trophy and the \$20,000 first prize. He was the fifth American in a row to win the CPGA. Ray Floyd shot 70 for a total of 288, and did deign to be interviewed after the round. Other than noting that most putts at Cherry Hill break toward Buffalo he limited his remarks to complaining about slow play in the final round.

The Captain of the CPGA was most appreciative of the club's efforts:



A determined Jim Thorpe, 1982.

15 July 1982

Mr. Gerry Gugino
Chairman Tournament Committee
1982 Labatt's International Classic
c/o Cherry Hill Club
R.R. #1
Ridgeway, Ontario
LOS INO

Dear Gerry,

It is indeed a pleasure to be able to write to you about the Labatt's International Classic for the C.P.G.A. Championship in glowing terms - glowing terms which were so well earned by you, your committee members, the volunteers and your staff.

The course was in superb condition and I really mean superb! Sure, it was tough to score on as evidenced by the fact that only two players beat par, but it was fair and one got full value for every good shot and punishment for those which were not well hit. But that is golf and that's the way it should be.

The friendliness of members and staff was most notable and the smiling faces and helpful manner of all those connected with the organization and conduct of the tournament were most appreciated.

To single out any one for individual praise might seem a little unfair to those who I do not mention, but that is not the intent for all connected with the tournament deserve praise. However, beginning with the President of Cherry Hill, Mr. John Carter, yourself and then on to Mr. Bob Meldrum, your General Manager, Mr. Cec Hoekstra, your Course Superintendent, Mr. Tony Evershed, your Head Professional, you,

collectively, must be singled out for special praise and a special vote of thanks, for it is from this group that the leadership, the drive and the determination to make the Labatt's International Classic a success, originated.

As in 1972, the Cherry Hill Club has demonstrated that it can rise to the occasion and host a National/International Tournament of the first order and do so efficiently, effectively and graciously.

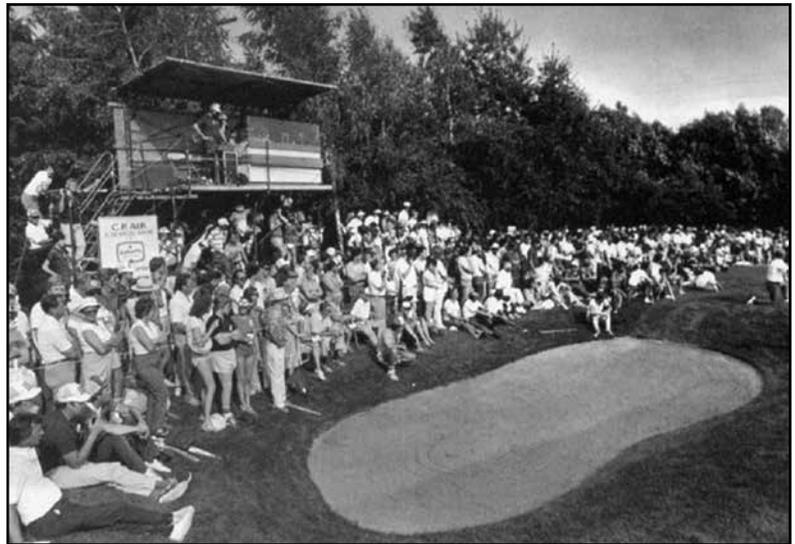
To all of you, Gerry, the sincere and heartfelt thanks of the members of the Canadian Professional Golfers' Association for a job well and truly done.

Yours sincerely,

*Ian Clarke
Captain, C.P.G.A.*

Reference was earlier made to a proposal to re-route the first hole. It began as an effort to direct golf balls away from the tennis courts but evolved into a plan which included the expansion of the club house easterly into the first fairway. The drawings submitted showed the first hole as a dog leg to be played away from the club house to the area north of the ninth tee and then back to the existing first green. A lake was to be dug next to the second fairway which would come into play on the second shot to the first green. This portion of the proposal came to be known as Scheme 1.

The club house expansion, known as Scheme 2, was to be for the purpose of relocating the kitchen to a more central area so that it could serve the dining room, the grill, and the men's locker room. In those days there was a small short-order kitchen in the area now occupied by the back of the bar, which served the grill, the locker room, and occasionally the Halfway House. The plan also called for



Television Coverage, 15th green, 1982.

enlarging the grill and increasing its seating capacity.

On May 25, 1982 the Board received a petition signed by over 100 members asking for a meeting to discuss Schemes 1 and 2. That meeting was held July 20, 1982. After a loud and sometimes raucous session, attended by nearly all the members, Schemes 1 and 2 were voted down. The supporters of the plan would later say that they were defeated by the Black Walnut tree to the right of the first fairway. That tree would have been a casualty of Scheme 1. The meeting ended with an agreement to consult an architect to look into the possibility of making some house changes without moving the first fairway.

A survey of rounds played during 1982 disclosed that 1 in every 6 rounds was played by a non-member. Inquiry at other area clubs revealed that Cherry Hill's greens fees were substantially lower than most. Accordingly, greens fees were increased from \$15 to \$20 on weekdays, from \$17.50 to \$25 on weekends and holidays, and from \$22.50 to \$25 for outside parties.

Also in 1982 reciprocal dining privileges with the Buffalo Yacht Club were established and the Board approved the purchase of 29 EZ-GO golf carts.

Golf got off to an early start in 1983. The flagsticks were in and the carts were out on March 7. That spring the steps leading up to the 8th tee were built and the installation of the automatic sprinkler system was begun. In July the lake on the second hole was dug to alleviate a chronic drainage problem on that fairway. In early 1984 the tennis courts were resurfaced and 56 trees were transplanted. Chapman Murray Associates, an architectural firm, was retained to study and present a plan for renovation of the grill room and kitchen. Jim Sullivan donated the fountains for the lakes on the 8th hole. In December of 1984 the Board passed Resolution 84-4 which provided that lady members in classes 1,3 and 4 would receive a 10% reduction in dues because of playing restrictions imposed upon them.

There had been for some time, dissatisfaction with the quality of the sand in the bunkers. The ground white quartzite which had been placed prior to the Canadian Open was becoming discoloured and was very expensive to replace. In 1985 the Board authorized \$56,000 for cleaning out the bunkers and installing new sand. The project, carried out that year, required 900 tons of sand for greenside bunkers and 1100 tons for those on the fairways. This endeavor would turn out to be something less than a howling success.



Cart Shop.

That same year saw the introduction of the multi-coloured flags indicative of hole locations on the greens, and 286 new trees were planted. Bob Meldrum resigned as manager and was replaced in early 1986 by Reiner Sommer.

At the stockholders' meeting in October of 1985 the plans for the grill and kitchen renovation were discussed and approved. Estimated costs were \$200,000 for the grill and \$125,000 for the kitchen. At the end of the year the Board resolved to borrow no more than \$350,000 for the project. The Royal Bank loaned the money at 3/4% over prime and required a mortgage, the burning of which would foster a memorable party in celebration of the event. The work was done in early 1986. It included the elimination of an office to the south of the front door and the installation of lavatories and a coat room in that area. The former entrance to the grill room which was west of the fireplace was closed off. Bay windows were built on the east side of the grill and the bar area was completely renovated. This included the elimination of the short-order kitchen which had been behind the old bar. A service room was built behind the new bar in an area formerly occupied by a ladies room. Major work was done in the main kitchen which would henceforth be the source of all food service in the clubhouse. The interior decoration was done by the firm of Sam Rudolph of Port Colborne. A Grand Opening was held on April 19, 1986. There was some consternation among several members when they discovered that there were no bar stools included in the decor.



Bar Area of Grill Room.

By the close of the golf season the installation of the automatic sprinkler system was substantially complete.

The Directors were ever alert to matters of decorum:

Board Minutes - November 19, 1986

(The Board considered whether) new members should be on some sort of probation for their first year of membership, losing membership for social or financial blunders deemed inappropriate to good membership by the Board of Directors.

In early 1987 the Board approved the purchase of

four Triplex mowers at a cost of \$14,876 each. At the same time they raised the Class 1 initiation fee to \$8000. The practice tee on the north side of the range was built and seeded that spring.

There's always something:

Board of Directors - June 17, 1987

There is a problem with thefts of towels and combs. As of recent date some 458 towels have been taken.

In the fall, Lynn Hyde, a member of the grounds crew for 46 years, announced plans to retire, and a contract was entered into with Campbell Construction to pave the parking lot.

Some problems just don't go away:

Board Minutes - November 18, 1987

Mr. _____ suggested consideration for bar stools around the bar.

The year 1988 would prove to be a busy one. That year saw the appearance of the monthly newsletter "From the Hill", under the guiding hand of Tom Mitchell. Early that year it was decided that something had to be done about the bunkers. The sand which had been placed three years earlier had proven to be completely unsatisfactory. The material was very fine with the result that nearly every ball which landed in it, buried. When it was wet it had a consistency such as to cause many a member to leave a shoe behind when exiting a bunker. Several loads of a silica coral sand from Ohio were ordered and placed at the greenside bunkers at numbers 1,9 and 18 as test sites. This sand proved to be satisfactory and the total replacement took place gradually over the next three years.

A somewhat indelicate subject:

Board Minutes - February 17, 1988

It was also reported that a contract (may) be let for 'a relief station' within

the evergreen planting behind the 10th green. This area has had popular usage in the past.

New china was ordered for the clubhouse, the cost to be somewhat offset by the sale of the old to the members. The Board also ordered twelve battery-powered pull carts which would prove to have a limited and short-lived popularity.

At the March 23, 1988 Board Meeting it was announced that the ten-year \$350,000 note given to the Royal Bank in early 1986 had been paid off. This illustrates what careful financial planning, coupled with the power to assess, can do. A Mortgage Burning Party was planned for August 20.

With a tree spade, 140 trees were transplanted, including 27 maples to the left of the 10th fairway, the intention being to phase out the troublesome silver aspens, whose white leaves made the finding of golf balls difficult in that area. In August the Board enacted a By-Law which would create a Permanent Advisory Committee whose function was to consider long-range planning of all aspects of club operation. The By-Law was presented to the stockholders for comment at the annual meeting. The areas around the first tee and pro shop were re-paved that summer.

The Mortgage Burning Party was a tremendous success, with over 650 people in attendance. The Cart Shop had some good statistics too, with only 6 breakdowns in over 5900 rounds. Reiner Sommer resigned and David Greaves was appointed to replace him. David would prove to be one of the most outstanding managers the club has ever had. A skilled and tireless worker, he quickly earned the respect of employees and members alike. One prominent member once remarked that if an attempt were made to write a job description of everything David does, it couldn't be done.

At the end of 1988 it was reported that the addition to the cart storage facility was proceeding nicely. The aerification system for the ponds got under way in 1989, new software for the handicapping system was installed, and the club turned down an invitation to host the 1990 Ontario Open. At the end of the year Tony Evershed resigned as Professional.

The Nineties



The club received applications from 39 professionals who wished to succeed Tony. After reviewing all the applications and conducting a great many personal interviews, the Committee stopped wasting its time and hired Jeff Roy. Jeff had worked his way up through the Pro Shop, becoming assistant pro in 1979. He is without doubt the most popular professional the club has ever had. A fine player and an excellent teacher, he is ever sensitive to the needs and desires of the members and has always managed to assemble a pro shop staff which is as attractive as it is eager to please.

There was a severe ice storm in February which did so much damage that it was necessary to hire outside tree climbers to clean out damaged branches. The municipal water main running under 13 ruptured which made it necessary to dig up a large portion of that fairway. The grounds crew planted 1000 pine seedlings on the right side of the 15th fairway and a water line for irrigation was run to the new tee on the practice range.

The club's Junior Golf program had been started in the 1950s when Bob Burns was the Professional. It grew to be one of the most successful in the area. In 1990 there were 90 juniors taking part every Tuesday morning during the season, and participating in the various divisional championships at year end. By 1996 their number had grown to 130. Many our finest players today are products of the program. Ann Donovan Dubuc, Tim Hume and Ann Marie Luhr come to mind. In 1996, Tim and Ann Marie not only won our club championships but also the Buffalo District Golf Association's individual titles.

The initiation fee for Class 1 had been escalating steadily and for 1991 it was raised from \$12,000 to \$13,500. Early in the year a golf architect was hired to

survey the course for the purpose of recommending cart-path routing because of the problem of turf compaction brought about by the carts. Later in the year the lakes on the 8th hole were dredged, an operation required at 15-year intervals. The lakes on 5 and 12 were scheduled for 1992.

A woman named Florence ("Flo") Williams joined the club in 1953. She was still an active golfer in 1991. In September of that year, on her 99th birthday, the Board made her an Honorary Member.

We do have our pride:

Board Minutes - October 16, 1991.

The Publicity Chairman reported on the 'Cherry Hill Duffers' article in a Niagara Falls paper. Apparently the writer was not aware of the meaning of the word 'duffer' and apologized.

In early 1992 the Board, to encourage younger applicants, formulated a plan to spread the payment of initiation fees over three years, with a 10% surcharge on the total. Junior Golf continued to grow in numbers and in order to finance the program, the fee was raised from \$60 to \$75. Although the aerification resulting from the fountains in the lakes on 8 was beneficial, the alga was still a problem. A non-toxic blue dye was used to reduce the penetration of the sunlight to discourage growth. Bubblers for aerification purposes were installed in the lake on 12 at that time. Rain was a problem throughout the year, which not only impacted on club revenues but also made course maintenance difficult. By the 21st of July, eight inches of rain had fallen that month and in August the Grounds Superintendent reported that the ground had been saturated for the previous ten months. In the late fall the lavatory between the 4th tee and the 15th fairway was completely renovated. It may be the only golf course facility of its kind which has a stained glass window.

In 1993 the initiation fee for Class 1 was raised from \$13,500 to \$15,000 and a two-year assessment for a \$250,000 renovation of the men's and women's locker



Tony Evershed conducts a golf clinic with Jeff Roy demonstrating.

rooms was approved.

This work got under way in February. Some re-decoration of the dining room was also done at the time. At the end of the year it was determined, upon recommendation of an architect, to eliminate the second bunker from the tee on 18 and "Red" Collison, a long-time employee of the grounds crew, announced his retirement.

It was anticipated that over 100 Junior Golfers would participate in the program in 1994 and the fee was raised from \$75 to \$100. Greens fees for outside parties were increased from \$55 to \$60.

Beware the agitated goose:

Board Minutes - April 20, 1994

The clubhouse has obtained the services of 'Barney', a dog, to agitate the geese....

In the spring the left side of the 10th green was raised and renovated to promote drainage, and an architect was commissioned to study improvements to the 5th and 17th tees. The security of the perimeter of the course was a priority and a total of \$23,000 was authorized for a combination of two-rail split fencing and farm fencing to completely enclose the course.

How come we all don't play better?

Board Minutes - July 20, 1994

The golf range is being used until dusk. Extra help is being used to pick up golf balls. 9000 on weekdays and 12,000 on Junior Golf Days.

In the fall the middle tee on the 5th hole was enlarged by expanding the teeing area to the west. On 17, the back tee was built and the shorter tee on the right was eliminated.

The excavation for the back tee resulted in a pond to the north of that tee, along which a new cart path was built, running from the 16th green to the 17th teeing areas. The perimeter fencing work was put out for bids.

Persistence pays:

Board Minutes - September 21, 1994

Motion for Club to purchase no more than six (6) bar stools for 1995, approved. [Ten (10) Ayes; Two (2) Nays].

At the annual stockholders' meeting in October of 1994, Elizabeth Rowe Ruddy was elected to the Board of Directors. She is the first woman to be so honoured. At the end of the year the Board raised the initiation fee, effective January 1, 1995, to \$20,000 for new Class 1 members.

During this period the Board finally addressed the long standing problem of the playing times for women who were members in their own right. By the terms of a resolution passed on November 9, 1994, women members, during 1995, would be entitled to the same weekday starting times as were prescribed for men. In 1996, and thereafter, women members would have access to the course during all men's times including weekends and holidays. The 10% reduction in dues for women members would then lapse. Concomitantly, in 1996 and thereafter, spouses of women members would be restricted to those starting times applying to spouses of male members. This state of affairs could be changed only if, before December 31, 1995, the member executed a "Gender Neutral Transfer Option" which transferred, irrevocably, the membership to the spouse.

At last!

Board Minutes - May 17, 1995

Mr. Greaves reported that the bar stools have arrived and are in use.

Since sometime in the 1960's the club had imposed a limit on the number of full golfing memberships. The maximum figure was sometimes less than, but never more than, 400. In the mid 1990's some concern was noted over an ever-growing waiting list of individuals who had been otherwise accepted for membership, but who could not be admitted to golfing privileges because of the cap. It was reported at the June 21, 1995 Board Meeting that there were 38 on the waiting list - 3 from 1993, 28 from 1994, and 7 from 1995. Balancing the equities, the club has always given preference to legacies and members wishing readmission from leave of absence. These two categories

are subject to the cap, but always go to the top of the waiting list.

The length of the waiting list however, was only one element in a broader area of concern and debate concerning membership. Although not persuasively supported by statistics, particularly when one considers fluctuating weather conditions and the popularity of guest events, there was a growing perception that the course was becoming overcrowded. This led to an examination of membership policies and also to an evaluation of the adequacy of the club's facilities. Of the courses of action available, each seems to have a definite downside. To maintain the status quo and the present cap on golfing memberships will not satisfy those who subscribe to the overcrowded theory, and the waiting list may discourage desirable new applicants. To decrease the number of members, by attrition, would result in increased dues and assessments to those remaining and, as in the first option, discourage desirable applicants. To expand the club's golfing facilities by building a third nine would require significant expenditure for the development of the land itself and would also have ramifications in the need for additional locker room and bag storage space to accommodate an increase in membership. Each option has its supporters and the debate will doubtless go on for some time.

In late 1995 it was noted that 1997 would mark the club's 75th anniversary and Don Campbell was appointed Chairman of an Anniversary Committee to celebrate the event. The bunker in front of the 16th green had been reshaped, graded and sodded. The decision was made to place covers on selected greens over the winter and evaluate what protection they provided from the ravages of the weather. They proved to be very effective and their use would be expanded and continued. It should also be reported that the Cherry Hill mice found them to be very satisfactory winter quarters, much to the annoyance of Cec and his crew.

In early 1996 a small lavatory was installed in the Half-Way House and 12 new carts were purchased. At the March 20, 1996 Board Meeting it was announced that the membership waiting list had grown to 43. Soft spikes were encouraged in 1996 and would become mandatory for the 1997 season. The directors had their annual Directors' Tournament in July. Beth Ruddy won both low gross and low net for women. Leasing of golf carts was approved and the first shipment of new carts arrived in September. In that

same month David Oatis of the USGA and W.S. Hall of Upper Canada Forestry Ltd. toured the course and made recommendations for the thinning out of areas where trees had become overgrown. Warren Gelman was appointed Chairman of a Capital Planning Committee whose function was to review the capital needs of the club over the next 4 or 5 years. The golf season of 1996 was the victim of a record rainfall. Member rounds totaled 12,771 as compared to about 16,000 in each of the preceding three years. The club experimented remaining open for the American Thanksgiving and 75 people attended. At the December Board Meeting the previously existing option to pay initiation fees over three years was abolished.

Early in 1997 the tree thinning program, recommended the previous fall, was implemented. Approximately 110 trees were removed from the front nine at a cost of \$16,000. Sale of the firewood yielded \$3450. A number of trees were transplanted along Nye Road and a grouping of 5 Norway Spruce was placed behind the fairway bunker on number 10. The Board gratefully accepted Bill McGennis' gracious offer to give the club some 42 acres of land west of Cherry Hill Boulevard for use in building a third nine holes should such an event ever take place.

Things to come:

Board Minutes - April 16, 1997

*Plans for the 75th Anniversary
Celebration are well underway.*



Epilogue

The Canadians are fine people - even though they talk funny.
-Anon.

The Americans are all right - even though they think they own the place.
-Anon.

Shortly before the Canadian Open in 1972, Jim Vipond, Sports Editor of the Toronto Globe and Mail, interviewed Chairman McGennis. His article, the following day, began:

Students of international relations, including professional politicians in Ottawa and Washington, might find a useful seminar at Cherry Hill Club this week.

The reporter had asked whether it was not odd that a club comprised mostly of Americans was hosting and actually running a Canadian national championship. Bill responded characteristically:

I refuse to talk in terms of (this being) a foreign country. I'm an American - good. You're a Canadian - good. We just cross a bridge to participate in a vast community effort. We could not have put this tournament on without the co-operation of the members of 16 golf clubs from the Province of Ontario and the State of New York.

Where in the world other than Canada and the United States would you find 1,000 volunteers who have purchased their own uniforms and their own admission tickets to work night and day to make this tournament a success?

We do not know whether the Founders, when first considering their plan, harboured any misgivings about the local community's reaction to the presence of an American club in Canada. To put the matter in perspective, Americans need only consider the reaction now should a group of Canadians form a club in a suburb of Buffalo. It is perhaps significant that one of the first members taken in after the organizational meeting of the subscribers was William G. Athoe, a prominent local citizen from Ridgeway.

While there may have been some apprehension in the beginning, the club was destined to succeed. If there has ever been a problem arising from Canadian-American antagonism, it is nowhere recorded. Whatever the reasons, there has evolved at Cherry Hill over the years a seamless integration of the customs, personalities, and cultures of the two countries. This no doubt explains, in large measure, why the club has persevered and prospered for 75 years.

This chronicle has concerned itself, for the most part, with the activities of the members off the golf course. The acquisition and the development of the land, the early struggle with finance, the war years, Dutch Elm disease, dealing with local authorities, and the governing of the club (sometimes involving political intrigue) - all of these things are important factors in our survival and prosperity. Equally important is the social side of the club which has always placed special emphasis on the family. However, it is the game of golf itself which ties us all together. We all love this wonderful game, and we are most fortunate to have the opportunity to play it in such a magnificent setting.

Although we are all individuals, the common thread of the game influences us all. Who has not experienced the sense of anticipation as the days grow warmer in the spring, and the depression of spirit which accompanies the cleaning out of the locker in the late fall? Regardless of the level of skill, we are all golfers - the regular Saturday morning foursome with the bets flying in all directions; the low handicapper choking his way up 18 with a chance to break par; the high handicapper doing the same with a chance to break 100; the Ladies Day groups meticulously putting everything out; the Junior Golfer with a look of determination that can only make you smile; and the elderly couple finishing nine holes as the sun sets.

The game, the friendships, and the shared

experiences have made for a wonderful 75 years. Bill McGennis expressed the sentiments of many in his letter to the membership following his term as President in 1960.

To me Cherry Hill is not just a golf club, it is a way of life and a privilege to belong.

I'll second that.



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The Clubhouse c. 1940s.



The Clubhouse 1994.



*"Bay 7" - Presentation of the Annual "Trash Can" Award
(A Non-Sanctioned Event).*



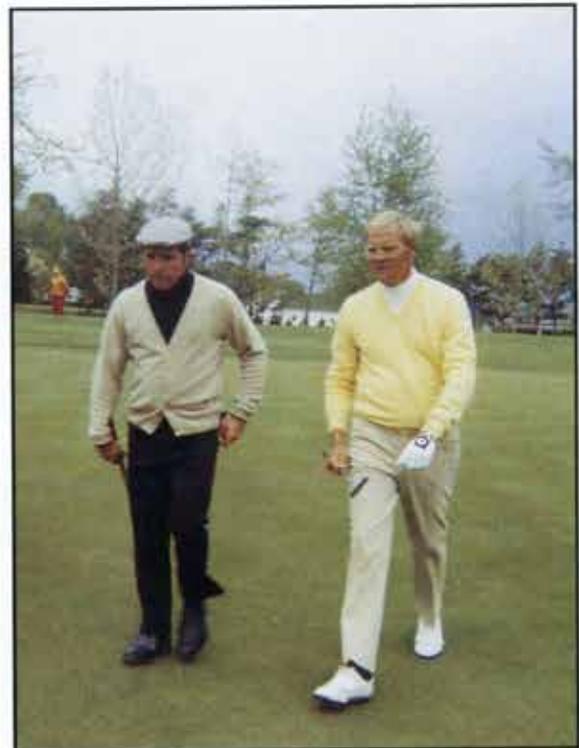
*Rod Blair, Jeff Roy, Bob Culig
- Golf Professionals.*



Hickory Shafts Participants c.1980s.



The 1982 CPGA Committee Members.



Gary Player, Ken Steeves - 1972.



The Grill Room (showing Old Bar 1985).



The Grill Room (present).



The Dining Room.



The Pro Shop.



Clubhouse View from the Course.



The First Tee.



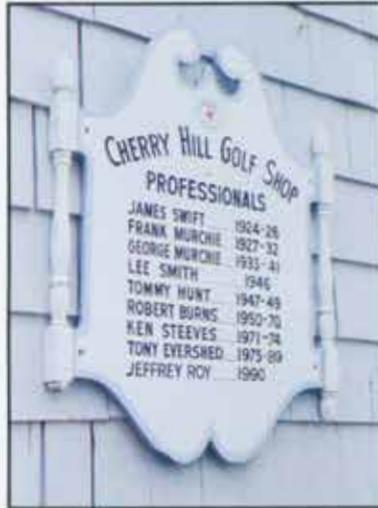
A Troublesome Lie, with a Scenic View.



The Eighteenth Hole.



The Fifteenth Hole.



The Seventh Hole.







HISTORICAL LISTS



Past Presidents

1923-24	Edward E. Coatsworth	1970	John L. Campbell	2003	William E. Mathias II
1925	Howard Bissell	1971	John W. Livingston	2004	Gary P. Hess
1926	Joesph H. Morey	1972	Edward A. Atwill	2005	John F. Downing
1927	George R. Critchlow	1973	Robert M. Mewha	2006	Charles B. Wydysh
1928	Alfred H. Sharpe	1974	Peter M. Collard	2007	David A. Munschauer
1929	Edmond D. Mccarthy	1975	Willard M. Pottle Jr	2008	Robert P. Borneman
1930	Howard M. Cowan	1976	Philip J. O'shea	2009	Kingman Bassett Jr
1931	Sheldon Thompson Jr	1977	Herman K. Heussler Jr	2010	David J. Hunter Jr
1932	George S. Kellogg	1978	Donald G. Campbell	2011	Gregory T. Ivancic
1933	Geroge H. Finley	1979	Clifford G. Vogelsang	2012	Thomas J. Vanner
1934	C. Deforest Cummings	1980	J. Robert Rodgers	2013	Hugh M. Russ Iii
1935	J. Leonard Shaw	1981-82	John M. Carter	2014	Donald V. Brown Jr
1936-50	James R. Barnett	1983	William MCGarva	2015	Christopher G. Runckel
1951	Reid S. Moule	1984	Dwight F. Hanny	2016	James S. O'connor
1952	Howard G. Kreiner	1985	Girard A. Gugino	2017	Willard M. Pottle III
1953	Robert I. Millonzi	1986	William G. Gisel	2018	Brian M. Duffett
1954	Lester W. Miller	1987	Robert C. Harvey	2019	Peter S. Sullivan
1955	Donald K. Templeton	1988	Donald G. Campbell	2020	Mark J. Talarico
1956	James R. Sullivan	1989	Robert J. Lyle	2021	Robert C. Drake
1957	Joseph Davis	1990	Manley B. Tillou	2022	John E. Richmond
1958	J. Warren Speacker	1991	Robert F. Downing		
1959	Roger T. Cook	1992	R. Brian Miller		
1960	Wm. J. MCGennis	1993	Robert B. Shanahan		
1961	Thomas R. Grieves	1994	Edward F. Walsh Jr		
1962	Charles J. Roesch	1995	Thomas E. Headrick		
1963	Richard H. Means	1996	Douglas J. Young		
1964	Crawford Wettlaufer	1997	H. Ernest Montgomery II		
1965	William S. Reynolds	1998	Warren B. Gelman		
1966	Irving A. Barrett	1999	Cornelius J. Lang		
1967	Walter H. Miller	2000	Robert T. Wylie		
1968	John M. Quackenbush	2001	David J. D'arata		
1969	Harold C. Lowe	2002	James M. Wadsworth		

Men Club Champions

1925	Edward C. May	1960	John B. Finck	1995	Timothy W. Hume
1926	Edward C. May	1961	G. J. Weimert	1996	Timothy W. Hume
1927	Edward C. May	1962	William S. Reynolds	1997	R. Brian Miller
1928	J. V. Wadsworth	1963	Donald Sawyer	1998	Timothy W. Hume
1929	B.S. McDonnell	1964	G. J. Weimert	1999	Timothy W. Hume
1930	B.S. McDonnell	1965	John B. Finck	2000	Timothy W. Hume
1931	E. B. Black	1966	John B. Finck	2001	Timothy W. Hume
1932	L.G. Ruth	1967	John B. Finck	2002	Timothy W. Hume
1933	B. Critchlow	1968	William S. Reynolds	2003	Timothy W. Hume
1934	B. Critchlow	1969	William S. Reynolds	2004	Charles B. Wydysh
1935	R. D. Klinck	1970	Robert Borneman	2005	Brian M. Duffett
1936	R. D. Klinck	1971	John B. Finck	2006	Brian M. Duffett
1937	B. Critchlow	1972	G. J. Weimert	2007	Brian M. Duffett
1938	J. V. Wadsworth	1973	John B. Finck	2008	Brian M. Duffett
1939	B. Critchlow	1974	William S. Reynolds	2009	James S. O'Connor
1940	J. R. Sullivan	1975	Jon Reynolds	2010	Brian M. Duffett
1941	J. R. Sullivan	1976	G. J. Weimert	2011	Max Davis
1942	J. R. Sullivan	1977	Charles B. Wydysh	2012	Michael W. Reynolds
1943	No Contest	1978	Clifford G. Vogelsang	2013	Philip C. Barth IV
1944	No Contest	1979	G. J. Weimert	2014	Brett Kerr
1945	E. D. Landt	1980	R. Brian Miller	2015	Michael K. Mottola
1946	E. D. Landt	1981	Tim Hume	2016	Michael K. Mottola
1947	G. J. Weimert	1982	Tim Hume	2017	Brian M. Duffett
1948	G. J. Weimert	1983	Tim Hume	2018	Kristopher Boyes
1949	G. J. Weimert	1984	Tim Hume	2019	Anthony DeMizio
1950	G. J. Weimert	1985	Tim Hume	2020	No Contest
1951	G. J. Weimert	1986	R. Brian Miller	2021	Jaret Chipman
1952	G. J. Weimert	1987	Jim O'Connor		
1953	G. J. Weimert	1988	Charles B. Wydysh		
1954	G. J. Weimert	1989	R. Brian Miller		
1955	G. J. Weimert	1990	Warren. B. Gelman		
1956	G. J. Weimert	1991	Charles B. Wydysh		
1957	Thomas H. Brown	1992	George W. Fairgrieve		
1958	G. J. Weimert	1993	Michael W. Reynolds		
1959	G. J. Weimert	1994	R. Brian Miller		

Women Club Champions

1926	Dorothy K. Thompson	1960	Joan Crane	1995	Claire Moeschler
1927	Frances Fairbairn	1961	Dorothy Henzelman	1996	Ann Marie Luhr
1928	Josephine C. Carroll	1962	Dorothy Henzelman	1997	Ann Marie Luhr
1929	Frances Fairbairn	1963	Marcia B. McGrattan	1998	Ann Marie Luhr
1930	Frances F. Cass	1964	Edith M. Geiger	1999	Ann Marie Luhr
1931	Esther Klinck	1965	Marcia B. McGrattan	2000	Ann Marie Luhr
1932	Frances F. Cass	1966	Claire Moeschler	2001	Ann Marie Luhr
1933	Esther Klinck	1967	Lolly Lenahan	2002	Ann Marie Luhr
1934	Esther Klinck	1968	Claire Moeschler	2003	Ann Marie Luhr
1935	Frances F. Cass	1969	Claire Moeschler	2004	Ann Marie Luhr
1936	Frances F. Cass	1970	Claire Moeschler	2005	Ann Marie Luhr
1937	Eleanor G. May	1971	Claire Moeschler	2006	Ann Marie Luhr
1938	Esther Klinck	1972	Lolly Lenahan	2007	Ann Marie Luhr
1939	Marcia Bassett	1973	Claire Moeschler	2008	Ann Marie Luhr
1940	Esther Klinck	1974	Claire Moeschler	2009	Ann Marie Luhr
1941	Esther Klinck	1975	Claire Moeschler	2010	Ann Marie Luhr
1942	Marcia Bassett	1976	Claire Moeschler	2011	Ann Marie Luhr
1943	No Contest	1977	Claire Moeschler	2012	Ann Marie Luhr
1944	No Contest	1978	Lolly Lenahan	2013	Ann Marie Luhr
1945	No Contest	1979	Ann K. Donovan	2014	Ann Marie Luhr
1946	Mary H. Dorntge	1980	Claire Moeschler	2015	Linda Burroughsford
1947	Mary H. Dorntge	1981	Claire Moeschler	2016	Ann Marie Luhr
1948	Mary H. Dorntge	1982	Lolly Lenahan	2017	Ann Marie Luhr
1949	Dorothy Thompson	1983	Claire Moeschler	2018	Ann Marie Luhr
1950	Nancy Wilkes	1984	Lolly Lenahan	2019	Pamicka Modrzynski
1951	Marcia B. McGrattan	1985	Lolly Lenahan	2020	No Contest
1952	Dorothy Thompson	1986	Lolly Lenahan	2021	Mina Alborino Wilson
1953	Dorothy Thompson	1987	Lolly Lenahan		
1954	Dorothy Thompson	1988	Ann K. Donovan		
1955	Dorothy Thompson	1989	Ann K. Donovan		
1956	Dorothy Henzelman	1990	Ann K. Donovan		
1957	Dorothy Henzelman	1991	Ann Donovan Dubuc		
1958	Dorothy Henzelman	1992	Claire Moeschler		
1959	Dorothy Henzelman	1993	Ann Donovan Dubuc		
		1994	Claire Moeschler		

Boy Champions

1948	R. Templeton	1986	Pat Downing
1949	F. E. Wattles III	1987	Mark E. Rung
1950	J. Kress	1988	Charles Keller
1951	J. Kress	1989	Bradley Black
1952	J. Kress	1990	Bradley Black
1953	D. Stephens	1991	Bradley Black
1954	R. Borneman	1992	Aaron R. Alpern
1955	D. Stephens	1993	Aaron R. Alpern
1956	D. Hanna	1994	Aaron R. Alpern
1957	D. Hanna	1995	Aaron R. Alpern
1958	D. Hanna	1996	Kyle Hess
1959	P. Fleischauer	1997	Kyle Hess
1960	Paul Griffin	1998	Kyle Hess
1961	Ben Johnson	1999	Ned Wydysh
1962	David Quackenbush	2000	Ned Wydysh
1963	Paul Griffin	2001	Tucker McCarthy
1964	Paul Griffin	2002	Jackson McCarthy
1965	Paul Griffin	2003	Alex Campbell
1966	Joseph Rubino	2004	Alex Campbell
1967	Douglas Harty	2005	Theodore P. Reynolds
1968	Don Tracy	2006	Alex Campbell
1969	Jon Reynolds	2007	Campbell W. Smith
1970	Jon Reynolds	2008	Patrick J. Waldron
1971	Warren Schintzius	2009	Brennan Donovan Dubuc
1972	Jon Reynolds	2010	Brennan Dubuc
1973	Dan Mooney	2011	Patrick J. Waldron
1974	Scott Campbell	2012	John A. Bassett
1975	Mike Reynolds	2013	John A. Bassett
1976	Jon Finck	2014	Connor Quarantillo
1977	Jon Finck	2015	Connor Quarantillo
1978	Peter Vogelsang	2016	Connor Quarantillo
1979	Peter Vogelsang	2017	Joseph Tomczak
1980	Tim Hume	2018	Cavan Derrigan
1981	Joe Ring	2019	Michael Scinta
1982	David Downing	2020	No Contest
1983	John Honney	2021	No Contest
1984	Mark McKinnon		
1985	Pat Downing		

Girl Champions

1948	Sue Brautigan	1986	Julia Collard
1949	Sue Brautigan	1987	Julia Collard
1950	Lenore Kinsman	1988	Julia Collard
1951	Barbara Borneman	1989	Eileen Luhr
1952	Barbara Borneman	1990	Nicole Young
1953	Barbara Borneman	1991	Emily Miller
1954	Barbara Borneman	1992	Emily Miller
1955	Donna Atwill	1993	Emily Miller
1956	Molly O'Brien	1994	Emily Miller
1957	Deborah Means	1995	Elizabeth Ferrick
1958	Molly O'Brien	1996	Elizabeth Ferrick
1959	Claire B. Tindle	1997	Elizabeth Ferrick
1960	Sue McGrattan	1998	Anne Lyons
1961	Sue McGrattan	1999	Anne Lyons
1962	Deborah Marlette	2000	Anne Lyons
1963	Lissa Marlette	2003	Claire Cosgriff
1964	Lisa Sullivan	2004	Erin K. Wylie
1965	Susan Schintzius	2005	Erin K. Wylie
1966	Susan Quackenbush	2006	Erin K. Wylie
1967	Susan Schintzius	2007	Erin K. Wylie
1968	Sally Lundrigan	2008	Alyssa H. Murrett
1969	Eileen Flaherty	2009	Alyssa H. Murrett
1970	Eileen Flaherty	2010	Marla J. Murrett
1971	Barbara Lundrigan	2011	Meghan K. Fonfara
1972	Barbara Lundrigan	2012	Meghan K. Fonfara
1973	Karen Rung	2013	Meghan K. Fonfara
1974	Ann K. Donovan	2014	Sarah Richmond
1975	Ann K. Donovan	2015	Sarah Richmond
1976	Ann K. Donovan	2016	Sarah Richmond
1977	Ann K. Donovan	2017	Haley Runckel
1978	Ann K. Donovan	2018	Catherine Johnson
1979	Rosie Lenahan	2019	Catherine Johnson
1980	Ann Marie Luhr	2020	No Contest
1981	Ann Marie Luhr	2021	No Contest
1982	Jane Snyder		
1983	Jane Snyder		
1984	Jane Snyder		
1985	Julia Collard		

Senior Champions

1955	Dr. Leon Smith	1990	William S. Reynolds
1956	Dr. Leon Smith	1991	William S. Reynolds
1957	Nicholas R. Bald	1992	Earle A. Blackadder
1958	Dr. Leon Smith	1993	Vincent E. Doyle
1959	Edward P. Landt	1994	Clifford G. Vogelsang
1960	Edward P. Landt	1995	Earle A. Blackadder
1961	Edward P. Landt	1996	Earle A. Blackadder
1962	Charles Dunn	1997	Earle A. Blackadder
1963	Edward P. Landt	1998	Charles B. Wydysh
1964	G.J. Weimert	1999	Charles B. Wydysh
1965	Donald M. Sawyer	2000	Warren B. Gelman
1966	Donald M. Sawyer	2001	Warren B. Gelman
1967	G. J. Weimert	2002	James S. O'Connor
1968	G. J. Weimert	2003	Charles B. Wydysh
1969	Charles Pelow	2004	Charles B. Wydysh
1970	G. J. Weimert	2005	James S. O'Connor
1971	G. J. Weimert	2006	James S. O'Connor
1972	G. J. Weimert	2007	Peter L. Patterson
1973	G. J. Weimert	2008	Charles B. Wydysh
1974	G. J. Weimert	2009	R. Brian Miller
1975	G. J. Weimert	2010	Thomas T. O'Brien
1976	C. Vogelsang	2011	Peter L. Patterson
1977	G. J. Weimert	2012	Bill Kerr
1978	G. J. Weimert	2013	Réal Bergevin
1979	G. J. Weimert	2014	Michael W. Reynolds
1980	G. J. Weimert	2015	Michael W. Reynolds
1981	Don Moon	2016	Frederick H. Waddell
1982	R. Schoepperle	2017	Michael W. Reynolds
1983	G. J. Weimert	2018	Michael W. Reynolds
1984	William S. Reynolds	2019	Brian M. Duffett
1985	William S. Reynolds	2020	No Contest
1986	William S. Reynolds	2021	Mark Tomasello
1987	William S. Reynolds		
1988	William S. Reynolds		
1989	William McGarva		

Distinguished Member Award

Founding Members
(Bestowed Posthumously)

Edward E. Coatsworth
Howard Bissell
Jesse C. Dann
Joseph H. Morey Sr.
Henry May
Roland L. O'Brien
John F. Fairbairn
Walter F. Stafford
Walton O. King

1998	William J. McGennis
1998	George J. Weimert
1998	Donald G. Campbell
1998	William S. Reynolds
1999	John L. Campbell
1999	Claire T. Moeschler
1999	Robert E. Rich Sr.
2002	Dr. Robert M. Mewha
2003	Robert H. Loweth
2021	Lolly Lenahan

Golf Professionals

1924-26	James Swift	1971-74	Ken Steeves
1927-32	Frank Murchie	1975-89	Tony Evershed
1933-41	George Murchie	1990- 2012	Jeff Roy
1946	Lee Smith	2013-14	Aaron Pye
1947-49	Tommy Hunt	2014-19	Jeremy Broom
1950-70	Bob Burns	2019-	Walker Arnott

Club Managers*

1924	Charles G. Thorne	1974-75	James J. Lee
1925-26	Mr. Hayes	1976-79	Reno Martin
1927-29	Jacob Hess	1980-85	Robert Meldrum
1932-33	Otto Handel	1986-88	Reiner Sommer
1934	Mr. McCoy	1989 -99	David Greaves
1941-55	Charles A. Behm	2000-08	Emil S. Rinderlin
1956-61	James Mewha	2009-15	Marinus Gerritsen
1962-65	James C. Babcock	2016-19	Jeremy Broom
1966-72	Robert Meldrum	2019-	Caroline Molen
1973	Tom Kays		

*The records of the identities of the early Managers are incomplete. There are years where no manager is mentioned. It is not known whether the manager is merely not mentioned, or whether there was no manager at all.

Golf Course Superintendents

1924-26	George Langlands	1977-2008	Cecil T. Hoekstra
1927-61	Charles A. Behm	2008-2019	John Gall
1962-76	Charles J. Behm	2020-	Jeremy Krueger



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Many individuals contributed in one way or another to the making of this history book... in no particular order. Cover photo by Jim Stephen. Caroline Molen and Charlotte Burbidge who scanned many historical documents and provided ongoing support. Vincent Schwartz, who proofread the manuscript in its early stages.

Ralph Salerno of Keller Bros. & Miller, Inc. printers who scanned the 75th Anniversary history book. Joe Galanti and Michael Wlodarczyk, who provided layout and graphic design, and prepared the document as an e-book.

Ian Andrew, John Gall and Jeremy Krueger provided insight into the design, care and maintenance of the golf course.

Jeff Roy, Tony Evershed, Jeremy Broom, Walker Arnott, and Stephen Barkley who provided photos, anecdotes and supporting facts about golf at Cherry Hill. Golf Canada and PGA Tour Canada also provided valuable input.

Many members, past and present provided input as well, including, Jon Reynolds, Hugh Russ, Willard Pottle Jr., Donna Pottle, Michael Mewha, Pam Moeschler-Ricigliano, Ann Marie Luhr, Anne Campbell, Judy Campbell, Rick Halinda, Rob Drake, Mark Talarico, John Richmond, Mike Alpern, Jim O'Connor, and Bill Kerr.

