



The Golf Historical Society of Canada

Founded 1988

Bulletin Number 68

December, 2007

2008 Golf Hall of Fame Inductees

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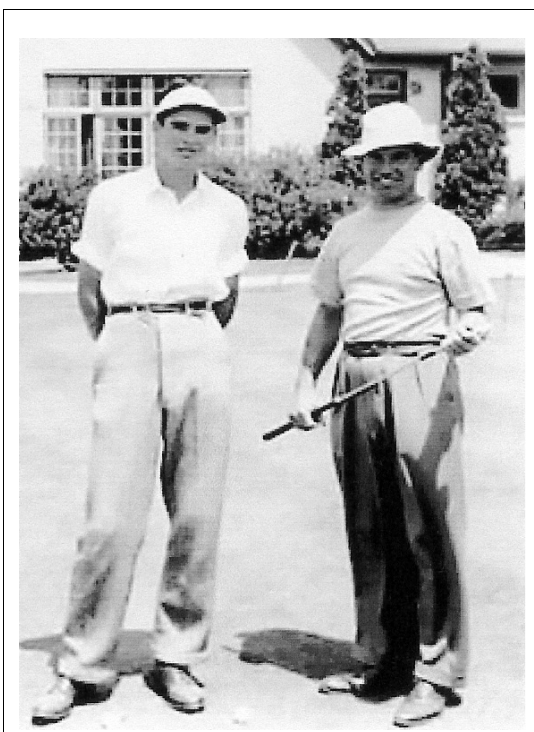
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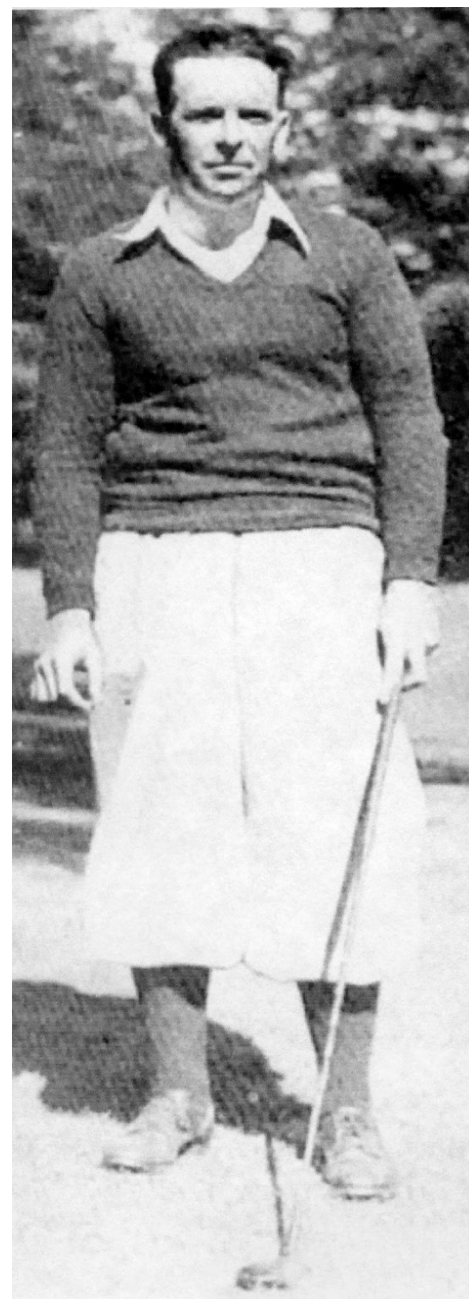
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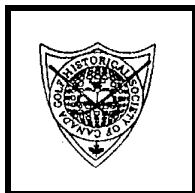
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Gerry Kesselring and Lloyd Tucker – the newest inductees into the Golf Hall of Fame.



Lex Robson, Golf Hall of Fame inductee.



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informal group of golf enthusiasts who share a passion for
the history, memorabilia, camaraderie and playing of the
grand old game of golf.

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The **deadline** for the March 2008 Bulletin is
February 15, 2008.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Ted Vanden Tillaart



Our 20th anniversary is just
around the corner and
there are many plans to
make it a year to remem-
ber. Details are in this Bulletin
and while dates may not yet
have been firmed up, it will be
worthwhile to keep some holi-
day bookings on hold so you
will not miss out on any of the
events planned.

Two decades are a mere
drop in the bucket when we
think about how many years golf
has been around. Many of us have played the game for several
more decades. Do I dare say that some are into their *eighth*
decade of bashing the ball around???

With many Canadian courses celebrating or approaching
important anniversaries, *The Golf Historical Society of
Canada* is quietly making these events a really enjoyable
occasion for the members of those courses. Many of the
participating “play-
ing” members had
never even held a
hickory club in their
hands, never mind
played a game with it!
The response from
them was an
overwhelming *fan-
tastic!* Because of
this success, we have
also acquired several
new members and we fully expect this trend to continue. It is
particularly nice to see the sons and daughters of our members
show up at our tournaments and show dates.



At the completion of this year, I would be remiss if I did
not express a word of thanks to our Board of Directors – the
group who’s work sometimes is taken for granted and yet
spend much of their free time to make it all fall into place. I
would therefore ask that if you have a particular person on the
Board, or another member, whom you feel deserves a special
word of thanks for a deed above and beyond, feel free to send
me an e-mail or call me. I would love to hear from you.

Happy holidays to all!

– Ted

They will be missed!

We are sorry to report that long-time members *Al
Hosick* and *Robert Kuntz* have passed away. Their
membership and support of the GHSC for many
years was most appreciated and their participation
at GHSC events will be missed!

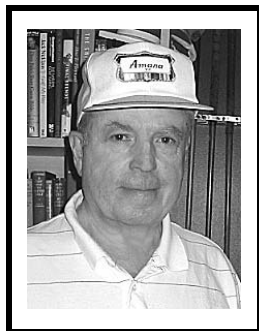
FROM THE EDITOR

by *Bill Macdonald*

What a great time to be a member of the GHSC! Thanks to the help of a number of our members and your Editor, and with Gary Cowan, we have been successful in having **Lloyd Tucker** inducted into the **Ontario Golf Hall of Fame**.

In this issue we are featuring Lloyd and one of his pupils, **Gerry Kesselring**, along with **Lex Robson**, who are the other two inductees for the 2008 award. Our other announcement is the **400 year anniversary** of the founding of Quebec City and the GHSC golf journey to be part of the festivities.

Thanks to GHSC member **Claude Gravel**, our Quebec Archivist, we are planning a great trip which will include a number of games – both with hickory and modern clubs. We are planning to travel by bus and to play on some of the old courses such as Manoir Richelieu (please see story on page ten), the Royal Quebec, and on the 1923 Willie Park-designed blue course. Join the historical feat of William Doleman and play your hickories on the reconstructed nine hole original **Plains of Abraham** at the end of August.



Happy Holidays!

Enjoy the French cuisine of Quebec City. Travel to the Murray Bay Golf Club (1894) and St-Siméon and enjoy the ferry-crossing (a 75-minute boat trip); see the whales on the St. Lawrence. Play at Rivière du Loup or a hickory game at the former summer residence of Sir John A. (Macdonald) and his telegraph relay station.

On the way home, there may be a possible stop at the Ile Bizard and the Royal Montréal Golf Club for a visit of the club house and access to their historic library and gallery of paintings. Available is an additional day of golf on the way back to an old course like Grand Mère, Country Club of Montréal – home of the famous Mulligan tradition that our exhausted members might need or possibly Beaconsfield (1904) or Hudson Heights (1910).

I would like to hear from all members who would be interested. No obligations yet! Your feedback is important! E-mail addresses are vital. Please refer to the enclosed information sheet.

What a great President's Cup for **Mike Weir**. Credit **Gary Player** for the courage to name Mike to the position and it is a shame that Ames was also not named since his late victory at the Children's Miracle Network Classic at the Walt Disney Resort in Orlando. If members want more information on the President's Cup, please check on Google.

*Your Zealous Editor,
Bill Macdonald*

Ontario Hickory Tour Final Results

September 6, 2007

by *Paul Dietz*

The final event on the 2007 Ontario Hickory Tour was contested at The Saginaw Golf Course, in Cambridge, Ontario, on Thursday, September 6.

The Ontario Hickory Tour consists of a series of six rounds of hickory golf, half contested with 1890's golf equipment, including a limited flight golf ball, and half contested with the 1920's style equipment.

Each player attending an Ontario Hickory Tour event played a match against every other golfer in the field. Each hole in the match was worth one point. An additional point was scored for winning the front nine, the back nine and the eighteen hole match (total 21 points per match).

A variety of golf courses in the Kitchener/Hamilton/Niagara area were used as tournament sites. Yardages appropriate to the style of club used were selected at each site.

Ontario Hickory Tour Order of Merit

The final point leaders after six events are:

Paul Dietz	442.5 points
Doug Marshall	343 points
Vern Petry	331 points
Wayne Linton	295 points
Ron Archer	240.5 points
Jim McNeil	240 points
Jim Palk	211 points
Jason Miller	187 points
Ian Marshall	183.5 points
Norm Moreau	149.5 points
Bob Saunders	123.5 points

A total of seventeen players participated in this year's events. Several new ideas will be incorporated into the 2008 Ontario Hickory Tour format, allowing a broader spectrum of players to enjoy the grand old game of hickory golf.

Doug Marshall and Paul Dietz would like to thank all who participated in the Ontario Hickory Tour events. Your camaraderie and friendship is greatly appreciated.

Please join us for the 2008 Ontario Hickory Tour (probably a late May start), and bring a friend along to introduce him to hickory golf.

Charles Blair Macdonald Challenge 2007

September 15-16, 2007

This year's fifth Macdonald tournament was played on the weekend of Sept 15-16. Forty eight players took part, 24 from each country.

Day one dawned with cool mid-October weather. Playing on a windy links-like day, this made the use of 1890 equipment a real challenge. The format of nine holes

alternate shot (foursomes) followed by nine holes best ball produced a very close result.

The Canadian team led 13 – 11 at the end of the day. On Sunday the weather returned to summer with sunshine and mid-70's temperatures. This seemed to suit the US side just fine as they won 17 of the 24 single matches for an overall 28 – 20 win. Congratulations goes to the U.S. for their first win in the last four years.

The overall standings are now three wins for Canada and two wins for the U.S. In the individual Eastern Canada Championship the overall winner for the third year in a row was Canadian **Jim McNeil** scoring a new record 69 the second day. Second place went to Canada's **Bob Sly** by retrogression over Jay Harris of Team USA. Jay won the Senior Championship scoring 75 on day two. Second place senior was **Vern Petry** of Canada.

Next year's event is scheduled for Sept 11,12,13 /2008. The Anchorage Motel will continue to be Tournament Headquarters and rooms are blocked out for the dates. Many thanks to the players who made this event the best yet!

C.B. Macdonald 2007 Day One Results
Canada 13 and USA 11

Day Two Singles Matches Results

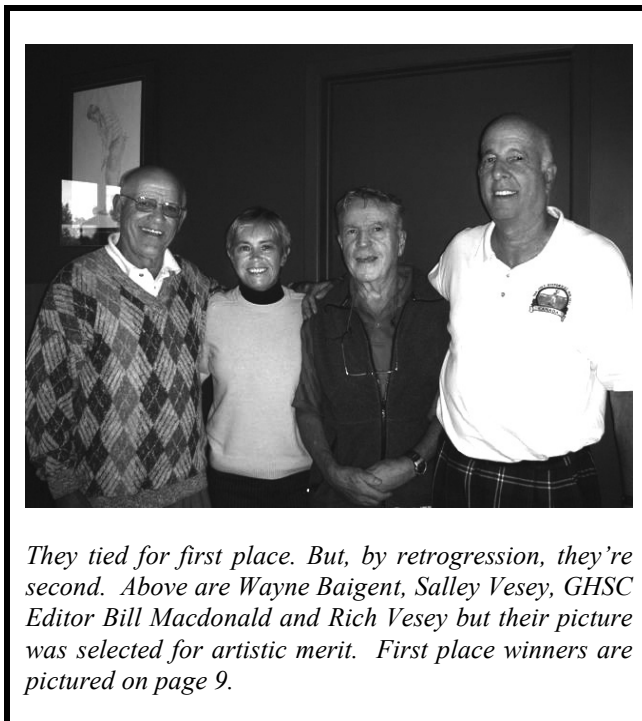
<u>CANADA</u>	<u>USA</u>	<u>WINNER</u>
M1 Jim McNeil 69	Jay Harris 75	Canada
M2 Bob Sly 75	Tom Johnson 81	Canada
M3 Vern Petry 80	Tad Moore 78	USA
M4 Hugh Cameron 83	Rob Alschwede 84	Canada
M5 Paul Dietz 78	Roger Hill 84	Canada
M6 Bob West 92	Dave Ellis 80	USA
M7 Ron Archer 88	Chris Deinlein 85	USA
M8 John Piccolo 87	Mike Just 86	USA
M9 Doug Marshall 87	Pat Kennedy 92	Canada
M10 Jason Miller 98	Dave Kennedy 93	USA
M11 Dave Burgess 88	Charles Mitchell 84	USA
M12 Wayne Oakley 99	Barry Markowitz 94	USA
M13 Wayne Linton 91	Pat Regan 82	USA
M14 Wayne Baigent 96	John Roth 93	USA
M15 Frank Bounphrey 97	Joe Guerrard 77	USA
M16 Ian Marshall 93	Ken Holtz 84	USA
M17 Vanden Tillaart 109	Bill Weisler 88	USA
M18 Bill Stewart 92	Rich Harris 103	Canada
M19 Peter Harrington 104	Bill Engelson 92	USA
M20 Jim Palk 102	Larry Moye 99	USA
M21 George Julie 100	Howard Kolodny 106	Canada
M22 Norm Moreau 113	Eric Wolke 98	USA
M23 Noi Moreau 113	Barry Herbert 107	USA
M24 Barry Relf 111	Steven Spring 100	USA

TOTALS: USA 17 and Canada 7

TWO DAY TOTALS: USA 28 and Canada 20
Congratulations to the American team!

FIVE YEAR TOTALS ARE NOW:
Canada 3 Wins and USA 2 Wins

Sawmill Hickory Hacker Event
September 28, 2007



They tied for first place. But, by retrogression, they're second. Above are Wayne Baigent, Salley Vesey, GHSC Editor Bill Macdonald and Rich Vesey but their picture was selected for artistic merit. First place winners are pictured on page 9.

Twenty four players took part in the fall scramble at Sawmill. Many thanks to George and Gail Julie for their hospitality and for the great weather they supplied for the day.

Results by Doug Marshall

1. Pat Mihm, Al Hughes, George Julie, Jim McNeil 68 (retrogression)
2. Bill Macdonald, Wayne Baigent, Rich and Sally Vesey 68
3. Jim Palk, Paul Sorley, Gerry Atchymichuk 69
4. Ted Vanden Tillart, J.G. Vankampen, Ken Hopkins, Doug Marshall 71
5. Bill Leask, Barb Leask, Jesse Johnson, Rich Dewhurst 72
6. Norm Moreau, Noi Moreau, Eddie Vasso, Bill Stewart 74

See you all in the spring of "08." Bring your friends and lets get the numbers back to our recent past events.

Nick Weslock, who died six weeks prior to his 90th birthday, will be featured in the upcoming GHSC Bulletin (March 2008). He was one of Canada's all-time greatest amateur golfers.

Dibman had become a legend of some significance. He was the first person to play golf in North America to whom we can put a name. It was, however, the wrong name.

As T.M. Hutchison pointed out in *Canadian Golfer* in 1932, the youth's real name was William Doleman. On the printed page this may not look like Dibman, but if you scribble *Doleman* as though it were your signature – and I have tried this – the word might credibly be taken for Dibman.

Who was William Doleman? To have asked that question of a golfer of a hundred years ago would be like asking a golfer today if he has heard of Jack Nicklaus.

William was the third of four Doleman brothers, all golfers. In the 1860s and 1870s he was probably the finest amateur in Scotland, which would have made him the finest in the world. Between 1866 and 1884, he was the top amateur in the British Open no less than nine times.

William Doleman gave up the sea soon after his ship escaped from Sevastopol in 1854, where it had been shelled by the Russians, and he became a businessman. But golf was his life. He played at Mussellburgh, Aberdeen, and, finally, Glasgow. He was a leading player at the Glasgow Golf Club for over 30 years.

William Doleman died in 1918, probably unaware that his afternoon in the sun at Quebec City had made him a legend in Canadian golf.



William Doleman, who golfed on the Plains of Abraham in 1854.

The Royal Montreal Golf Club

The Royal Montreal Golf Club, the oldest golf club in North America, was formed by a small group of businessmen in November, 1873. The drive and inspiration came from Alexander Dennistoun – the man honoured as the club's first captain and president.

The inaugural organizing meeting was held in the office of John Sidey on the fourth of November, 1873. They have one of the better displays and libraries of golf history in Canada. Members should read the second chapter of Jim Barclay's book, *Golf in Canada* for the fascinating story of Canada's first six golf clubs.

COMING EVENTS

Toronto Golf and Travel Show

February 29, 2008 to March 2, 2008
Toronto Convention Centre

Please contact Paul Sorley at paulsorley@hotmail.com

Golf Hall of Fame Trade Fair and Auction

Saturday, March 29, 2008 • Glen Abbey Golf Club
Come participate in our biggest and best event, all day!
Contact Bill Macdonald at (416) 225-4808
and e-mail bill.macdonald@sympatico.ca
for information and table rentals.

Editor's Note: More news about the upcoming **trip to Quebec** in August and the **C.B. Macdonald Tournament** at Niagara-on-the-Lake in September 2008, as well as details about our regular Hickory Hacker Tournaments will be featured in the next Bulletin and on our website!

Ryder Cup Tournament Participants

*The Official Picture of the
Eighth Annual Canadian
Open Hickory
Championship.*

*If you look carefully, you
will see Norm Moreau, our
past president and his wife,
Noi Moreau.*



Golf Hall of Fame 2008 Inductees

Lex Robson ***Inductee, Golf Hall of Fame***

Alexander "Lex" Robson was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on February 7, 1898. Over the course of his career he was the CPGA Match Play Champion and winner of the Millar Trophy on six occasions during the 1930s (1931, 1932, 1934, 1935, 1936 and 1939). He was the CPGA Champion in 1932 and the Canadian Open runner up in 1933.

Robson also captured an Ontario Open title. He came back in 1935 and was runner up in 1927, 1930 and 1934. Due to his remarkable play he received an invitation to play in the inaugural Masters at Augusta National in 1934 but, unfortunately was unable to attend.

Robson secured his first head professional position at Weston Golf and Country Club in 1926. He also spent time as head pro at Islington and Lakeview in the 1930s before moving to Kawartha Golf and Country Club in 1940, where he remained for 25 years, wrapping up his career in 1964. Lex passed away in 1976.

A Robson Synopsis by James Barclay

Reprinted from *Golf in Canada: A History*, M&S, 1992.

Alexander (Lex) Robson, like Willie Lamb, had been a Scottish amateur, but from a well-to-do, middle-class family in Blackhall, Midlothian, where he headed the golf team at Stewart's College. For three years he won the gold medal of the Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society, capturing also the Coronation Cup, which came with the championship of the Braid Hills golf course in Edinburgh.

Robson came to Canada as the secretary to Toronto's Weston Club in 1925, having been recommended by no less than R. T. Boothby, a former captain of the R&A. At Weston, he served for a time as both professional and manager-secretary. He accomplished little in national golf until 1930, when he was appointed professional to the nearby club at Islington. Thereafter, Robson was frequently in the money at CPGA championships, but his only win came in 1932.

Some brilliant putting helped him shoot a 33 in the back nine at Rivermead, good enough to beat Andy Kay in a play-off.

Lex Robson reserved his finest performances for the Canadian Open, tying for second place in 1933 and for third a year later.

Lex Robson and Jimmy Johnstone also dominated what came to be known as the "Canadian Professional Championship for the Millar Trophy." Melville ("Cap") Millar, secretary of the Islington Golf Club, and Mrs. Millar put up this trophy for competition in 1928. (Incidentally, Millar had as romantic a life as you could wish for, having fought alongside Buffalo Bill and been a U.S. Cavalryman in the Sitting Bull uprising and in the Mexican Revolution. He was later to make his mark in golf course construction.) At first, entry to the Millar was restricted to members of the Ontario PGA. From 1940, the tournament was opened up to professionals from Quebec, and from 1943 to all Canadian professionals. The Millar was the professionals' match-play championship. But until well into the Second World War it was a provincial event.

Kay, Lamb, Johnstone and Robson were products of the Scottish school of golf, and had technically fine swings, with Lamb the most stylish of the four. They were modest men, and quiet-living. Only Johnstone could be characterized as gregarious, perhaps because he had traveled more widely than the others. They were not dashing golfers or extroverts in the style of a Charlie Murray. They came to North America at a time when a new breed of professional golfer was emerging – the tournament player. None of them could match consistently the top tournament players from the United States. Playing for money was only a minor part of their jobs. Their first duty, after all, was to the members of the clubs.

. . .

The Millar match-play tournament started as an Ontario PGA event and later was opened to professionals first from Quebec, then from the rest of Canada, during the Second World War. But in practice it remained, with few exceptions, an event for professionals in Ontario, where it was always held. The original intention had been to play this tournament at the course of the previous year's winner, but after 1931 it was held mainly at the Islington Golf Club, whose Cap Millar had put up the trophy.

. . .

Just before the 1937 Open at the St. Andrews Club in Toronto, a team of Canadian professionals took on a team from the visiting Americans.

The match was marred by controversy; Willie Lamb, Jimmy Johnstone, Lex Robson, and Dick Borthwick were selected but did not play. They objected to the Americans being paid seventy-five dollars, whereas the Canadians were not offered a cent.

Editor's Note: Must have been the Scottish influence!

Lloyd Tucker and Gerry Kesselring admitted together into the Ontario Golf Hall of Fame

Lloyd Tucker achieved the position of one of Canada's greatest golf professionals, not only by winning, tournaments, but by developing some of Canada's top golfers, and a successful club program. He is joined in this induction, fittingly with one of his successful students, amateur Gerry Kesselring with whom he won the Ontario Pro-Amateur Tournament in 1953 and again with Moe Norman in 1954.

***Gerry Kesselring worked hard . . .
He was chosen Ontario's most
outstanding athlete in 1952 . . .
And developed eight professionals***

Gerry Kesselring, born 1928 in Kitchener, Gerry Kesselring started golfing at an early age. Lloyd Tucker, his pro at the Kitchener Rockway Golf course assisted him, giving playing privileges for picking weeds, shagging balls and caddying. He worked hard, and won the Ontario Junior Championship in 1945, 1946 and 1948. He missed out in 1947, losing to Bob Fair by one stroke. In 1946 and 1947 he went on to win the Canadian Junior Championship and was on the Ontario Provincial team for the Willingdon Cup from 1949 to 1953. He was the Ontario Amateur Champion in 1949, 1951, 1952 and 1953. He captured the Ontario Open in 1952, 1953, 1956 and 1957, and was chosen Ontario's most outstanding athlete in 1952 by the Ontario Sportswriter and Broadcasters Association.

He turned professional in October 1953, and played in a number of Canadian Opens with a 10th place finish in 1955. In 1960 applied for a return to amateur ranking, which was granted in 1966. In 1969 he won the Ontario Public Course Championship and was runner up in 1972.

***More on Lloyd Tucker
and TEAM ROCKWAY***

Tucker also developed eight CPGA professionals, a feat surpassed only by George Cumming. From this public golf course in Kitchener Lloyd Tucker developed a dynasty in golf. And it all started, as a work project of the Mill St Sewage Farm, during the Depression. Lloyd Tucker was a good golfer with a sweet swing, and achieved some success as a player. Lloyd was runner-up in 1939, 1941 and 1958 to winners Al Balding, Bill Kerr, and Lex Robson in the Canadian Professional Golfers Championship for the Millar Trophy.

In 1951 Lloyd was runner up to Stan Leonard in the Canadian Professional Golfers Championship. In 1951 the CPGA executive was involved in creating a team to meet the United States Ryder Cup team in a competition, similar to the Ryder Cup with Great Britain. The teams would compete for the Hopkins Trophy. Based on the results of the Canadian

Open and CPGA tournaments, Lloyd Tucker was second only to Stan Leonard, others for the proposed team were: Pat Fletcher, Stan Horne, Bobby Reith, Jules Huot, Henry Martel, Fred Wood, Murray Tucker, and Bill Kerr. Lloyd won the 1954 PGA Niagara Parks Tournament. U.S. PGA pro John Serafin shot a 69, in the opening round, tying Cary Middlecoff and Julius Boros' record, who had previously shot 69's. Lloyd Tucker tied for second place with a par 72, on opening day, but won with a score of 222 over the 54 holes. Moe Norman, was second as top amateur at 223.

Lloyd Tucker, who was always referred by his players as Mister Tucker, in reference to the respect which they held for him, developed a program at Kitchener Rockway which was considered one of the best, and set a bench mark to improve Ontario golf. In the eight years from 1948 to 1955, Team Rockway won the George S. Lyon Trophy four times with nine different players. They won the Ontario Jr. Best ball in 1947, 1948, and 1961.

***Lloyd Tucker dedicated himself
to teaching golf . . . with the object
of bringing out the innate skills
in all he taught***

Lloyd Tucker promoted excellence in his team and many became doctors, lawyers, and successful businessmen. He helped eight of his former students become CPGA pros. Gus, Dan, and Gary Maue, Theil Schiefle, George Hildebrecht, Herb Rudney, Ron Plomske and Kenny Brenner. Lloyd Tucker, as an Ontario Club Professional, dedicated himself to teaching golf to the members of his club, with the object of bringing out the innate skills in all he taught, so that they golfed to the best of their ability. He was never satisfied with merely improving their skills but in honing them to as near perfection as they were capable of achieving.

The results: In the years 1937-1959 he was the golf professional at Kitchener Rockway Golf Club. In the period 1945-1956 it was no coincidence that the club produced amateur golfers who won six Ontario Junior Championships, and four second places. Gerry Kesselring, winner in 1945, 1946, and 1948. Gary Cowan won the title in 1956. Jerry Knetchel, won in 1951 and 1952, winning second place was GHSC member Don Zeigler, Warren Renknopf, and Ernie Hauser. Gerry Kesselring also won the Ontario Amateur four times in the years 1949-1953, Gary Cowan, won the United States Amateur Championship twice, in 1996 and 1971, and the Ontario Amateur Championship a total of nine times. In 1961, he won the Canadian Amateur and in 1956 won the Ontario Junior. In 1964 he was the low amateur in the Masters and in 1991 played the PGA Senior PGA Tour. Today Gary is a successful insurance agent and a member of Canada's Golf Hall of Fame. Moe Norman, world famous "Pipe Line Moe"

and his "Natural Golf" had 54 tournament victories, and two Canadian Amateur wins in 1955 and 1956, seven CPGA Senior CPGA wins and 33 course records. Moe had a unique PGA experience in 1955 and was elected into the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame in 1995.

Lloyd also recognized the potential of Moe Norman, but he had the good sense to encourage Moe without attempting to change what was considered a very individual and unorthodox swing

Lloyd also recognized the potential of Moe Norman, but he had the good sense to encourage Moe without attempting to change what was considered a very individual and unorthodox swing. One has to examine the unique swings and other differences of Kesselring, Cowan, Norman, etc., to realize the importance a good coach has in developing excellence by teaching each individual. Tucker observed that different techniques worked for the game's best and tried to incorporate them while allowing the student's swing to fit his or her personality. Lloyd also developed and administrated a program of giving free lessons to youngsters, and if they could not afford green fees, they could clean clubs, caddy, shag balls, etc. This developed a foundation of a continual supply of youngsters competing with one another.

Jack Fleck, former US Open Champ, asked Bill MacWilliam, of St. Andrews East and St. Andrews Valley, if Canada had a teacher like Harvey Penick, the outstanding U.S. golf teaching pro who developed Tom Kite and Ben Crenshaw and wrote the *Little Red Book*. He answered yes, we have Lloyd Tucker.

Lloyd shunned personal acclaim and always promoted the team concept. His entry to the Ontario Golf Hall of Fame is a welcome addition.

BOOK REVIEW

Tommy's Honour

published April 2007, Gotham Books

by Doug Marshall

Here is a must read for all golfers with any interest in the history of their fascinating and frustrating pastime. Author Kevin Cook takes the reader back to the mid-1800's to the beginnings of the match play competitions that were to shape the game in its earliest days.

He draws a vivid picture of life in Scotland and the rise of golf as a rallying point for the ordinary people in the towns

around St. Andrews. Amidst a gritty historical backdrop, Cook tells the story of how competitive golf evolved from the caddy pens to highly-followed money matches that drew large, unruly crowds.

Early on, caddies soon surpassed the playing ability of their wealthy employers and became instruments of sporting betting. The first great player, Allan Robertson, went through the stages of caddy/club and ball-maker/professional match player in the 1840's. The best player of his time he was a mentor for Tom Morris and later his partner in the two ball money matches played in the area.

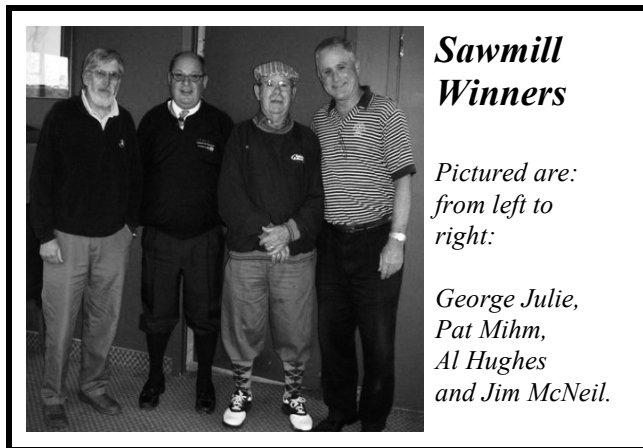
This book takes us from those days through the life of Tom Senior or "Old Tom" and that of his pride and joy, "Young Tom," considered the greatest player ever by many Scots to this day. Tom encouraged this and spent most of his later years promoting this point of view.

Young Tom, who died tragically at 24, was only one of many personal losses that Tom Sr. experienced in his long life. Born in 1821 he outlived all of his family to become the founder and spokesperson for St. Andrews until his death in 1908.

The story takes us through the development of the courses in Scotland, especially Prestwick and St. Andrews both done by Old Tom. We learn of the politics and persuasiveness of this man to make this happen. We also are introduced to the early players who helped popularize the game. Willie Dunn, the first great rival of Old Tom is featured. He was sire to a long line of players and teachers who brought golf to North America. Also Allan Robertson, and later players who were rivals of Young Tom appear, and are brought to life as more than just names from the golf history books. We learn of the personalities of Willie Park, The Straths, Tom Kidd and others.

All of the major events that led to the creation of the Open in 1860 are described and the subsequent early Opens are presented with the backdrops of the matches that surround these events. Many of these matches were considered far more important at the time and some very raucous events are described.

This book brings to life all the events we only read about in our golf histories. Extremely well researched, it is a must read and should be part of every golfer's library.



Sawmill Winners

*Pictured are:
from left to
right:*

*George Julie,
Pat Mihm,
Al Hughes
and Jim McNeil.*

The History of Golf in the Quebec City Area



Do you want to be part of our historical golf experience to Manoir Richelieu?

by Claude Gravel

A very Anglophone game becomes a Francophone past-time

The celebration of two golf club anniversaries in 2003 around Quebec City came as an occasion to discover the very rich if not unique history of golf in the region. The Lake St. Joseph Golf Club celebrates its 50th anniversary and the newly-named Montmorency Golf Club – formerly Courville GC – turns 40 this year.

But history is sometimes full of coincidences, one being that both clubs were preceded by much older golf clubs into their respective locations as part of the

eight golf clubs in 1927. Can you name them? The answer comes later, but let's start first with the beginning of golf in this wonderful city, the third largest in Canada in 1900.

Beginnings of Golf in Quebec City in the 1800'S

Historians report that in North America, the local press reported the future

Scottish champion William Doleman using his golf clubs on the Plains of Abraham in the fall of 1854. Ralph Benoît also writes about golf being played on the heights of Lévis in the early '60s and on the Plains of Abraham in 1869, based on comments from his former colleagues of the Quebec Golf Club, while playing on the Cove Fields.

Finally, the Quebec Golf Club is founded in 1874, second only to the new Montreal Golf Club founded in the previous fall of 1873 with its 6 holes – naturally played three times – located on

Fletcher's Fields, east of Mount Royal. Our local golfers are privileged with a 14-hole golf course – 4 holes played twice – as reported by J. M. LeMoine in "Picturesque Quebec of 1882". By comparison, France already had the Pau Golf Club founded in 1856 by British tourists and in New York, St. Andrews of Yonkers was still to come in 1888.

The only other Quebec golf course known before 1900 was a private course in the wealthy Ste. Pétronille resort, owned by Timothy Hibbard Dunn where he erected an Anglican church and designed a small golf course (ref Dictionnaire biographique du Canada, Vol. XII). Mr. Dunn died on July 2, 1898, and after a Mr. Fred Wurtele had a picture dated July 27, 1902, of the club house. Finally, while the Orléans Golf Club refers to 1868 on its score cards but without documented proof, it is hard to explain how LeMoine can be so specific about the Quebec Golf Club in 1882, and stay silent on the other supposedly older one of 1868.

Popularity of Golf in the Early 1900s

While Quebec City had two of the 12 known golf clubs in the Province of Quebec in 1900, the popularity of golf and the expansion of tourism, coupled with the flourishing Quebec economy, made playing golf a new and attractive attraction especially into the resort area where 10 of the 20 1903 golf clubs existed, not including personal golf courses. Golf was then a very Anglophone pastime, the Quebec Golf Club counted only four francophones at the turn of the century. But it had started allowing ladies golf with a reduced course and a reduced time access.

The next 9-hole golf course of 2400 yards appears around 1905 – according to E.T. D. Chambers – at Lake St. Joseph, thanks to the Canadian Northern Railway and their big hotel besides the Lake. The golf club, located near the hotel and the railway station, shared clients with the hotel until 1928 when the hotel is destroyed by fire and not reconstructed.

Another resort 9-hole golf course appeared in rural Lorette in May of 1920 with a significant number of

well-to-do Francophones from the city, and a fifth one across the River in Lévis in 1923, basically an urban club with the support of the Anglophone-led Davie shipyards industry and the Breaky family.

Partners with Quebec Railway

Meanwhile, the Quebec Golf Club (QGC) had moved to Montmorency, after it was expelled from the Cove Fields on the Plains of Abraham by the Militia Department, owner of the land, because of the great War, in 1914. In a somewhat marriage de raison with the Quebec Railway, Light, Heat and Power (ORLHP), the QGC settled on the land owned by the latter company, and will soon have its 18-hole course of 6,250 yards, shared with the customers of the Kent Hotel, and from the Château Frontenac, a corporate member of the QGC since its opening in the mid 1890s.

This marriage will last about 10 years until in 1925, the QGC and its members, anxious to become owners of their own course, a no-deal with the ORLHP, moved to Boischatel, one kilometre away, across the Montmorency river. And that became the creation of the easy-to-call Kent Golf Links, tied to the famous Kent Hotel, on the very course left by the QGC.

...the famous Huot Family and the eight brothers first discovered golf by walking to Sunday Mass on Montmorency...

It is appropriate at this stage to mention that it is on this older Montmorency course that the famous Huot family and the eight brothers first discovered golf by walking to the Sunday Mass in Montmorency and looking at well-dressed men swinging clubs into the fields north of l'Avenue royale formerly called le Chemin du Roy. They will be encouraged by their parents to caddy

and learn about golf, but mostly to bring in to the large and needy family, the well deserved 10¢ or 15 ¢ for carrying a golf bag for 18 holes. Smart, talented and hard-workers, they all become good golfers and four of them will become professionals. The most famous was Jules with three CPGA championships and winner of the PGA Brock Open in 1937.

More Clubs, urban and industrial

There will be two more golf clubs to open at that time, one around 1925 called the Jacques-Cartier Golf Club, a rather modest and very likely Francophone golf club by its name. It was founded by the Quebec Land Co. near the Provincial Exhibition site in Limoilou, on its very residential development real estate. The club was short-lived, according to Ulric Huot who remembers having played that course before visiting the provincial Exhibition.

The eighth and final golf club of that era was the Donnacona Golf Club founded in 1927. This urban and industrial club celebrated its 75th anniversary last year would have benefited with some of the greens left by the Kent Golf Links when it did expand in 1927. Surprisingly enough, Quebecers and tourists alike could choose from eight different golf courses as early as 1927. But we were back to only five from 1942 until 1953, when the new Lake St. Joseph Golf Club was founded on a different site.

Comments, information and questions are welcomed at ctgravel@mediom.qc.ca or by calling 450-584-1156.



The Ontario Hickory Tour

An Interview with Paul Dietz

Question: *What was the reason you established the Ontario Hickory Tour?*

Doug Marshall has done a great deal of work to establish his C.B. Macdonald Challenge/Eastern Canadian Hickory event and I felt that the Ontario Hickory Tour would help the Canadian players to play better against their American opponents. The Ontario Hickory Tour is meant to be a training ground for people wishing to play in major hickory events – the C.B. Macdonald Challenge, the National Hickory Championship, and the MidPines event. The Americans have quite a broad base to draw from, especially in Ohio and the Carolinas. These two regional groups meet regularly – as frequently as once a week – to practice their hickory golf skills.

How many participants played the Ontario Hickory Tour in 2007?

We had 17 different people play at least one Ontario Hickory Tour event in 2007. At the Guelph event, we had 12 participants. Most of the other events were played by approximately eight participants.

How did the Ontario Hickory Tour help your game?

I had some very good matches during these events. More than anything, the matches gave me an idea of where I stood in comparison to my fellow competitors. We all know that success breeds success. Knowing that you were successful on one occasion helps you to be successful in the next match. It's great for the confidence when you are playing against better players, and they ONLY beat you by a hole or two. I've twice had the opportunity to play with Randy Jensen. The first time, I was very nervous, but the second time I was less nervous. Next time, I'll be even more comfortable!

How did you prepare for the various tour events?

After I complete an event, I check my schedule to determine the style of play required for the next event. At Saginaw (May 29), I was preparing for The National Hickory Championships in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, where the Oakhurst gutta percha ball was required. So, I used the Oakhurst ball with my 1890's clubs, even though everyone else playing the Saginaw event had

selected the longer limited flight range ball. Experience under pressure with the gutty helped me in my next event, the National Hickory Championship at Oakhurst. Once I had completed play in the NHC, I determined that my next event, Seaforth, required that my set contain no replica golf clubs, so I practiced with an original spoon, which replaced my regular replica.

If I knew that the course that I would be playing next was long, I would play my home course farther back from where I usually play (maybe 6,200 yards, as opposed to 5,300 yards for 1890's and 5,800 yards for 1920's clubs). Some of the tournament courses that I play are very long – Belvedere, in northern Michigan, and MidPines in Southern Pines, North Carolina. These require many fairway wood shots, and short game skills, because the approaches are so long. Therefore, I would put more emphasis on these parts of my game during practice sessions.

You mention replica clubs. Is there an advantage with replicas?

I own most of the "legal" replicas – approved by the Society of Hickory Golfers – but most of my play clubs are originals. Most good players prefer to use original clubs, because that is true to the spirit of the game.

But, when a tournament allows the use of replicas, you have to consider the advantage of matched woods and irons used by your opponents. There is quite an advantage to a flanged niblick when playing from sand, and original flanged niblicks are hard to find! A replica must be considered, if you wish to compete in major tournaments.

Replicas are readily available, and eliminate the need to look for years for specific clubs that match your set. One collector mentioned that he had spent 20 years assembling his play set! Most golfers want something to play with much sooner than that. I have noticed that entry level players who purchase replica clubs to get into the game tend to collect an original play set if they decide to get really involved with hickory golf.

Many American tournament players – our competitors – "tweak" their play clubs. What do they do to their play set to make their clubs more playable?

Most tournament players take every club in their play set apart to ensure that the shafts are solid and that the clubs are worthy of refurbishing. They remove all the iron heads, and re-glue them. Then they install a new pin to hold the head in place. They refinish the shafts, and whip the lower portion of the shaft – usually an inch and a half or two inches – to



strengthen the weakest point of the club, the lower portion of the shaft.

They measure the lengths, the lie angles, and the lofts of the clubs, and compare them to the specifications of their custom fitted, steel shafted clubs. They then begin to build their play set by arranging the clubs that they have in sequence from longest to shortest. They adjust the loft and lie angle of this club to the loft and lie angle of their similar length modern iron. They take the next longest iron, and repeat the process. Then they install a new leather wrap, making sure that the finished diameter of the shaft is the same on all clubs.

Most of the good players use heavy clubs – I picked up Randy Jensen’s irons while playing a four ball match against him at the NHC this past summer, and could hardly believe their weight – I thought mine were heavy! But that is one of the reasons he can hit three of the par four holes at Oakhurst with AN IRON!

What clubs do you have in your 1920's play set?

My present play set has the equivalent of today's four, six, seven, eight, nine, pitching wedge and sand wedge. By setting my irons up this way, I do not have to calculate how far I hit each hickory iron – the distance is very similar to the distance that I hit my regular steel shafted clubs. I carry a wood for tee shots, about 14 degrees in loft, for a higher launch angle. I actually have several that I could use, some original, and some replica. I also carry a Mills aluminum headed cleek, that looks much like today's hybrid clubs, for fairway shots. My putter is smooth faced, so I can use it with my 1890's set as well – less adjustment is required if I use the same putter in both sets.

Are your 1890's clubs set up the same way?

As for refurbishing, the same work must be done on all clubs, whether 1890's or 1920's – re-glued head, whip neck, re-grip, adjust swingweight. But the 1890's irons are set up about ten degrees apart. Most golfers use only five to seven clubs when playing 1890's golf. Bags were not used – and cannot be used even today at the National Hickory Championship. Clubs were carried under the arm. Most hickory clubs weigh about twice the weight of a modern club, so more than six or seven clubs is quite a load! My set has four irons (24, 34, 44, and 54 degrees of loft), a lofted wood for tee shots (15 or 20 degrees of loft) and a putter. The lofted wood helps launch the ball higher for maximum carry.

What suggestions can you offer to hickory golfers?

In playing Hickory Hacker events, I have noticed that most golfers have not taken the time to determine the distance that they hit each club. And many have big gaps between clubs – no club to fit between a mashie niblick and a mid-iron, for example. One golfer had five irons in his bag, all different lengths, but all with approximately the same loft (30 degrees) – basically he had *five* five irons! A good clubmaker can space these out, as I did, and the golfer then had a three iron, a four iron, a five iron, a six iron and a seven iron.

If you are going to be serious about playing hickory golf, get serious about your equipment. You can collect clubs, and be traditional about maintaining original grips, and so on in your collection, but set aside some of your collection for play clubs, and alter them to fit your game. Bobby Jones would have replaced a worn grip or a damaged shaft before a big event, and you should, too! He would have matched his irons by weight, loft, and length. The game is tough enough without struggling with your equipment!

Competition and practise are a must if you wish to improve your hickory golf skills. Many hickory players play nothing but hickory. And tournament play helps develop “tournament nerves” – the ability to perform under pressure. That is the main purpose of our Ontario Hickory Tour!

If you are a recreational player, and just want to have fun, join us at one (or more) of our Ontario Hickory Tour events. We use both the 1890's and the 1920's styles of clubs. If you don't own the proper equipment, we can arrange for rental clubs. We will also assist you in locating the appropriate equipment. We travel to many areas of the United States and Canada over the course of the year. We may just stumble across the club(s) that you require.

How did the word “Dormie” Originate?

Dormie comes from the French word for “to sleep”.
USGA Museum.

Editor's Note: Author Jim Barclay and GHSC Past President Norman Moreau have two descriptions of what the “dormie” word means. Here they are:

There are some legends floating around that Mary Queen of Scots had something to do with the origin of the term “dormie.” It may be true that Mary was a golfer, but the word “dormie” did not originate with her or because of her. Dormie comes from the word “dormir,” which shares a French and Latin origin.

“Dormir” means “to sleep.” “Dormie” means that a player has reached a match-play lead that is insurmountable – and so the player can relax, knowing that he cannot lose the match. “Dormir” (to sleep) turns into “dormie” (relax, you can't lose).

– **James Barclay**

Dormie? When three or more Members or Associates are gathered together to sleep under one roof, they enjoy a dormie, which can be an arrangement of up to 50 beds in two rows, or a scatter of mattresses, depending upon how friendly the Club may be. Most dictionaries list the etymology of “dormie” as unknown. – **Norman Moreau**

The truth & consequences of green speed

by Doug Davidson, Turf Superintendent

Years ago, there was a man named Edward Stimpson who loved golf and craved to create more fairness in the game. To further his passion, he invented a device intended to ensure that all the greens on a course were of relatively equal speed. The idea was to give superintendents (then, greenkeepers) a way to compare the speed of the 4th green with the 13th and take steps to equalize them. This was, no doubt, a sound and noble idea.

But sometimes bad things happen to good ideas.

Today, his simple tool, the Stimpmeter, is often misused to compare the speed of greens from course to course and unfortunately, to establish a benchmark of putting difficulty. Golfers are sometimes heard to say, "Hey, Hickory Hills was 'stimping' 13 last week." This essentially means that the greens were as fast as the linoleum on most kitchen floors.

From a purely competitive standpoint, that's OK. However, this quest for fast greens has serious consequences in terms of cost, environmental quality and the long-term health of the green. In short, speed can kill.

Here's why: A healthy, vigorous green can be maintained at a very short cutting height (as low as 1/8-inch) for short periods of time without serious consequences if it's been prepared properly and weather conditions are acceptable. Courses hosting tournaments often take months (and spend significant extra money) to bring greens up to an ultra-fast speed for PGA Tour players. For example, the greens at Augusta National or Oakmont may "stimp" up to 14 when properly prepared and dry.

However, fast greens are extremely fragile. If you

compared them with human beings, it would be fair to say that their immune systems can be very weak. They become susceptible to diseases and pests, and therefore may require more chemical treatments. Weather can also quickly destroy the health of an ultrafast green. High temperatures and lack of moisture in the air are deadly to greens that are maintained at very short cutting heights for any length of time.

The risks of maintaining fast greens – even with the best professional management by superintendents – were apparent in the summer of 1995 when golf courses across the eastern United States lost greens during an extended period of drought and high temperatures. Many of the world's best-known courses suffered serious damage and were essentially unplayable for the last half of the year. Many of these had to be re-seeded or completely rebuilt at a cost that was high in terms of budget, playability and reputation.

The solution to the dilemma of fast greens is twofold. First, the golf industry is sponsoring and promoting research and development of new grasses that are more tolerant of fast speeds under adverse conditions. Organizations such as the USGA and GCSAA are investing millions of dollars in this effort.

On the other side, golfers should understand and accept the limitations of these living systems we call greens. Golfers should also heed the advice of superintendents who manage, nurture and protect these ecosystems. And finally, many golfers must change their attitudes about the competitive aspect of green speeds. They should, in the footsteps of Mr. Stimpson, strive for fairness, not fastness.

Sale at the RCGA Hall of Fame

On **Sunday, December 9th** begins a rare opportunity to buy the golfer in your life **Museum-quality Display Items** from the storage of the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame and Museum. The Canadian Golf Hall of Fame is holding a fund-raising sale of items culled from the storage areas and closets. The sale will include photo and text panels from past exhibits featuring: Canadian Open Champions, Amateur Players, Historic Imagery, Descriptive Quotes and other display items. Please note: These items are from the Museum's artifacts collections, and none would qualify as memorabilia.

SELECTED ITEMS INCLUDE:

Six black and white posters of Jack Nicklaus at various stages of his golf career – from winning the U.S. Amateur Championship through to designing Glen Abbey Golf Course and playing in the Canadian Open with his son as caddy. These panels were created for the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame feature exhibit on Jack Nicklaus, done co-operatively with the Jack Nicklaus Museum several years ago. 48" x 36" each. **Looking for the perfect item to showcase in your "golf den?"** What about one of the "Humour of Golf" exhibit panels. Featuring choice golf jokes through the ages, these panels are a vibrant green and 24" wide by 48" long. Each year the Hall of Fame features the "Year in Review" celebrating the previous year's champions at the National Amateur events. The plaques (photos and accompanying text) are available for you to display in your home, place of work or golf club.

SALE WILL RUN UNTIL SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16 OR WHILE QUANTITIES LAST.

SOTHEBY'S AUCTION

– A Report

Held on September 27 and 28, 2007, two intrepid GHSC members bravely ventured unto Sotheby's hallowed floors to purchase items from author Jeff Ellis's collection. Here is a first-hand account of their trials and tribulations - and victories.

by Ron Lyons and Ian MacCrimmon

Probably the greatest single collection of wood-shafted golf clubs ever assembled is no longer. Jeff Ellis, after devoting the last four or five years to finding a single buyer, had discovered that there just wasn't anyone out there who was willing to fork out the four million U.S. it would take to keep the collection together. I feel that the best outcome for golfers everywhere would have been if the collection had found a home in one of the important golf museums like the World Golf Village in St. Augustine's, the British Golf Museum in St. Andrews, the James River Museum in Virginia or the USGA Museum at Farhills. Sadly, though this was not the case.

Jeff decided to sell the collection because it was starting to consume him

Orlando, Los Angeles, Hollywood: A prominent golf magazine quoted Jeff as saying that the reason he had decided to sell the collection was that he was starting to feel that the collection was consuming him. He spent over eight years researching and producing his first book and then shocked the golfing world with the first edition of *The Club Maker's Art*. The next great work was his tabletop best-seller, *The Golf Club – 400 Years of The Good, The Beautiful and The Creative*. And in the last year he has completed

and brought to the market his second edition of *The Club Maker's Art*.

This second edition contains an additional 200 clubs and every one of the 800 clubs went up for bids, with the exception of the famous Troon clubs. It is a two-book set that is bigger and more impressive than his first edition, if that's possible. I spoke with Jeff at the auction preview and his plans are that once the dust settles he's going to jump in a small travel van with his wife Susan, relax with the wind at their backs and travel the open roads. Would splitting up the collection prove to be a mistake? Is a world class golf collection worth more than the sum of its parts? The next two days would tell.

New York: Manhattan hotel rooms start in at around \$450.00 per night. From our humble digs, we drove our rental car in on Wednesday, which was a preview day. My Scottish co-reporter's eyes looked like a pair of pie plates as we looked for a parking spot near Sotheby's. They were all the same price: \$6.75 per half hour – Ouch. We parked the car and Ian took off like Ben Johnson as we headed over to the 10-storey auction house for the preview. As we entered the impressive foyer at Sotheby's – there it was – spread about in their custom-made racks and guarded by at least 10 suited Sotheby employees – the entire Ellis collection. It was a beautiful sight, but where does one start?

All those clubs we marvelled at lay ripe for the taking

The once-lowly Canadian dollar had just soared past the U.S. greenback. All those clubs we had marvelled at for years lay ripe for the taking. We quickly collected a couple of catalogues and there on the second page our hopes were momentarily dashed. The new buyer's premium was 25% and the tax 8.75% on top of the hammer price. A sobering reminder of seven years ago when the loonie was a meagre 66 cents.

I noticed Jeff off in the distance pacing the floor like an expectant father. We wandered over to greet him and let him know that the two big hitters from Toronto had arrived. He looked quite dapper in a blue grey suit and thanked us for coming. We wished him well and now came the task of choosing which of the clubs would end up on our short lists. The catalogue is extremely well done and offered an excellent description of each of the clubs being offered. There was a low and high estimate on each and if you could overlook the 33.75% looming at the cashier's wicket, they didn't seem unrealistic.

Along with these descriptions there are also great pictures and articles which have added an amazing insight into the history of the clubs and the families of club makers. To think these people had toiled for centuries in the workshops of Scotland to put them into the hands of golfers. After a couple of exciting hours viewing the collection it was back to Queens and an evening spent studying the auction catalogue.

The first session of the auction began at 10:00 a.m. The sale room was set up with about 200 chairs and there were about 10 of Sotheby's people manning the phones. We were expecting to see a crowded saleroom with familiar

faces but the morning session started promptly with only about 60 bidders dotting the sale room. One more Canuck, David Burgess from Barrie, Ontario, had wandered in bringing our contingent to three. It didn't look good but we quickly learned that you only need two bidders to make a reserved auction work: You and the auctioneer. A reserved auction is one that the auctioneer reserves the right to bid on behalf of the consignor. The first session was conducted by a familiar face to those who watch the U.S. Antiques Roadshow, Leila Dunbar. She is a sports collectible specialist and one of the most knowledgeable experts in her field. Things began to heat up quickly as one buyer, sitting in the front row, began buying everything with a vengeance. He quickly catches the attention of everyone in the saleroom and proves to be the engine that drove the first session. A total of 125 of the 147 lots in Session One sold.

Sample Lots

Lot 22 – 18th Century Long-nosed Scraper by an Unknown Maker – \$91,000.

Lot 33 – Ramsbottom's Patent Crescent Iron with Claw Hosel – \$7,500.

Lot 60 – Tom Morris Sr., "Drain Pipe" putter – \$9,375.

Lot 62 – 1890's Caird Framing Putter – \$12,500.

Lot 116 – Collins Patent Springface Driver with Measuring Mechanism – \$13,750.

I said bye-bye to one of the top three clubs I had come to buy. Lot 132 – Lard's Whistler Dedstop Deepgroove Niblick – \$4,375.

Now things start to go crazy for a while!

Lot 136 – Hagen Concave Sand Wedge – \$2,000.

Lot 141 – Bobby Jones Stewart RTJ – 12 club set – \$10,625.

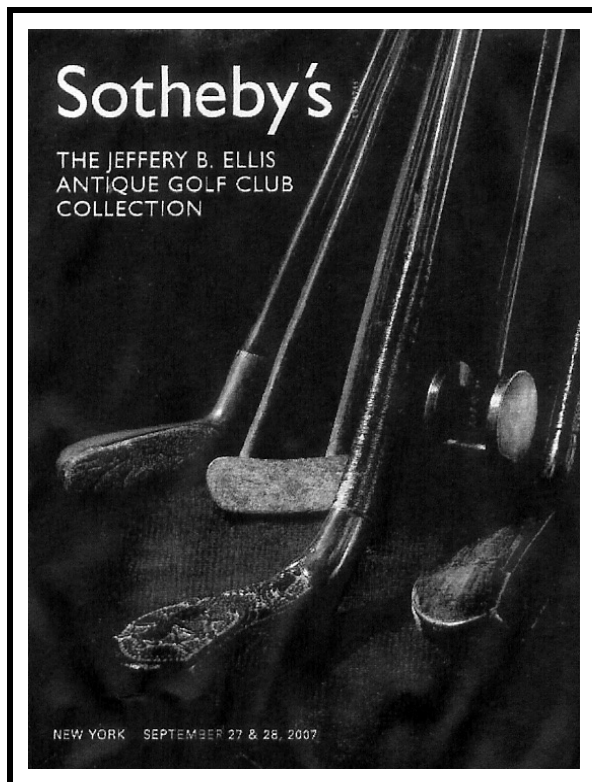
Lot 144 – Spalding Bobby Jones 9 club set – \$12,750.

Lot 146 – Set of three Chieftan left-handed Woods – \$4,688. These have to be World Records for the Jones Irons. It took only 90 minutes and \$481,000 including the 25% buyer's premium had been realized.

The second session begins at 2:00 p.m. The phone crew was down to five. The buzz over lunch was: "Who is this guy who's trying to buy everything in the sale under \$3,000?" This mystery man from the front row had spent most of the morning wrestling over the paddle with a gentleman who was well known to us but hasn't been at the GCS National for a few years. It was quite comical!

Being called to duty and needing to report back with all the inside information we decided to move from the back row, where we spent the first session, to the front row and see if we could get a take on exactly what was going on. As the bidding began it quickly became apparent that the two had engaged in a team meeting over a liquid lunch and had rethought their strategy. They had now chosen to bid on only select items and were suffering a little buyer's remorse over some of their morning purchases. There was a fresh scent of hope in the air. The second session auctioneer didn't bring as much energy into the room and this also helped to calm the bidding. Our Number Three Canuck, Burgess, went missing in action and was last seen being pulled by the ear by his wife Denise and heading toward the 5th Avenue shopping district. He was not heard from or seen again.

This being said there were still many items that went well and reached or surpassed the high estimates: After the sale we went out on the town with a collector we had met from Chicago. His company also has an office in New York and he knew the Manhattan landscape well. He took us on a whirlwind trip through Central Park, we tipped a few at Mickey Mantles Bar, he rolled us by Wall Street and 5th Ave and we ended up in Times Square under the bright lights and finished the night with a burger and beers at the Hard Rock Café. He turned out to be a great guy and we learned he has an important golf collection. He isn't a GCS nor is he a GHSC member, but we worked on convincing him to try and attend one of the shows in the future. It was a \$50.00 cab fare back home and we felt lucky to get one as this place is crazy busy!



Day two of the sale came early

Day two of the sale came early . . . too early. At exactly 4:30 a.m., I was awakened again by the big rooster sleeping in the next bed. Ian has to take a Lesson from Johnny Bago, who is the most feared of the Canadian snorers. When Johnny comes on a road trip he brings a bowl of ear plugs and puts them on the night stand for his room-mates. Oh well, it was a good time to relax and plot the day's strategy. Had most of the big players blown their budgets? I remembered my wife's last words as I left for the Airport. I hope we still own our house when you get back. We have the

same agreement that the U.S. Army has. Don't ask. Don't tell. I had warned myself that I wasn't going to go crazy and get caught up in the bidding. Yesterday every eighth item had gone for the price of a small new car. I was the under bidder on about seven big ticket items and had kept to my strategy. To a serious club collector though, this was a once-in-a-lifetime chance to pick up some world class golf clubs. There were still two of the three clubs I really wanted coming later in the day and the budget hadn't been blown. We were scratching on Sotheby's door at 8:30 a.m., only to discover that the auction room didn't open until 9:30 a.m.

We gather at the Italian Restaurant at the end of the block for lunch. Ian and I were joined by John and Diane Sherwood from Canterbury, New Yorker Eddie Miller, Colin Palmer from Manchester, and Ron John from California. Other GCS members I noticed back at the sale were Eric Wolke, Wayne and Claudia Aaron, Dick and Judy Estey, Will Roberto, Graham and Ann Walters from Manchester and Herbie Klinenberg.

...the average stuff has brought average to good prices

Well, this is it! Session four begins with GHSC and GCS member Leila Dunbar back calling the bids. The crowd seemed to have shrunk a little again and now there were only around 40 people left to do the bidding. The phone lines are down to three and you can hear a pin drop in the room. By this time it has become evident that almost every item that comes across the block has to reach the low reserve in order for it to sell. In my estimation the average stuff has brought average to good prices and considering the 25% buyer's premium the jury is still out on all the high end clubs that have sold. Looking back at the lots that did go unsold you can appreciate that collectors are most interested in clubs that have a visual element or are of great historical interest. Many of the great clubs that have sold are hard to put an actual dollar estimate on as this is the first time they have been offered for sale.

... you are better to pay 10 times more and step up for one great club than buy 10 average clubs

As we evolve as collectors most of us have been taught that you are better to pay 10 times more and step up for one great club than buy 10 average clubs. Twelve of the lots that haven't sold are the custom made display racks that have been specially built to show the clubs. They are open on both sides and would require a large space to house them.

Well, the two day sale is finally over and it's time to step up to the wicket and part with some hard earned Canadian dollars. Most everyone who has spent a large sum is having their clubs shipped to a friendly State where they can avoid having to pay the 8.75% New York State tax. Who were the big hitters at this auction? Four buyers contributed close to half the proceeds of the sale.

The strongest bidder was our new found friend from Chicago who spent \$565,000 with another big hitter coming in at \$350,000 and our phantom buyer in the front row coming in third with the most clubs purchased and spending a cool \$187,000. The million dollar question is, was the sale a success? I guess only Jeff Ellis can answer that one, but for those collectors who participated in the auction, I'm sure they will consider their acquisitions a success. The catalogue was the finest I have seen and will act as a reference and price guide for years to come. The sale was well advertised, well conducted and located in the money capital of the world. There didn't seem to be any museums represented and no big golf equipment manufacturers were present.

The most important historical clubs made only the low reserves or went unsold

Where did the sale shine and where did it suffer? There were a number of clubs that brought well above the estimates, but the most important historical clubs made only the low reserves or went unsold. Croquet style putters, many by unknown makers, as well as the metal woods seemed to suffer. It would have been nice to have seen the room packed as there are hundreds of golf club collectors out there. One prominent collector who was at the sale gave us his take on collecting in general. He feels we are in the seventh year of a 10 year drought and now was definitely a good time to buy. Once the Asian market, particularly China opens their eyes to the importance of early golf collectables and with the wealth they are accumulating, he feels we will see prices rebound. This makes sense when we look back to the late 1980's and early 1990's when the Japanese economy was strong and they lit up the market with their investments into the game of golf.

On behalf of golf collectors everywhere I would like to thank Jeff Ellis for everything he has contributed to golf club collecting. There have been many fine books published on golf collecting with none more impressive than his two editions of *The Club Maker's Art*. There are no million dollar publishing deals for these types of books. They are all a labour of love. By auctioning the collection, I think this will reignite club collecting and although this sale was a unique situation it will help everyone out there appreciate the value of antique clubs. It's back to the Great White North and the dog days of winter . . .

G.H.S.C. CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING POLICY

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Deadline for the March 2008 issue: February 1, 2008

WAYNE BAIGENT (416) 222-6771, mwbaigent@hotmail.com is interested in obtaining any Art Hulbert golf clubs and any golf ball collection. (Thornhill Golf and Country Club).

DAVE BURGESS (705) 722-1770 FAX: (705) 922-9655
WANTED: W/S Mallett Putters • Longnose woods/putters • Sand Tee Moulds • Canvas/leather bags.
FOR SALE: 1953 *Golfer Magazine*, Bobby Jones on cover and full write-up on several pages.

JERRY CASKENETTE (519) 653-6915 has **FOR SALE:** a number of custom putters, made from exotic woods. Expert repair and refinishing of woodshaft clubs. Fancy-faced clubs for sale.

PAUL DIETZ (519) 331-6585 or clubdoc@ebtech.net is looking for a Tom Stewart driving iron and a Tom Stewart mashie niblick to complete his play set. The irons must have scoring lines, not a punch dot face. Paul has recently been appointed Canadian representative for *Louisville Golf*. He is offering special pricing on Louisville replicas to Ontario Hickory Tour participants. Any hickory-shafted club in the Louisville line can be custom ordered for length, weight, flex and grip size. Check out the complete Louisville line at www.louisvillegolf.com. Paul also does repair and refurbishing of play sets – lie and loft adjustments, reshfts, new grips, extending shafts and refinishing of hickory woods and irons. Contact Paul Dietz at the above numbers.

RON DUDA (905) 648-4299, e-mail: rduda@cogeco.ca is building a golf library. He's looking for collectible and antiquarian golf books. Particular interests are architecture, fiction, biography and history but will consider all older books with the exception of instructionals. Interested also in acquiring collections. May have some available to trade. Stock changes all the time. If anything specific is wanted, please call ahead to avoid disappointment.

KEITH GIBSON H. (905) 278-2488 FAX: (905) 278-2963, an archivist at the Mississauga Golf Club, is interested in acquiring clubs with names of former Mississauga professionals (W.F. Locke, George Daniel, Jack Pritchard, A.J. MiLex, Robert Cunningham), also Mississauga golf memorabilia, as part of our forthcoming 100th anniversary.

PAUL GOLDING (519) 651-0075 or rockitman@rogers.com *Saturday Evening Post* with golf covers, 1948, 1952 and 1955 – \$20 each. Smak-Bak captive golf set – \$50.00. T. Stewart Smith's model anti-shank iron, stamped on head, and shaft. James Bentley, Thorpe Bay – \$100.00. Spalding woodshaft, fancy face (Maltese cross), left-handed – \$75.00. R. Forgan smooth-faced iron, plume mark, also stamped Harold Wilson – \$55.00. 17 cigarette cards from the Churchman Prominent Golfers series, 1931 – \$10.00 each. (Haig – \$15.00). New York *Herald Tribune* newspaper (complete), September 1928; great article and picture of Bobby Jones winning at Braeburn – \$45.00. Mills-style driver, stamped G. Brews, Blackheath – \$185.00. Various wood-shaft irons and putters – \$15.00 each. Call for details.

CLAUDE GRAVEL (450) 584-1156, e-mail ctgravel@mediom.qc.ca is looking for any history book or memorabilia related to old Quebec golf clubs, including old resort golf clubs such as Murray Bay, Tadoussac, Orleans, St. Patrick of Rivière du Loup, Cacouna, Cascade at Metis, also any French memorabilia. Buy or trade. Also looking for old Quebec postcards and score cards. Buy or copy.

JAMES HEFFERNAN *Golf Gap* (416) 485-5316, e-mail golfgap@onaibn.com has for sale some great used books: *Collecting Golf Books, 1743-1938*, by Joe Murdock. Grant Books, limited edition. #176 of 250, \$500.00. *Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society*, by Stewart Cruden, a short history. \$40.00. *The Golf House Club 'elie* by Alastair M. Drysdale, a centenary history. \$150.00.

STUART W. HENDERSON (905) 844-3218, e-mail swhenderson@on.aibn.com is interested in golf postcards and scorecards, both locally in Ontario, especially Oakville Golf Club, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Kincardine, as well as Scotland – especially North Berwick, Royal Burgess, Gullane and Muirfield.

MAX HILL (512) 328-0292, e-mail: max@hickorysticks.net Need to find that interesting club for your play set or special rare collectable club? 17,000 hickory club inventory. Also over 700 golf books from the rare to common. All fairly priced. Call MAX at (512) 328-0292 or e-mail him above.

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BILL LEASK e-mail: bill_leask@hotmail.com (905) 721-9031 is interested in collecting A,B,BA,BG,C,CH,CIG,CR,D,PC,TR golfing items. Please see Roster for definitions of initials listed.

REMI LEFEBVRE H. (514) 458-7327 B. (514) 695-1122 is looking for a book, published in England describing *The Role Played by Railways in the Expansion of Golf Clubs in the British Isles*.

WAYNE LINTON H. (519) 836-6552, e-mail: wlinton@rcami.com wishes to obtain wooden-shafted golf clubs with the name Jim (Jimmy) Johnstone. Also seeks information/memorabilia on Box Grove Golf Club, built for and maintained by Nelson Davis.

RON LYONS (780) 456-1659 E-mail lyons04@telusplanet.net, seeks woodshaft clubs with pros Daniel Kenny, J. Douglas Edgar, W.H. Trovinger. Also any woodshaft adjustables that may be available.

BILL MACDONALD (416) 225-4808, e-mail: bill.macdonald@sympatico.ca is interested in obtaining by trade or purchase, any Daniel Kenny, George Sargent, or wooden-shafted Lloyd Tucker clubs.

IAN MACCRIMMON, mcrimn@skyline.net (905) 336-0436 is looking for U.K., Canadian or U.S. professional golf programs pre-1960. Will buy or trade.

GAY PEPPIN (905) 848-0257. Anyone with information or pictures of the former Thistledown or Elms Golf Course (Weston/Toronto area) is asked to contact Gay or e-mail to gap@attcanada.ca

BLAIR PHILLIPS (905) 685-6389, maxwell1956@cogeco.ca is interested in purchasing single(s) or sets of clubs by William Cunningham. They were made in 1924 to 1928. "Scottie" Cunningham was the St. Catharines GC first pro from 1914 to 1947.

JOHN D. SMITH (633) 389-5651 is looking for wooden-shafted golf clubs bearing the following: Catarqui Golf & C.C. crest and the head professional's name – James J. Newman, Robert Cunningham, Ben Kerr or R.H. Green.

PAUL SORLEY (519) 893-5550, e-mail: paulsorley@hotmail.com is looking for: Long Burks Stainless Steel, Graduated Irons," #3 Midmashie, #6 Spade Mashie and #9 Niblick and a Putter. Also, any woods that might be around of the same name. These clubs are Registered #5082. Also wanted: A "Sunningdale" driver, brassie or spoon to complete playing set for GHSC tournaments.

PAUL WINSLOW (905) 335-4532, e-mail: pwinslow@cogeco.ca is interested in acquiring memorabilia for the Dundas Valley Golf Club and Curling Club's History Committee. Of special interest are clubs displaying the names of early pros David Hastings, Tommy McGrath, Jack Armitage, Nicol Thompson, and items related to Stanley Thompson – Course Architect.

RICH VESEY H. (905) 571-1008, e-mail: richvesey@netzero.com and richvesey@aol.com. He wants memorabilia pertaining to the Oshawa Golf Club, especially pros R. Holden, A.F. Moss, J. Roberts, R. Andrews, D. Keel and Henderson Bros.

GARY VIPOND H. (519) 941-5655 (e-mail gpvip@netrover.com) is looking for Forgan irons "Flag-in-Hole" – irons are numbered and marked with "matched set reg. No. 6502. He has #2, #3 and #5 and would like to obtain more. Furganic feels they may be only in Canada.

GORDON WITTEVEEN H. (905) 787-1465, F. (905) 787-1463 e-mail: gordon.witteveen@sympatico.ca has a number of books for sale:

Golf Greens: History, Design and Construction. Hard, 334 pages by Dr. Michael Hurdzan. \$85.00

POA Annual, by Drs. Vargas and Turgeon. Hardcover, 165 pages.

Physiology, Culture and Control of Annual Bluegrass. Hardcover, \$75.00

Turfgrass, Biology, Genetics and Breeding. 365-pages, hardcover. Was \$110. **Now \$90.00**

Ecological Golf Course Management by Paul Sachs and Richard Luff. Hardcover, 200 pages. Was \$70. **Now \$45.00**

Golf Greens and Greenkeeping by Horace Hutchinson. Hardcover, collector's item, 220 pages. Was \$75.00, **Now \$45.00**. Shipping: \$8.00 first book and \$3.00 for each additional book. Please add GST! Send cheque, money order or arrange for credit: Gordon Witteveen at the above address. These books will make ideal *Gifts* for that special golfer on your list!

ALLAN HUME, *Golf Knickers Canada* (519) 442-0450, www.golfknickers.ca and 1-866-420-6025, aehume@rogers.com. "The" place to buy **PLUS FOURS** in cotton/linen and microgab material. Our selection now includes 20 colours of **PLUS FOURS** with matching caps and 13 patterns of Tartan plus fours, Argyle sweaters and Argyle and Plain colour socks. Contact Allan for the 2008 catalogue.

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Visit www.rcga.org or www.cghf.org to play our "Are you smarter than the Curator" quiz throughout the winter.

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Canadian Golf Hall of Fame honoured members Keith Alexander, Marilyn O'Connor, Doug Silverberg, Bob Wylie, Sandra Post & Gary Cowan gathered to play Thompson designed Banff Springs Golf Course on August 12, for the second annual Golf Hall of Fame golf tournament.



Mary Ann Lapointe receives her mementos of induction from Selection Committee Chairman Worden Teasdale on July 28, at North Halton GC.



It was with sadness that we said goodbye to Hall of Fame member Nick Weslock in October of 2007 when he passed away just a few weeks short of his 90th birthday.



Lorne Rubenstein's induction ceremony took place on June 27, at Maple Downs G&CC.