



15°C Forecast | Traffic

wheels.ca healthzone.ca yourhome.ca parentcentral.ca toronto.com

thestar.com Web find a business  
advanced search full text article archive

Home News GTA Opinion Business Sports A & E Living **Travel** Columns Blogs More

Autos Careers Classifieds Deaths Real Estate

HOT TOPICS EASTER FASHION WEEK FINAL FOUR STIMULUS TRACKER YOUR CITY MY CITY MAPLE LEAFS RAPTORS CHURCH ABUSE more

# Golf drives on even in these rough times

New courses opening from B.C. to Ontario

Be the first to comment »

Article Comments (0)

Published On Sat Jul 25 2009

Email Print Republish Add to Favourites Report an error Share



By Ian Cruickshank  
Travel Reporter

- Advertisement -

Victoria, B.C.—When you think about it, the notion that an ordinary human can whack a tiny white ball hundreds of yards over sand, water, rocks and forest and then convince it to gently roll into a hole the size of a soup can is giddily optimistic.

That goes double for golf course owners who spend most of their time in animated negotiations with both Mother Nature and their bank managers.

Fortunately for us, the passion for golf runs deep and even in these shaky economic days, new courses are still being built, by owners confident that we true believers will come.

In the last year alone, 10 new courses have opened in British Columbia and Ontario.

The most heralded is the new Valley Course at the Bear Mountain Resort in Victoria, B.C.

It is the resort's second Jack Nicklaus-designed layout, making it the only spot in Canada with 36 holes from the Golden Bear.

The resort is the brainchild of Len Barrie, who is also the co-owner of the NHL's Tampa Bay Lightning.

Ironically, Barrie never intended to get into the golf business. In 2001 he was living in a home that backed onto the third hole of the Royal Colwood GC in Victoria. Barrie decided to cut down some trees on his property to give his home more light.

Turns out that the course contended that the trees were really on Royal Colwood property. Barrie's membership at the club was terminated and, looking for a new place to

play, he founded Bear Mountain, which has evolved into a billion dollar real estate and resort project.

Other high-profile courses that have made their recent debut in British Columbia are The Rise, a Fred Couples design that teeters above Vernon and Tower Ranch, a terrific Tom McBroom course that curls up and down the mountain overlooking Kelowna.

Flights Vacations Hotels Cars

Round Trip: One way

From: Enter city or airport

To: Enter city or airport

10.04.2010	Adults	1	+ -
17.04.2010	Children	0	+ -

powered by TravelAlerts! Show Recommended Sites

Most Popular

Most Read Most Commented Most Emailed

Today This Week This Month All

DiManno: Discord darkens Baby Kaylee's final days

Stephen Harper on the hunt for new governor general

1 dead, 1 charged in alleged street race

GTA wind warning cancelled

Hillary reprises 'Ugly American' at G8 summit

healthzone.ca

Read the latest health news,  
find local doctors, walk-in  
clinics and more.

See for Yourself »

Sleeping Around at the Sugar Shack

Ads by Google

**Shirkey Golf Course**

Special Membership offers for 2010!  
Memberships as low as \$500/year  
www.shirkeygolfcourse.com

Richard Zokol, the long-time PGA Tour veteran, has spearheaded the building of Sagebrush Golf & Sporting Club in cattle ranching country in the Nicola Valley.

Ontario is just as busy. About 20 years ago, Dalt Hicks bought a modest mini-putt and driving range combination on Hwy 9, just west of Newmarket. Over the last two decades, he has added four courses, everything from an executive 18, to the 6,800-yard RedCrest, which opened at the end of June. Cardinal now boasts 72 holes, making it Canada's largest golf complex.

Not far away in the village of Tottenham, the Allard family have added a second 18 holes at Woodington Lake and over near Norland off Hwy 35 the Kuschnerreit clan have opened Monck's Landing, a testing nine-hole, Scottish style layout.

Otter Creek, outside of Woodstock, is a surprisingly bold and expansive course that is laid out over former farm and tobacco fields.

Stretching over 7,100 yards and six sets of tees, the course hopscoches through the local valleys, bisected by Otter, Cedar and Spitter Creeks. (Gobble down a couple of bowls of porridge at breakfast and play Otter Creek in the morning and then nearby Tarandowah in the afternoon.)

If you want a glimpse of what I think will be the future of golf, tee off at Turtle Creek, the new layout that is sprinkled across the lush farm and horse country off Guelph Line. The property is compact, about 36 hectares, so the course from the back tees stretches to only 6,000 yards. But on the 10th, 11th and 13th holes I had to crank it 190 yards-plus to clear the wetlands.

The course is punctuated with sweeping par 5's at the 9th and 18th and a 170-year-old stone farmhouse, which is being transformed into a clubhouse.

We walked Turtle Creek in just three hours and it sports a weekday green fee of only \$30. It costs me that much to stay at home.

In 2006, The Ridge at Manitou Golf Club was voted the Best New Course in Canada.

Located east of Parry Sound, Manitou is a private layout with a small membership that includes rock legend Geddy Lee from Rush.

It's one of the best of the cottage country courses, cutting through the forest then rolling down to the banks of Manitouwabing Lake with an intimate clubhouse that has a Ralph Lauren, northern lodge vibe.

This summer, for the first time, the club is open to the public with green fees including cart starting at \$100 and stay and play packages at the Microtel Inn & Suites in Parry Sound for \$180. [www.ridgeatmanitou.com](http://www.ridgeatmanitou.com)

*Ian Cruickshank is a Toronto-based freelancer. His column appears on the fourth Saturday of every month.*

**Also see:**

On foot, Ireland makes it to your heart  
In Cardiff, it's about beating the 'famine'  
The trials and triumphs of Tirana the turbulent



**Sleeping Around in a Horror Novel**

**Fun Family Day Ideas**

**Sleeping Around near Seaweed**

[More Photos and Videos »](#)

### Ads by Google

#### Cheap Flights Toronto

Cheap Flights Deals To/From Toronto  
Compare Top Travel Sites & Save BiG  
[www.TripMama.com/Toronto](http://www.TripMama.com/Toronto)

#### Cheap Flights To Toronto

Save 70% on Flights To Toronto!  
Compare Airfares From 20 Airlines.  
[www.lowest-airfare.com](http://www.lowest-airfare.com)

#### 3 Stocks to Steal Now

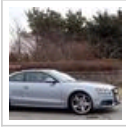
Stock Guru Dennis Slothower Gives  
You 3 Absolute Steals to Buy Now!  
[StealthStocksOnline.com](http://StealthStocksOnline.com)

#### What To Do In Toronto

View Beautiful Image Slide Shows  
Produced By Bing Travel!  
[www.bing.com/Travel](http://www.bing.com/Travel)

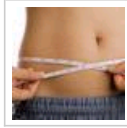
## Other Star Sites

WHEELS.CA



Six luxury cars under  
\$45,000

HEALTHZONE.CA



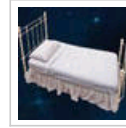
Fitness Guide

YOURHOME.CA



Colin and Justin

PARENTCENTRAL.CA



Bedwetting

TORONTO.COM



Green Guide

### thestar.com

[Corrections](#)  
[Contact Webmaster](#)  
[FAQ](#)  
[Site Map](#)

### Toronto Star

[About](#)  
[Subscribe](#)  
[Subscriber Self Service](#)  
[Contact Us](#)  
[News Releases](#)  
[Star Internships](#)  
[Careers @ the Star](#)

### Advertise with us

[Media Kit](#)  
[Online Advertising](#)  
[Print Advertising](#)  
[Special Sections](#)

### Initiatives

[Santa Claus Fund](#)  
[Fresh Air Fund](#)  
[Speakers Bureau](#)  
[Classroom Connection](#)  
[Community Giving](#)

### Stay up to date

 [RSS Feeds](#)  
 [Twitter Updates](#)  
[News Alerts](#)  
[Newsletters](#)  
[Mobile Devices](#)

[wheels.ca](#) | [toronto.com](#) | [pages of the past](#) | [Stock photos](#) | [New in Homes](#) | [Car Insurance Quotes](#) | [Leasebusters.com](#) | [Save.ca](#) | [ShopTV](#) | [starsavers.ca](#) | [more](#)



© Copyright Toronto Star 1996-2010 | [Terms & Conditions](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)