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Review

The Links at Monck's Landing

Norland, ON



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Dan P		May-6-2010
Greens:	★★★★★★ 7/10	The Links at Monck's Landing has kept it simple with their greens. Most greens are similar in shape and size and contours are minor. The greens are of average size and speed.
Fairways:	★★★★★★ 7/10	For a course that's only been open a couple of years the fairways have filled in quite nicely and being so early in the season I expected to see areas under repair (which I did not notice). Fairways offer good comfort from the tee except for hole #6 which is a good test from the tee for any skill level. Stakes at 100, 150, and 200 yards.
Tees:	★★★★★★ 7/10	I found the tee grass to be quite long and I'm someone who tees the ball up extremely high. I understand this will shorten over the next few weeks as the grass roots will dig deeper when left to grow long. Signage is well posted and accurate. The location of the first tee seems a bit off set from the fairway but it does allow quite a bit of forgiveness if you can control your drive.
Course Design:	★★★★★★ 8/10	A nice variety of holes for a 9 hole course. I felt I used most of the clubs in my bag. The double tee blocks will also give a different look the second time around. The shored up bunkers will pose a significant threat if you are a poor sand player or if you end up tight to the shoring. Only hole #7 doesn't offer a view of the green from the tee.
Value for \$\$\$:	★★★★★★ 8/10	As Monck's Landing matures the value of this course will go up. I wish there was a 9 hole course with this hole variety and price in my area. At just over \$20 it's tough to beat the price for a couple of hours out on the course.
Difficulty:	★★★★★★ 7/10	Monck's Landing is relatively forgiving on most holes except for #3 and #6. The par 3 - 3rd hole requires a confident carry to the green and may play longer than the yardage appears. Unlike many courses that offer a signature par 3, I'd consider the par 4 - #6 fits my signature hole for Monck's Landing. A pond left will come into play using any wood off the tee and playing short will offer a long carry to the green. And from the tee, the fairway appears to be tucked behind trees on the right. Fescue bordering the two finishing holes will hamper any chance of recovering par whenever encountered.
Scenery:	★★★★★★ 7/10	Monck's Landing offers a quiet country atmosphere where each hole feels unto itself. The course is relatively open but the course routing should not see any stray balls cross over to your current hole of play.
Staff:	★★★★★★ 9/10	A family run business that takes pride in what Monck's Landing has to offer. Scott Kuschneret and family is doing it right. Spending wisely will prove successful for years to come.
Clubhouse:	★★★★★ 5/10	Irrelevant really. This is cottage country where people want to come out for a quick 9 and get back to their barbecue. There's ample space around to find a place to park and I don't imagine any one would be turned away even on peak days. The historic barn located on the course will house the pro shop in the future but I wouldn't anticipate a relocation for at least a couple of years. For photographers, bring your camera as the barn is a worthy photo shoot. The course is currently dry (no alcohol) and offered golf supplies are just the basics required to play a normal round.
Other Intangibles:	★★★★★★ 7/10	Washrooms are located between #5 and #6. A windy day can really affect your score on this course. You may need to refer to the scorecard for the course routing the first time playing.

72/100

The Links at Monck's Landing is a work in progress but you can envision the finished product. Improvements and extras will be added as the course matures.
Good luck, Scott!

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