

THE LINKS AT MONCK'S LANDING GOLF CLUB: An 'every-club-in-the-bag experience'

Course is 'well worth the drive to Norland'

QMI Agency

NORLAND — The village of Norland usually doesn't spring to mind when people in the Kawarthas are asked to name a golfing hotbed in the region, but owner Scott Kuschnerit is trying to change that with his new course, The Links at Monck's Landing Golf Club. Monck's Landing is a Scottish-style links layout that opened for play in August 2008.

"We're trying to do something different up here", Kuschnerit said. "The closest links course to us is probably Muskoka Highlands over in Bracebridge, so we've certainly got a product that is one-of-a-kind for this area."

When designing the course, Kuschnerit was sure to include details like railway-tie pot bunkers, dry-fit stone walls and the like — features normally seen only on your high-end public

and private clubs.

"I like to think that we've created something a cut above your standard-issue cottage country nine-hole," he said.

"I think that we've been able to create a pretty fair approximation of golf in Scotland or Ireland."

Scott Kuschnerit
Owner of The Links at Monck's Landing Golf Club.

"I've played a lot of nine-holes in my day, and what I've noticed is that they all seem the same, even the holes seem to blur together, every par five is 470 yards. Here at Monck's Landing we've got everything from a 92-yarder to a 586-yard beast.

"It's the proverbial every-club-in-the bag experience," he added.

The Canadian golf media concurs, with Monck's Landing being called "engaging" and "sporty", as well as "testing" and "tough as nails" in recent publications.

"I think that we've been able to create a pretty fair approximation of golf in Scotland or Ireland and the experts seem to agree.

"Robert Thompson went so far as to compare us to Tarandawah, which is high praise indeed since it's also an inland links course, and was named Best New Course in Ontario in 2008.

"The editor of *Fairways Magazine* told me after he'd played a round that our second hole reminded him of a hole he had played at Royal Portrush — so I guess we got something right."

Kuschnerit is not content to rest on his laurels, with further course improvements like additional bunkering planned for 2010.

"Come up here and pay us a visit. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised," he said. "It's well worth the drive to Norland."

— *The Lindsay Post*

PETERBOROUGH GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB: 57th edition of tournament

Invitational regains its lustre

MIKE DAVIES
Examiner Staff Writer

Organizers are hoping to return the prestige to the Peterborough Invitational Golf Tournament at Peterborough Golf and Country Club.

Last year the annual tournament was cancelled because of construction of the PGCC's new multi-million dollar clubhouse. In 2004, the event was cancelled by flood damage.

The two cancellations and declining registration has worn a bit of lustre off the event, which club president Greg Walsh says tournament officials hope to restore at this year's event July 17-18.

"We want to bring back what the tournament used to be in terms of the tradition, the champions, the prestige of the event and the prestige of the golf course," Walsh said.

"I think that got lost over the years because the golf club as a community was

busy building a clubhouse. I won't say it was forgotten, but I think the club's efforts were put in different directions."

The tournament has room for 120 golfers and while numbers haven't dropped off dramatically, Walsh says the interest didn't seem to be quite the same.

"Years ago there was always a very full field with a waiting list. We don't see that. Bearing in mind, there are very few tournaments that are full anymore which is due to the demographics of the game," he said.

Nationwide Tour player Ted Brown, collegiate standout Reg Millage and former top Ontario amateurs like

Stu Hamilton and Warren Sye are among the event's past winners.

"We've had numerous champions over the years who certainly held the championship in high regard," said Walsh.

"It was very much like the Kawartha Invitational. You'd get guys who would play in one and turn around and play in the other because they were both put in such high regard."

This will be the 57th running of the tournament and organizers hope to unveil some new events surrounding it at a press conference later this spring.

A Friday night social prior to the Saturday tee-off is among new plans.

"At this point details are not quite finalized, but it will be exciting," he said. "We want to make it a players tournament. All the amenities and great conditions and a tournament feel."

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Walsh

HAMILTON BAY

