

Dear Members,

I first want to thank Mike MacLellan for his exceptional work this season. This was a difficult year at our course and operations ran differently than any other season. Mike led the way with strict Covid-19 protocols and created a very safe environment for the crew. The course opened late and there were not many opportunities for the maintenance crew to do anything other than course upkeep throughout the season. Any projects that we were hoping to accomplish this season needed to be pushed back until next season.

Course Statistics:

- The Nova Scotia government announced that May 15th was the first day that courses in the province were permitted to open. Our course opened to members on May 17th, and to the public on June 1st.
- There was an increase from 453 members to 565 members for the 2020 season. There were 39,000 rounds played this year for an increase of approximately 15,000 rounds compared to 2019.
- We only lost three days all season to weather closing the course. (September 22nd, October 9th and 30th)
- Last day of the season was November 1st.

Staff:

All members of the maintenance crew returned for the 2020 season. We also hired two students to join the crew for the season. They were Morgan MacKinnon and Kinnon Wallace. During the season, Morgan took a new job and resigned from the golf course. Tully Grant was then hired part time to fill the hours needed. Tully and Kinnon finished work for the season at the end of August. Jimmy MacDonald finished at the end of September and Mike Chisholm, Peter Chisholm and Dave Briand finished on October 15th. Neil Teasdale and James Millar finished for the season on November 20th. I would like to thank all of the crew for their hard work and dedication to keeping our course in such excellent shape.

Machinery:

In June, we had one of our two tee mowers breakdown and it was too old to be repaired. We were also having issues with one of the greens mowers. It was mentioned in one of Ben's previous G&F reports that the greens mowers would need to be replaced within a few years. The board voted on and approved the purchase of two new green mowers. The mowers arrived in July and we were able to repurpose the two former green mowers to tee mowers. We were then able to retire the one previous tee mower and use it for parts. The new mowers have been working great and will save a great deal of time for James since he will no longer need to make repairs to the machines weekly.

Course Maintenance/Projects:

There was little time for much in the way of projects or improvements for the grounds crew this year. The maintenance crew was unable to start at their normal time of the year and were in a rush to prepare the course for the season open date on short notice. They were able to take on some small projects once the course closed in November. Bill Garvie was able to secure milling asphalt from the town at no cost to the golf course. This milling asphalt was laid on the hills of hole 12 and 13. These cart paths were deteriorating and required a great deal of gravel and extra labor throughout the year. The milling asphalt will hold up longer than the gravel did, and it will be safer for cart use on these hills. I would like to thank Bill Garvie and Brian Affleck for taking the time to help our crew complete this and other tasks throughout the season.

A master plan and site visit by Ian Andrew was approved by the board and put in the budget for the 2020 season. The decision was made to move the master plan to the 2021 season. Ian Andrew is from Ontario and would need to travel to Nova Scotia to conduct the site visit. This would not have been possible with the current quarantine protocols in place.

The course was fully winterized by November 20th. This process includes blowing air out of the irrigation system and tarping the greens on holes 2,3,4, 8, 10, 17 and 18. We have also tarped the approach on hole 8 and the yellow and blue tee boxes on 16. These areas are especially susceptible to the winter weather. We are hoping for a mild winter that will leave little issues for the grounds crew when they get back to work in April.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Cusack – Greens Chair

Ian Andrew - Biography

Ian Andrew began working as a golf course architect in 1989. In the early 1990's he became frustrated by the number of historically important courses being modernized. He began to promote the idea of preservation and eventually the need for restoration of some of the most historically important courses in Canada. The project that would change his career was the restoration of Stanley Thompson's masterpiece St. George's Golf & Country Club in Toronto. It was so well received that it would lead a series of significant restorations including Highlands Links in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Once people began to see the results, he was asked to work on the restorations of important courses in the United States. Ian works in Canada, the United States and Brazil.

Ian has been lucky enough to be entrusted with the works of the greatest golf course architects in history. These architects include: Charles Alison, Charles Banks, Tom Bendelow, H.S. Colt, Devereux Emmet, William Flynn, Robert Trent Jones, Willie Park Jr., Seth Raynor, Donald Ross, Herbert Strong, A.W. Tillinghast, Stanley Thompson and Walter Travis. Preservation of their works is important to Ian.

Ian believes that restoration is about putting back what was actually built, not what you think they might have done if given another opportunity to return. He is frustrated by this current pattern of restorative work. He believes that restorative architects should do their research and commit to rebuilding using the original techniques and detailing to ensure accuracy. Accuracy and authenticity matter in preservation.

Ian's work with Donald Ross came about when Plymouth Country Club in Massachusetts went looking for someone who would restore what was built through research rather than interpret and introduce their own ideas. Ian was recommended by a number of high-profile golf course architects as an interesting alternative. They felt that most so-called Ross experts were restoring to a pattern. The Ross Courses were losing the individual flourishes and expressions found only on those sites. What Plymouth needed was someone committed to accuracy above all else. Since then Ian has been asked to work at a number of Donald Ross courses.

Ian has made a habit of visiting other architect's construction site including places like Pacific Dunes, Castle Stewart and Sand Valley. He's even worked a little on other architect's golf course construction projects such as The Olympic Course in Rio, Oohoopee Match Play Club in Georgia and the Streamsong (Black), all for his friend Gil Hanse. This led to more and more time in a mini excavator on his own projects.

Ian has been committed to restoration and preservation of golf course for 30 years. He is currently seeking an opportunity to share his own architecture with the world.