

BRANTFORD GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB



BRANTFORD
GOLF AND
COUNTRY CLUB

1879—1979



R. Bruce Forbes
President 1979

Foreword

R. Bruce Forbes

In his wonderful book, *The Glorious World Of Golf*, Peter Dobereiner affirms that one of the great charms of golf is that it is played in beautiful surroundings, offering relaxation and exercise to the golfer. As I walk over the fairways of the Brantford Golf and Country Club and I think of all the changes the Club has undergone, from the first days on Vinegar Hill to the present first-class layout, it strikes me that the most important part of any club is the people it attracts. For it is the members who make this lovely piece of property the special place it is. Here at Brantford I have known and played with many of the good friends who have been part of the scene from 'Rafe' Reville, founder of the *Canadian Golfer* magazine, to Bill Powell, who installed our watering system in 1937, a system that still keeps our course in such good condition, to Kay Bishop, a fine golfer and an untiring contributor to the ladies' section. I will always remember the creative spirit of 'Husky' Webling, whose poems about golf are a delightful legacy of our Club. And of course there was Fred Hunt, the professional who was our teacher, friend and golfing inspiration for the 32 years he worked here.

As I look back across the years from the perspective of our 100th year, I feel proud that we have attained our lofty status in golf, being the fourth oldest club in North America. This year, when we hold the Canadian Amateur Championship and the Ontario Ladies' Amateur Championship, some of the top amateur golfers will have the opportunity to see what the years have wrought, a championship of golf course that is a home for much of what is best about golf: good fellowship and healthy competition in a setting of natural beauty.

To 100 years of golf of the Brantford Golf and Country Club and to all our members we dedicate this commemorative brochure, and hope it will bring to mind some of your own memories of the Club. As President of the Club this year, it has been my honour to work with many of our members on the Centennial celebrations, and I want to express my appreciation for your energy, support, and friendship.

Our History

Sometimes, given the right circumstances, a city and a golf course develop together. There arises a relationship of mutual interest between the city builders and those who wish to play golf. In the early days of Canadian golf, most courses developed in this manner, with prominent men of the towns and cities, settlers from Scotland, looking for a site suitable for the pursuit of the game they had brought with them. Looking not only for a place of recreation, but an area where they could meet and discuss the issues of the day in a congenial atmosphere, they quite naturally turned to the building of golf courses. Here, in a peaceful atmosphere, they could talk business and play their favourite sport. In Brantford, this was the situation in the early 1870's. The town was growing, soon to become a city when it would attain a population of 10,000 (in 1877), and there were a few people well-placed in business who were ready to take up their native sport.

In 1650, the first settlement was founded in Brant County. At this time the Neutral or Attiwandaron Indians had settled in 28 villages scattered in the Grand River Valley. These early settlements were not sustained, though, and it was not until 1784, when Captain Joseph Brant came with the Six Nations Indians to the valley, that there was another settlement. By 1827, another community had been started by John Stalts, a half-breed who had arrived in 1805 with the idea of trading with the Indians from Brant's settlement. In 1830 the village, now bustling with commerce, was given the name Brant's Ford. In 1852 the County of Brant was formed, with the town (now called Brantford) under its jurisdiction. Settlers from Scotland were now coming to live here; amongst the notables was Alexander Graham Bell, who arrived in 1870 and experimented with his idea of a telephone in 1875-76, finally producing the first long distance transmission of the human voice over wire in August, 1876.

The Bank of British North America was an important institution of business in the early 1870's. Not only did it provide a financial centre, but it also provided the town with two employees who played the first golf in Brantford. On the common ground of Vinegar Hill (roughly the area now contained by Alfred, Murray and Colborne Streets with the Creek forming the other boundary), James E. Darling and James Cran, after rustling up a few clubs, played around a 4-hole course. Darling had previously played golf on the 12-hole course in Perth, Scotland, where he saw the great Old Tom Morris and his son, Young Tom, play matches against Bob Andrews and Davie Strath. Fuelled by his love for golf and his feeling that it would be enthusiastically taken up in his adopted home, he was the force behind the early games on the Vinegar Hill.

Soon, Darling and Cran were joined by others, including Alexander Robertson, manager of the British Bank of North America, John H. Stratford, a well-known railway contractor and donor of the Brantford Hospital, built on the Vinegar Hill site, and George H. Wilkes, who became a Parks Commissioner in Niagara Falls. But not until 1879 was a golf club formally organized. Under the heading of "Something New," the following item appeared in the Brantford Courier of January 8, 1879: "A golf club (whatever that may mean) has been organized in this city with the following as office bearers: A. Robertson, Captain; John H. Stratford, Treasurer; W.L. Creighton, Secretary; Henry Yates, Jas. Ker Osborne, J.Y. Morton, George H. Wilkes, Committee. They will play Wednesdays and Fridays." While the writer of this note was evidently unfamiliar with the game of golf, the players, drawn from the group behind the growth of Brantford, were determined to move ahead. Mr. Creighton, the prime mover behind the club, was manager of the Bank of Montreal in Brantford. Mr. Yates had been Chief Engineer of the Grand Trunk Railway and later a prominent railway contractor, while Mr. Osborne worked his way up in business to become Vice-President of the Massey-Harris Company. Later in 1879 the charter members were joined by Hon. A.S. Hardy, Premier of Ontario (the first Cabinet Minister in Canada to play golf) and Mr. Alfred J. Wilkes, King's Counsel. These men formed the nucleus of the Brantford Golf Club.

Good fellowship was the main thing. The golf courses that the first members played upon were rather rough, in keeping with the Scottish preference for keeping the links natural. Holes were laid out by members, who eventually wanted to see their course in better condition. The history of the Brantford courses is the story of efforts put forth to develop better and better links, and it was not too long before the members felt it was time to move to the second location of the club, to a small course in what was then the east end of the city, on Terrace Hill. The club was soon moved again, this time to a spot beyond the Grand Trunk Railway, to part of the property occupied now by the Arrowdale Golf Club. Here the first attempt was made to have decent greens and fairways. There were even a few cross-bunkers placed on the course, as a desire for imaginative golf grew. At this time men's annual dues were \$2 and ladies \$1, the total proceeds never amounting to \$100. A caretaker was paid 15 cents an hour to push a hand-mower over the greens and to keep the course in some sort of shape. He was helped by a herd of cattle which grazed on the course. Caddies were paid 10 cents a round, while clubs and balls had to be imported directly from Scotland, costing about \$ 1.50 and 25 cents respectively.

There were now five courses in Canada, with Niagara-on-the-Lake joining Brantford, Toronto, Royal Quebec and Royal Montreal. The obvious next step was to have some inter-club matches. The Montreal and Quebec clubs had been playing matches on an informal basis for four or five years, and there had also been one or two competitions between Toronto and Brantford. Now there was broached the subject of the first Inter-provincial competition, Ontario vs. Quebec. The first matches were held in Montreal on the 7th of October, 1882. Representing Ontario were

players from Toronto and Brantford, including A.W. Smith from the latter. Smith had come to Canada from St. Andrews about 1880, residing first in Quebec, later in London, and finally in Toronto. He worked in the Quebec bank and had been ranked with the very finest players at St. Andrews. While he was living in London he played out of Brantford and during this time he participated in the matches. They consisted of singles matches, with the winner determined by total number of holes up after two rounds of 9 holes each. Quebec won decisively, by 37 holes to 19. But Smith distinguished himself by defeating Quebec's best player by 10 holes, thereby accounting for more than half of Ontario's total. He was the best of the Canadian golfers, and may have been the best player ever from Brantford, playing in the United States Open Championship in 1895 and finishing third. He also represented Canada in the first International Match with the United States in 1898.

This first inter-provincial match accelerated interest in Canadian golf, with other members of the clubs coming out to watch. After the rounds the players sat down to a sumptuous dinner complemented by excellent libations, including champagne and "pollywater," all imbibed to the tunes of a Highland piper marching round the tables. The keenness with which the matches were contested, within an atmosphere of healthy and lively competition, seemed to suggest that others should be held. The next took place over the links of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Club on October 8, 1883. This time Ontario players avenged their loss, defeating Quebec by 30 holes, with the three Brantford players, A.W. Smith, W.L. Creighton and J.E. Lees all winning their matches. Festively dressed in their red coats with brass buttons, the golfers were a troupe to turn one's head, happily entertaining the town's residents with their play.

On November 8, 1883, another match of interest took place in Brantford. Sad to say, the Brantford club was roundly beaten. A report in the *Brantford Courier* described the match: "The return match between the Toronto and the Brantford Clubs was played on Thanksgiving Day. The Toronto Club was disappointed in not being able to bring more men. And the champion, Mr. Smith, was absent from the Brantford team, having missed a train at London. The day, however, was a very enjoyable one, the sun shining on the scarlet coats which many of the players wore, and the number of spectators present made a very gay scene. The visitors were entertained by the Club, and 26 golfers sat down in Dr. Digby's spacious room for dinner. Mr. Robertson, the captain, was in the chair. A most enjoyable evening, and the Toronto Club left by a special at 8 p.m."

With the advent of these matches, many new golfers took up the game. Another move was called for, this time to "Glenmount" located east of West Street and north of Henry Street. Until 1906 the club played here, but in 1906, the club was organized under the name of the Brantford Golf and Country Club Limited, and the move to the vicinity of the current site was undertaken. The property secured became available through the good will of E.L. Cockshutt, a Brantford philanthropist who eventually gave his home of "Glenhyrst" to the city. An expert horticulturalist, Cockshutt saw the advantages of having the land used for golf, a game that respects

the land it is played on for the simple fact that its visual appeal is one of its great assets. A \$7,000 clubhouse was built and Brantford was well on its way.

From 1906 until 1919 membership in the club continued to grow. The nine holes were becoming rather crowded and the clubhouse (which can still be seen behind the third tee) was no longer suitable. Meetings took place at which a further move was discussed, and eventually an opportunity to expand the property came about. On October 19, 1919, the minutes of the club showed the intent: "Notice of motion to purchase the Kerr estate: the lands belonging to the estate lying between the lands of the Lake Erie and Northern Railway and the lands of the Brantford and Paris Radial Railway, except the corner east of the fence west of the gravel pit on the Brantford and Paris Railway, together with the use of Kerr Lane." Approximately 69 acres were involved.



The Clubhouse c. 1919

Mrs. Kerr became a benefactor of the club, just as had E.L. Cockshutt. Selling her property for a sum much below market value, she said she would not have done so if the property would have been used for any other purpose than a golf club. The club was capitalized at \$75,000, representing 750 shares at \$100 each. Not only was the course to be stretched to 18 holes, but also a magnificent new clubhouse in the Elizabethan style was to be built. On Thanksgiving Day, 1920, the club met on its new land to celebrate the opening of this fine facility. A splendid and useful home it was, designed by Mr. F.W. Warren of Hamilton and built by P.H. Secord and Sons of Brantford. The following description of the building, from the *Canadian Golfer* of November 1920 indicates just how high in quality the new clubhouse was: "The new clubhouse is one of the most artistic in Canada. Mr. F.W. Warren, of Hamilton, who has also the Glendale Golf Club building to his credit, has in a most masterly manner incorporated the old clubhouse with the new, making one harmonious whole, which is a delight to the eye, alike from the standpoint of the exterior and the interior.

"The overall size of the building is 140 ft. by 70 ft. The ladies' locker room appears to be in the basement, but it is on the ground level, the outside entrance being in the rear; the player goes up a slight grade to the course. This locker room is 26 ft. by 39 ft. and has accommodation for 160 lockers. Adjoining the locker room is the shower room and also a stairway to the ground floor of the building.

"On the ground floor of the building is the beautiful club room, 31 ft. by 40 ft., which is used for dancing, banquets and a general lounge. Adjoining the club room at one end, is the dainty ladies' lounge, finished in ivory enamel, with pretty drapes on the windows and inviting chairs and tables to match the room. At the other end of the club room is the men's buffet, 21 ft. by 25 ft., with a large brick fireplace and panelled walls.

"Nearby is the spacious men's locker room admirably lighted and ventilated with well-equipped shower baths and all other up-to-date conveniences.

"What especially impresses a visitor are the spacious verandas 20 ft. wide around the club room. From these verandas a magnificent view is obtained over the Grand River and over the course — a view unexcelled in the Province. Adjoining the club room and also overlooking the winding river is a private dining room with panelled walls; this most artistic room is 17 ft. by 21 ft. From the club room, one passes through a large butler's pantry to the kitchen, which is 14 ft. x 26 ft., with its large hotel range, steam table and other modern conveniences.

"Adjoining the kitchen is the Steward's living room, with his private stairway to his bedrooms and bathroom on the second floor. The steward's quarters are entirely isolated from the rest of the building. From the ladies' lounge a stairway leads to the ladies' balcony overlooking the club room, and at the other end of the club room is a balcony for orchestra and for sitting out. On this floor are the men's card rooms and dormitories.

"There is room above the second floor for dormitories on the third floor, that may be finished at any time should the demand arise. A rustic touch has been given to the brickwork and plaster walls and with the green slate roof the whole blends perfectly with the surroundings. Everything about the club house is in the best of taste and already it has become quite the centre of Brantford's many social activities."

The 18-hole golf course was not yet ready, but when it was, it became a gem. Designed by the firm of Thompson, Cumming and Thompson, principally George Cumming, head professional of the Toronto Golf Club, and Nicol Thompson of the Hamilton Golf Club at Ancaster, the course had much to offer. As Ralph Reville of the *Canadian Golfer* described it: "A very sporting course is this 18 hole course on the banks of the Grand River. The total length is 6,300 yards. There are three one-shot holes, three three-shot holes, whilst the balance are two-shot holes — the backbone of every well designed course. There are many holes of surpassing merit. Special attention has been given to the trapping of the generous greens, which are of a most diversified character: sloping, rolling and punch bowl. The latest ideas in golf-course construction are embodied in the lay-out of these up-to-date links and when all is whipped into shape Brantford golfers will have a testing course of infinite variety."

Now, with a first class course and clubhouse, the club moved into a phase of growth that lasted for more than thirty years, when it was again time to meet modern demands by changing the course and clubhouse. In that time much of note happened. A very significant event was the hiring in 1927 of Fred Hunt as professional. From Birmingham, England, an excellent teacher, genial companion and a man absorbed in golf, Hunt served the club for the next 32 years. His tenure bridged the modern era and the early days. While he was at Brantford, he engaged the members not only in lessons, but helped them learn some of the art of clubmaking. With his own club-making shop on the premises, he encouraged members to bind the whipping on their clubs, do the varnishing and generally avail themselves of the many ways they might enjoy their golf. According to Kay Bishop, Brantford's finest lady golfer for many years and a dear friend of everybody who played, while Hunt was there, the involvement of the members made the club a special place to be; also Hunt had a knack for making everybody feel important. Somehow he was always on the first tee at the right time, saying things like "You know, Miss Bishop, I think that club is getting a little bent. Maybe we should have a look at it."

In 1929 the Jubilee celebrations of the club were held. This 50th anniversary was marked particularly by the Ontario Ladies' Amateur Championship, run by the Canadian Ladies' Golf Union. A wonderful event it was, with more than 120 golfers participating. In 1932 John S. Lewis, Brantford's best golfer then, won the Ontario Amateur Championship, defeating Joe Thompson of Royal York (now St. George's) 2 and 1. Lewis carried on the tradition of excellence wrought by A.W. Smith, being elected to the Willingdon Cup Team for Ontario in 1927, 1932, 1933, and 1935, and winning the Ontario Amateur again in 1935. In 1937 the first quick coupling

watering system was put in to the course by W.D. Powell. Laid in a line down the fairways, with valves every 100 feet, this system is still operative, and marked one of the earliest departures from hand watering of courses. Certainly Powell was the right man to install the watering system. He was chairman of the grounds committee for 25 years, was a graduate engineer and designed 30 watering systems for Ontario courses.

Other golfers of ability soon joined the ranks of John S. Lewis and Kay Bishop. William Parkes made the 1956 Willingdon Cup Team; Fred and Ross Pollard won the Ontario Father and Son tournament at Toronto Golf Club in 1955; and Donald Varey also made the Willingdon Cup team, in addition to serving on the Board of Directors of the club.

By the late 1950's golf had entered the modern era, and was being played by people of all ages. Steel had long ago replaced hickory for shafts and golf balls had become livelier, necessitating longer courses. Already some were being pushed to 7,000 yards. The game was now important, for it had the attention of the public, and when that happened there was no end in sight for its growth. Spurred by President Eisenhower's passion for the game and his choice of the Augusta National Golf Club as the site for his vacation White House, not to mention the practice green he had built on the White House lawn, the game now was visible to all. Even those who had not previously been aware of the game knew about Ben Hogan's stirring comeback from injuries in a car crash that threatened to end his golf career, and possibly to cripple him forever. But he won the affection of all when he came through to win the 1950 United States Open at Merion. Golf was seen as a rejuvenating game. Doctors advised their patients, stressed by the surge of business pressures, to get out on the course, and settle into a nice game of golf. But there was more than this to bring the masses to golf, especially the combination of television and Arnold Palmer. Golf had flash and colour if it could attract a man like Palmer with his magnetic personality. And of course there was money in golf at the professional level, a factor to motivate the young golfer. In Canada George Knudson was developing into quite a golfer, and when he turned professional in 1958, a new star was about to shine. He had seen the professional players come through Winnipeg to play in the Canadian Open in the mid-50's and thought golf looked like a good way to make a living. He came to Toronto where Palmer had won his first pro event, the 1955 Canadian Open at Weston, and quickly made himself known. It was not long until Knudson won his first tour event, the 1961 Coral Gables Open. There was no doubt now that golf was beyond the stage of being merely a retreat for the scions of the business community. It *had* to become a family game, and what better way to begin to appeal to families than to build not only a country club, but a family club?

This was the thinking when the Board of Directors of the club began to mull over the possibilities of changing from a six month operation to year-round. Clearly golf was changing, and if Brantford was to maintain its position as a club leading the changes, it would have to consider ways and means of expanding its facilities.



Meetings had been held in the late 1950's to discuss alternatives, but it was not until a meeting on December 4, 1960 that a panel of club directors informed 150 members of the exact plans. The main item was a new clubhouse, the construction of which on its present site would demand a change in the golf course, which needed to be lengthened anyway to be more in keeping with the current standards. Also to be built were a six-sheet curling rink and an outdoor swimming pool. The tennis courts, of which there had been two of clay in the area where the second green and practice area is now found, would be moved, and an effort would be made to attract those who enjoyed this sport. This would complete what would become very much a country club, though it was clear that golf would still be the main enjoyment.

To re-design the course, C.E. (Robbie) Robinson was called upon. An architect of distinction, Robinson well knew that the virtues of the old course should not be lost, particularly its ambience. It was a pleasant course to walk upon, a quiet place for contemplative golf, but one where championships could obviously be held with a little tightening and lengthening here and there. Robinson was busy re-designing Lambton in Toronto, Kitchener Westmount, and the Calgary Country Club at the time, so his mind was attuned to the needs of present day courses. Well before the general meeting of late 1960 Robinson had presented his proposals to the club: "I am now satisfied that I have a well-balanced series of holes which will eliminate the two successive par 3's on the second nine and also provide a strong finishing hole. The yardage on the first and second nine will be better balanced and combine into championship length of about 6,800 yards. In addition to the new route plan I would provide modern designs to replace all present greens which are small, flat and uninteresting. Furthermore, they do not provide the shot values normally called for in present day golf. I would also add a modest number of fairway bunkers which are now lacking on an otherwise exceptionally fine sequence of golf holes. The stream would be re-routed and widened to develop water hazards at strategic points on two or three holes. All hazards and bunkers would be placed to test the par golfer but would be out of range of the average golfer or located to provide alternate routes for the high handicap players. Your club has one of the finest properties I have inspected and it is my opinion that the above architectural refinements will result in a course that will compare with or surpass the best in Ontario."

Robinson's plans were approved at the meeting on December 4, 1960. At a cost of approximately \$500,000 the old clubhouse was torn down and the present one built. The first and tenth tees and the ninth and eighteenth greens now were in the vicinity of the clubhouse. What was the 18th fairway became the 2nd. With its wide range of facilities and a course of superior quality, Brantford was now ready to admit more members and to hold championship tournaments.

In 1965 the Canadian Junior Championship was held here, at match play. Ian Thomas of London Hunt Club won 4 and 3 over Gordon Stollery of Rosedale. In 1966 the Senior Interprovincial Team Matches were held, with Ontario winning over Quebec, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. And of course the Brantford

Invitation, traditionally one of the most popular events on the Ontario Amateur circuit, was still held. The first invitation had been on October 18, 1924, played over 36 holes and won by John S. Lewis.

The first major professional tournament held over the new course was the 1970 Canadian Professional Golfers' Association Championship, won by Al Balding with a score of six under par 282. During the pro-am event prior to the championship, Bob Panasiuk of Windsor set a competitive course record, shooting an eight-under par 64. The tournament was very successful, and the course proved to be a fine test for the players. Certainly it brought out the drama of golf, the last round being a battle of nerves and self-control, played in front of 3,000 spectators on a cold and rainy day. So wet was it that on the final green the tournament committee had to spread about 100 towels over the putting area in an effort to absorb the water. At this time, Balding, leading by 1, was 40 feet away from the hole in three while Gary Bowerman was just six feet away. Balding made it difficult for himself, playing his first putt eight feet beyond the hole, but sank it coming back. Bowerman, needing his to tie, missed.

In this centennial year of 1979, the Brantford Golf and Country Club will be hosting two major events, the Ontario Ladies' Amateur, July 25-26 and the Canadian Men's Amateur and Willingdon Cup matches, August 22-25. It is entirely fitting that one of the country's oldest clubs should, in its hundredth anniversary year, be the scene for tournaments that have themselves been held for years. The Ontario Ladies' has been held at Brantford three times, in 1929, when Miss Maud Smith of Toronto Golf Club defeated her sister of the same club, thereby avenging her loss the previous year; in 1949, when Mrs. Cecil Gooderham of the Toronto Golf Club won over Mrs. J.A. McDougald of the same club; and in 1959, just before the course was remodelled, when Miss Gail Harvey of the Scarborough Golf Club won over Miss Kay Helleur of the Woodbridge Golf Club. This will mark the first time the Canadian Men's Amateur will have been played here. What better way to recognize the contributions of the Brantford Golf and Country Club to Canadian golf history and its future than to have it tested by some of the world's best amateur golfers? A long tradition of love and appreciation of the royal and ancient game of golf has made this club a most respected one. We can be sure that with the Canadian Amateur heralding the end of the first century of play of the Brantford club and signalling the beginning of the second that there will be many good years ahead.

There may be no better way to end this brief history than with a poem by the well-known poet, raconteur and golfer, W. Hastings Webling. Long a participant in golf, and one of the more colourful members of the Brantford club in its early days, "Husky," as he was known, must have been thinking of his favourite course and his favourite friends when he wrote the following poem that captures the magic of golf:

Last fall when clouds obscured the sky
And winds were blowing chill,
I put aside my bag of clubs
With philosophic will.
For really golf had been unkind
To me throughout the year,
And I was glad at last I had
A chance to disappear.
And thro' the days of winter long
Rare thoughts obsessed my mind,
That I no more would play a game
Which so much pain combined.
That I would sell my clubs and kit,
Or give the lot away
To anyone that though it fun
This fiendish game to play.
In fact I felt superior
To those demented ginks
Who plodded vainly day by day
Around the sordid links.
Who waste, alas, the precious hours
Of life from spring till fall,
By following, to their chagrin,
A dinky little ball.
I felt all this decidedly,
Till only yesterday,
When I drove out to get my clubs
And things to give away.
But there upon the links I felt
The grip of golf's allure,
And so I felt once more-O, well
I fear there is no cure.



Top Row: D.S. Large; W.H. Webling; C. Waird; Judge Hardy; R.H. Reville; Irving Robeson; George S. Lyon.
Bottom Row: Seymore Lyon; I.W. Champion; T.B. Reith.

The Club's Centennial Celebrations 1979

February 21-24	Ontario Curling Association Colts And Masters Championship
May 25	Men's Past-Presidents Dinner
June 6	Ladies' Past-Presidents Wine and Cheese
July 4	Centennial Member-Guest Day
July 25-26	Ontario Ladies' Amateur Golf Championship
August 22-23	Willingdon Cup Inter-Provincial Team Championship
August 22-25	Canadian Men's Amateur Golf Championship
September 15	Hudson Bay Centennial Event
September 23	Ontario Golf Superintendents' Tournament
September 29	Centennial Duplicate Bridge Tournament
November 2	The President's Annual Ball

Centennial Committee

R.B. Forbes
R.J. Greenwood
J.G. Duncan
C. Israel (Mrs.)
W. Czarny (Mrs.)
A.M. James
B.J. Humble

L.D. Sovereign
A. Dormer
B. Moore (Mrs.)
R. Mann
B. Ashley
H.F. Smith
H. Cowan

Honorary Life Members

1932 John S. Lewis
1934 R.H. Reville
1937 W.D. Powell
1954 D. Spencer Large

R. Bruce Forbes 1965
Gary Cowan 1966
E. Katharine Bishop 1968

Men's Presidents

1911	J.T.Hewitt	P.A.Ballachey	1949
1913	N.W. Fitton	W.D. Powell	1950
1921	S.A. Jones	D.D.Williamson	1951
1922	E.C. Gould	R.B.Forbes	1952
1923	T.H. Miller	J.L.Wedlake	1953
1924	C. Glen Ellis	F.W.Nobbs	1954
1925	C. Glen Ellis	R.A.Paterson	1955
1926	C.D. Chapin M.D.	K.R.Taylor	1956
1927	N.E.B. Cutcliffe	H.J. Ward	1957
1928	D.S. Large	J.W. Nutter	1958
1929	J.A. Marquis M.D.	W.D. Brooks	1959
1930	W.C. Brooks	J.O. Trepanier	1960
1931	W.B. Race	J.C. Preston	1961
1932	A.M. Harley	A.M.James	1962
1933	F.A. Poppewell	J.M. Carpenter	1963
1933	Charles Robertson	A.S. Ballingall	1964
1934	K.C. Berney	R.I. Ryerson	1965
1935	S.C.Forbes	L.H.S. Fremantle	1966
1936	Donald McLennan	F.W. Pollard	1967
1937	R.L. Beckett	P.A.Shultis	1968
1938	G.W.Wilson	H.D. Butcher	1969
1939	J.S. Lewis	T.R.Forbes	1970
1940	A.R. Wynn	J.F. Usher	1971
1941	Daniel Robertson	H.S. McNeil	1972
1942	F.C. Kennedy	B.A.R. Hodgson	1973
1943	H.F. Croft	J.H.Clark	1974
1944	K.R. Gillelan	R.J. Munro	1975
1945	R.V. Woffindin	G.M.Clemons	1976
1946	C.C. Slein	J.R. Calbeck	1977
1947	H.F. Smith	B.J. Humble	1978
1948	S.S. Lee	R.B.Forbes	1979



Carol Israel
President 1979

Ladies' Presidents

1920	Miss Lillian Gibson	Mrs. J.K. Robertson	1950
1921	Mrs. J.L. Sutherland	Mrs. G.T. Cockshutt	1951
1922	Mrs. J.L. Sutherland	Mrs. A.G. Goldie	1952
1923	Mrs. W.H. Webling	Mrs. T.R. Forbes	1953
1924	Mrs. S.A. Jones	Mrs. J.E. Nutter	1954
1925	Mrs. S.A. Jones	Mrs. P.A. Shultis Jr.	1955
1926	Mrs. W.T. Mair	Mrs. H. Ward	1956
1927	Mrs. W.T. Mair	Mrs. J.M. Gould	1957
1928	Mrs. G.G. Duncan	Mrs. J.R. Watt	1958
1929	Mrs. G.G. Duncan	Mrs. J.R. Williams	1959
1930	Mrs. N.D. Neill	Mrs. F.W. Pollard	1960
1931	Mrs. E.C. Gould	Mrs. H.L. Hagey	1961
1932	Mrs. G.M. Hanna	Mrs. L.W. Moyer	1962
1933	Mrs. L. Waterous	Mrs. C.E. McVicar	1963
1934	Mrs. C.D. Chapin	Mrs. H.J. Palmer	1964
1935	Mrs. J. Noble	Mrs. T.R. Forbes	1965
1936	Mrs. J. Noble	Mrs. R.J. Greenwood	1966
1937	Mrs. J. Smith	Mrs. A.S. Ballingall	1967
1938	Mrs. R.L. Beckett	Mrs. N.W. Woods	1968
1939	Mrs. J.M. Ferguson	Mrs. G.F. McMinn	1969
1940	Mrs. W.R. MacDonald	Mrs. R. Chowhan	1970
1941	Mrs. R. Woffindin	Mrs. I.M. Bodine	1971
1942	Mrs. R.L. Beckett	Mrs. W.D. Brock	1972
1943	Mrs. W.A. Watt	Miss C. Bunnell	1973
1944	Mrs. J.O. Trepanier	Mrs. J.F. Boughner	1974
1945	Mrs. H.F. Croft	Mrs. W. Jepson	1975
1946	Mrs. W.D. Hurley	Miss Anne Hodge	1976
1947	Mrs. A.G. Goldie	Mrs. W.A. Coleman	1977
1948	Mrs. H.F. Smith	Miss Ruth Stedman	1978
1949	Mrs. O.R. Rudolph	Mrs. P. Israel	1979



Miss Katherine Bishop

Ladies' Club Champions

1920 Mrs. Frank Leeming	Mrs. C.M. Elliot	1950
1921 Mrs. Frank Leeming	Mrs. L.P. Robertson	1951
1922 Miss Dorothy Thompson	Mrs. C.M. Elliot	1952
1923 Miss Dorothy Thompson	Mrs. L.P. Robertson	1953
1924 Miss Dorothy Thompson	Miss Kay Bishop	1954
1925 Mrs. C.M. Sheppard	Miss Kay Bishop	1955
1926 Miss Kay Bishop	Mrs. C.M. Elliot	1956
1927 Mrs. C.M. Sheppard	Mrs. W.J. Vanstone	1957
1928 Mrs. A.A. Werlich	Mrs. R. Freeman	1958
1929 Mrs. C.M. Sheppard	Mrs. K.R. Taylor	1959
1930 Mrs. C.M. Sheppard	Mrs. R. Freeman	1960
1931 Miss Kay Bishop	Mrs. R.G. Parker	1961
1932 Mrs. C.M. Sheppard	Miss E. Read	1962
1933 Mrs. C.M. Sheppard	Mrs. J.D. Burk	1963
1934 Miss Kay Bishop	Mrs. J.D. Burk	1964
1935 Miss Kay Bishop	Mrs. K.R. Taylor	1965
1936 Miss Kay Bishop	Mrs. J.D. Burk	1966
1937 Miss Frances Barbour	Mrs. K.R. Taylor	1967
1938 Miss Kay Bishop	Mrs. J.D. Burk	1968
1939 Miss Frances Barbour	Mrs. G.G. MacBride	1969
1940 Miss Kay Bishop	Mrs. G.G. MacBride	1970
1941 Miss Frances Barbour	Miss A. Sarkisian	1971
1943 Miss Kay Bishop	Mrs. G.G. MacBride	1972
1944 Miss Kay Bishop	Mrs. L.P. Robertson	1973
1945 Miss Kay Bishop	Mrs. K.R. Taylor	1974
1946 Miss Kay Bishop	Mrs. D.K. Dunkerley	1975
1947 Miss Kay Bishop	Mrs. A.J. Begg	1976
1948 Mrs. C.M. Elliot	Mrs. G.G. MacBride	1977
1949 Miss Kay Bishop	Mrs. G.G. MacBride	1978

Men's Club Champions

1930	E.C. Gould	W.R. Parkes	1955
1931	J.S.Lewis	W.R. Parkes	1956
1932	T.A. Popplewell	D.M. Varey	1957
1933	E.C.Gould	W.R. Parkes	1958
1934	J.D. Buchanan	W.R. Parkes	1959
1935	J.S.Lewis	R.O. Pollard	1960
1936	T.A. Popplewell	R.O. Pollard	1961
1937	R.J. Fletcher	R.O. Pollard	1962
1938	J.D. Buchanan	R.O. Pollard	1963
1939	D.M. Varey	D.W. MacGregor	1964
1940	R.J. Fletcher	D.W. MacGregor	1965
1941	J.S.Lewis	J.M. Shewchuk	1966
1942	J.S. Lewis	G.I.Bartlett	1967
1943	R.J.Fletcher	G.I. Bartlett	1968
1944	J.M. Shewchuk	R.O. Pollard	1969
1945	D.M. Varey	G.A.Patterson	1970
1946	D.M. Varey	I.F. Paterson	1971
1947	J.M. Shewchuk	I.F. Paterson	1972
1948	D.M. Varey	D.A. Foster	1973
1949	D.M. Varey	D.G. MacDonald	1974
1950	J.M. Shewchuk	R.O. Pollard	1975
1951	E.A. Holmes	C.P. Paterson	1976
1952	E.A. Holmes	J.B.Wilson	1977
1953	D.M. Varey	M.R. Galvin	1978
1954	D.M. Varey		

Ralph H. Reville

In every golf club there is a man appreciated by all the members. Over the years he becomes an institution, identified with the golf club so that to speak of one without the other would be a misdeed. At the Brantford Golf and Country Club, Ralph H. Reville was this person. He first became associated with the club in 1884, about the time golf was gaining popularity and starting to attract new members. Nobody could have been as good an ambassador for the game as "Rafe" as he became known to all. Kay Bishop, whom he always called "Miss Kay" recalls that he often could be found sitting at the tee when she began to play, always with an encouraging word, a golfer whose enthusiasm and work for golf have rarely been matched.

Reville, a native of England, came to Brantford to begin a career in journalism, and in 1890, he and his brother assumed control of the *Brantford Courier*. In 1913 he sold his interest and two years later started the *Canadian Golfer* magazine. From 1915 until 1933 he was the editor of this remarkable periodical. Published monthly, it covered golf across Canada, and remains the one original source of reference on the early days of golf in this country. But more than merely a historical document it is also a highly readable journal imparting joy and humour from every page.

Behind the founding of *Canadian Golfer* is an interesting story that exemplifies Reville's integrity. In 1915 the world was at war; Reville was at the time being encouraged by friends to start a national golfing magazine. They all felt he was the logical person to do so, especially as golf was growing across Canada and he was in close touch with its development. Reville, however, was concerned that it was an inappropriate time to begin a golf magazine and he sought the advice of Robert Borden, Canada's Prime Minister. Borden, an enthusiastic golfer who understood the game's appeal, its merits as a relaxing activity and pleasant diversion, encouraged Reville to start the magazine. Borden was so supportive of the project that he became the magazine's first subscriber, ensuring that it would move ahead with confidence.

The following article is taken from the March 1933 issue of *Canadian Golfer*. It is entitled "Ralph H. Reville: Writer, Golfer, Gentleman" and was written by His Honor Judge A.D. Hardy, ex-president of the Brantford Golf and Country Club and ex-governor of the Canadian Seniors' Golf Association, on the occasion of the merging of *Canadian Golfer* of Brantford and *Golf and Sports Illustrated* of Montreal. Reville at this time became advisory editor of the new publication, which still carried the honored name of *Canadian Golfer*.

"The merging of the *Canadian Golfer*, Brantford, for many years the official organ of the Royal Canadian Golf Association and the Canadian Ladies' Golf Union, with *Golf and Sports Illustrated*, Montreal, will awaken among golfers here

and in many United States centres memories of its talented editor and proprietor Ralph H. Reville, who for the past 18 years gave the *Canadian Golfer* such a position of prominence in the golfing world.

"Few, if any, among the great golfing brotherhood have a wider acquaintance with golfers and golfing than Mr. Reville — literally extending from ocean to ocean and genially known among his legion of friends as 'Rafe' or 'Captain.'

"He has been an interested and interesting figure in golfing circles for many years. Quite 40 years ago becoming identified with the Brantford Golf and Country Club, the second oldest club in Ontario, and the fourth oldest in America, he was for 13 years its captain.

"He has done much to encourage and stimulate the game in Canada, and in his home town a quarter century ago captained his team of ten players at six tournaments of the Lake Shore League, in meetings at Buffalo and Rochester, and also on numerous occasions at hospitable Lambton. To the participants these halcyon days have always remained the golden age of golf.

"He has the Britisher's love of true sport and as a player has quite uncanny skill in the short game as his many trophies for approaching and putting attest. This feature of his game enabled the 'Old Captain' at the end of a hard fought day to chalk up victory for his team on more than one occasion.

"He discharged for some years the duties of secretary of the rules of golf committee of the Royal Canadian Golf Association and is everywhere acknowledged as



an authority on the game.

"He did much to establish the Ava Golf Club, Brantford, and the Civic Golf Course at Brantford, still being one of the board of directors of the former and an honorary life member of the latter, in addition to life memberships in other clubs.

"He was always willing to lend a helping hand in placing professionals or secretaries and with many friends among club directors he was instrumental in securing positions for many deserving applicants, being justly proud that his recommendations invariably made good. He was by the Golf Secretaries Association chosen as their honorary president and last year was awarded the gold membership press badge by the Professional Golfers Association of America — the only golf writer in Canada to be accorded this honor."

The Jubilee Year, 1929

Excerpts from *Canadian Golfer*

The Ontario Ladies' Championship, held at the Brantford Club the week of June 3rd, very appropriately marked the opening ceremonies in connection with the Jubilee year. The tournament was possibly the most successful ever held by the Association during its twenty years of existence. Again we witnessed the unique sight of two sisters fighting for premier honours in the final. Last year at Windsor the Misses Smith, of Toronto, famous figure skaters and all-around young athletes, battled for the Championship and again at Brantford this year. Miss Cecil, the defending champion is generally conceded to have a slight edge of her sister, Miss Maude, but the latter young lady decidedly played the better game in the final test and well deserved to win from her sister two up. Both these charming and unassuming young champions have a sound game in their bags and should go far, very far in the years to come.

There was a splendid entry of over 120 leading women golfers of the Province with the regrettable exception of the many times former champion, Miss Ada Mackenzie of Toronto, Mrs. Gordon Ferrie, Hamilton (who did, however, compete in the Qualifying Round the first day, which she promptly annexed), Mrs. Whittington and Mrs. F.J. Mulqueen, who made quite a reputation for herself recently in the British Open at St. Andrews, Scotland, going to the fourth round before being eliminated by Miss Glenna Collett, the U.S. star.

As properly befitting a Jubilee, all through Championship week in contradistinction to last year the weather was ideal, barring one or two days during which nasty cross-winds unquestionably penalized medal scores. The course on the banks of the historical Grand River, was in superb condition — a veritable emerald green from the first tee till the eighteenth green.

In the Qualifying Round, Mrs. Gordon Ferrie of Hamilton played exceptionally fine golf to register an 84 — a card which was not excelled throughout the Championship and that was quite a remarkable performance. To Miss K. Bishop, a young Brantford player, who is a newcomer to championships, went the credit of the second best score, a most commendable 87.

By the time the semi-finals arrived, it was evident that there was a good chance the Smith sisters would meet again. Indeed this proved to be the case. And a very interesting final it was, too. A large following witnessed the play at every hole, every one of which was more or less divided until the 16th. At the dog's leg 17th Miss Maude registered a win and then at the 18th came the climax of a well fought match. Miss Cecil here outdrove her sister by forty yards and had decidedly the edge on making a par four. Miss Maude hesitated for a minute or so about taking wood or

iron. Fortunately she took her brassie and with one of the best shots of the round reached the green, hole high to the right. Miss Cecil was over the bank guarding the green with an iron and coming well back over with her third, was short in her fourth and conceded the hole and the championship 2 holes down to her sister, who was the runner-up last year. Altogether a most colourful wind-up of a colourful Championship.

The Ontario Ladies' Championship marked the opening event in a thoroughly successful manner of the Jubilee Year. But there were to be more celebrations, with two days of golf and a Jubilee Dinner-Dance.

The festivities began on Friday morning, September 20th, when ladies of the club held an interesting tournament with a large number of players competing. Miss C.M. Sheppard won the best gross for 18 holes; Miss I. Adams the best net for 18 holes, while Mrs. A. Werlich took the best gross for the first nine holes. Miss K. Bishop took the best gross for the second nine holes.

Friday afternoon the men foregathered in record numbers, the players ranging all the way from seventeen to seventy years of age. Best gross for 18 holes was a score of 74, achieved by both J.S. Lewis and Gordon Duncan. The latter won the play-off. Winner of the Ontario Jewellers Trophy was Stanley Forbes, with an excellent net of 61.

The Jubilee Dinner-Dance in the evening was easily the greatest event in the fifty years history of the club. There was an attendance of over three hundred of the leading golfers of Brantford with many out-of-town visitors. Under the very capable chairmanship of Lt.-Col. W.C. Brooks, the president of the Club, a programme of toasts was introduced, including one to "The Royal and Ancient," a toast to the game of golf, as it has been played for hundreds of years and as it is being played on courses throughout the world today. Mr. Race, vice-president of the Club, gave a short synopsis of the growth of the local club, pointing out the splendid opportunities offered by it to those who had become associated with it as an organization for recreation, both in physical and social lines.

Ralph H. Reville, well-known golf authority and prominent member of the club, in response to a toast to it, gave a detailed account of the changes through which the club has gone since first organized in 1879. He especially paid a tribute to Mr. E.L. Cockshutt, who in 1906 had advanced \$10,000 to the club to enable it to acquire the present handsome links.

On Saturday, September 21, the club completed its notable golden anniversary by an invitation tournament which was participated in by some 200 of the leading golfers of Ontario, headed by Mr. George S. Lyon and star players from Toronto, Hamilton, London, St. Catharines and other cities and towns.

Young Nicol Thompson, fresh from winning the Ontario Fall tournament at Oshawa, started to the extent of leading the field with a 74 and 76 for 150, which, under the circumstances of cold and a nasty cross wind, was very fine golf indeed.

Following the completion of the tournament, which was run off without a hitch,

thanks to Fred Hunt, the Brantford pro, and a strong committee of local men, a banquet was held in the evening, when the prizes were awarded to the winners.

Lt.-Col. W.C. Brooks presided, and expressed satisfaction in the manner in which the tournament had been conducted. He remarked that it was a fitting climax to a splendid season, and a splendid way to close the celebration of the club's 50 years of existence. He was pleased that there had been so large a number of entries from outside Brantford, noting that this total had reached 125.

And so the curtain rang down on a memorable fifty year anniversary of a club old in years but vigorous still in every department of its varied activities with a future replete with promise stretching ahead of it.

The Exhibition Match

from the Brantford Expositor, August 22, 1938

Grip, stance, rhythm and swing were described and demonstrated as the fundamentals of the Royal and Ancient game of golf on Sunday at the Brantford Golf and Country Club by four of the top-ranking stars in the game, "Lighthorse" Harry Cooper, Lawson Little, Horton Smith and Jimmy Thomson. An added attraction of the match and exhibition was in the attendance of Cooper, who last year won the Canadian Open and this afternoon is playing off with Sam Snead to decide this year's winner.

Prior to the exhibition golf match with Cooper and Thomson playing Smith and Little, three of them gave an interesting — as well as instructive — demonstration of the various golf shots, including the fundamentals of the game. Horton Smith, over a loud-speaking system, kept up a running commentary on the various shots and styles as shown by Cooper, Little and Thomson. Proper styles, as well as exaggerated poor styles, were shown by the three. The poor styles brought many laughs from the large crowd, which was estimated at between 300 and 500, despite the rain, as each poor style reminded the gallery of friends who were similar in their styles.

Following the exhibition of shots, the four men played an 18-hole match over the course, carding two 71's, a 72 (par), and a 73. Between the four of them they had a best ball of 67 for the eighteen holes, five under par. The pairs in the foursome were teamed so that a short hitter and a long hitter were teamed together. The short hitters averaged over 250 yards, while the long boys, Little and Thomson, were close to 300 yards the majority of the time.

The match was won by Cooper and Thomson one up, playing best ball only for the eighteen holes. The victors were one up on the first nine holes and halved the last

nine. Horton Smith, commonly regarded as the best putter in the game, could not get the range of the greens. Had he been able to he would have cut about five strokes off his 73.

Lawson Little, with his 71, played a good straight game all the way, with the exception of two holes, the second and seventeenth on which he was three over par. On the second hole, Little earned a penalty stroke by going in the bushes and took a six. On the seventeenth he hooked his second shot over the fence, put his fourth in a bunker from beside the green, ending with a seven.

Thomson with his 72 encountered plenty of trouble most of the way around the course, finding several of the bunkers, but despite that he had 36's for each nine.

Harry Cooper was the most consistent of the four, carding a 36 and a 35 for his 71. His putter, which failed him badly in the last 18 holes of the Open on Saturday, was still slightly off and he missed several makeable putts that would have given him a lower score. During the putting demonstration before the golf match, Cooper showed how to hold the putter. He observed to the crowd, "I don't know why I am doing this when I took 37 putts on Saturday with no putts on one green, the first." Cooper on Saturday afternoon in his final round of the Open carded a 72, par, with five three-putt greens. He hooked his drive out of bounds on the eighteenth and ended up with a seven, which was good enough to tie Snead, but had those things not happened, the crowd yesterday would have been certain that they were looking at the Canadian Open champion two years running.

During the eighteen hole match each of the players, at odd times, were called upon to play rather difficult shots, from the rough, stymied behind trees or in deep bunkers, that gave the crowd a chance to see the masters play shots which are common to the average golfer. The damp condition of the grass due to the rain shortened up the drives considerably on nearly every hole, but several times the boys showed how they could lace into the pill and drive down the fairway.

A Caddie Recalls

Ted Beare, Brantford Expositor, October 1952

The antique jest about the secretary telling you her boss is out on business whereas, in reality, he is out on the golf course sometimes has an admixture of truth in its alleged humour. But it was not always thus. Back at the beginning of the eighties — in the very beginning, in fact — golf was a novelty here and in most places in North America. Courses were few and far between.

As recalled by George W. Broomfield, curator of the Brant Historical Society Museum, the original Brantford Golf Club had one of its early nine-hole courses (it

changed location with some frequency) in the North Ward. At the time of which Mr. Broomfield speaks, its quarters consisted of a room in a cottage, still standing today, on the south side of Bedford Street at Albion. Mr. Broomfield can remember vividly many incidents of the early days as well as the names of the early club members and their caddies. In fact, he was one of the original caddies himself!

The club membership, he says, included George, Alfred and Frederick Wilkes, "Bunty" Robertson, J.Y. Morton, Lord T. Whitehead and his son, Harry, and Messrs. Creighton, Thompson and Simpson. Their caddies included the two Fitzsimmons brothers, the Rusty brothers, Lan Lacey, Darby Hall, "Donkey" Haslam, Billy Grierson, Frank Cornwall and Mr. Broomfield himself.

A caddie's chores were not as strenuous in those days as they are today, but they were rewarded with a smaller fee, also. A golfer's equipment then consisted of only three clubs — two irons and a wood — and since there were no golf bags the clubs were held together by skate straps. However, carrying such a comparatively light burden over the nine-hole course earned the caddie a mere 10 cents. And, unlike today, few caddies had inclinations to become golfers. "We thought they were crazy," Mr. Broomfield says. He recalls that he was the only caddie allowed to take the clubs home and shine them. For that he received 25 cents from the man for whom he caddied — J.Y. Morton — and in those days that was "a whole pile of money."

He recalls the first hole-in-one as though it happened yesterday. It was on the second hole that Lord Whitehead (Lord was his Christian name, and not a title) achieved what would now be considered a remarkable accomplishment. But instead of being elated with his prowess he was more thrilled at finding his ball, which he thought had been lost in a cluster of trees. The trees grew near the hole, and when Whitehead drove his ball into them, it went out of sight. After searching the surrounding green to no avail, he resigned himself to the fate of having lost the ball, a precious possession because balls were so scarce. "Finally, someone looked into the cup, and sure enough, there was the ball," Mr. Bloomfield says.

The biggest event in the club's program was the annual visit of the Buffalo Golf Club. The U.S. visitors, about twelve strong, came to Brantford in a passenger coach on what was then the Grand Trunk Railway. Their arrival was the signal for one of Brantford's largest social events. About 100 persons, all members of society, turned out for the event, and lined the east side of the fairway to watch the two clubs in action. After the golfing was completed a picnic was served on the grounds. The caddies had to wait until the adults had finished eating before they received a lunch, which Mr. Broomfield says rivalled anything ever served at a Sunday School picnic or a Christmas party.

During these tournaments, Creighton, considered the best golfer in the local club, paired off against Dr. Smith, the kingpin of the Buffalo shotsmiths. Asked if he could recollect their scores, Mr. Broomfield replied, "What did we care about scores? We thought they were all 'bugs.' All we were interested in was the 10 cents."



Fred Hunt

Our Professionals

The first professional at Brantford Golf Club was WILBUR OAKES, hired in 1903 for \$20 per month and perquisites (lessons and equipment sales). Oakes had been assistant to Nicol Thompson of Hamilton. Oakes was followed by T. BROWN who stayed until the end of 1907.

The professional in 1908 and 1909 was W.M. FREEMAN who moved on to the Toronto Golf Club as an assistant to George Cumming and eventually took charge of the instruction school of Harold A. Wilson Company.

Little is known of GEORGE KNOX who was the professional until the end of the 1911 season. Knox was replaced by FRANK E. LOCK who worked at the Club from 1912 until 1915. When Lock left in 1915 to go to the War, the members presented him with a wrist watch.

ALFRED GEORGE HEARN, from Devonshire, England, started as a caddy on the Royal North Devon Golf Links, Westward Ho. He became a member of the Workingmen's Golf Club, and during that time won the Bethune Trophy for the best aggregate score for three rounds over the famous Westward Ho course. Hearn came to Canada in 1913 and was an assistant at Mississauga before coming to Brantford for the 1916 and 1917 seasons.

WILLIAM GUNN, a skilled clubmaker and a fine teacher, became the pro here in April 1918. He came from the Norwood Club in Winnipeg and had run a golf school at the Fort Garry Hotel. It was said of Gunn that "he has a first class knowledge of the up-keep of a golf course and altogether is a thoroughly equipped golfer of the best Scottish type."

In 1920 TOM SMITH returned to Canada from the War to work at Brantford for one year. Smith had learned his golf at Great Yarmouth under the renowned Tom Fernie and had worked for eight years at the Royal Montreal Club.

From his position as professional at Stafford Castle in England, C.H. PERKINS came to Brantford in 1921. Perkins, an imaginative professional, had studied a new method of green construction that was being used in England, and he became an advisor to other courses in the Brantford area. It was his custom to spend the winters in England, and during the winter of 1923 he advertised for an assistant professional. The person he found was none other than Fred Hunt.

Perkins was apparently a prodigious driver of the golf ball and was able to drive the first green of the club, a distance of 320 yards. By 1924 Perkins had become quite a figure in Brantford, eventually receiving a healthy bonus of \$200 for services well performed.

FRED W. HUNT came to Canada at the age of twenty-one as an assistant to C.H. Perkins. In 1925 he was hired as the tenth head professional at Brantford and held the position for 32 years. He began his career at Castle Bromwich near Birmingham, England where he caddied for J. Douglas Edger, the winner of the 1919 and 1920 Canadian Opens. According to Perkins, "Hunt is a good player and clubmaker; hits a long drive and plays his second shots very crisply. I think he will be a big addition to our circle of golfers."

Hunt was so fond of Brantford that he refused several lucrative offers from clubs in the United States. His heart was here and his spirit touched many young golfers, whom he loved to work with.

PETER HILDROP served as the professional from 1957 to 1961. Peter was born in Hamilton in 1934 and came to Brantford from Oakdale, where he had been an assistant for one year. Previous to that, he had been an assistant at Hamilton Chedoke.

BOB ROTHMEL came to Brantford in 1962 and held the position of professional for fourteen years. Born in 1931, this native of Guelph began his golf career as an assistant to George Clifton at Pine Valley in Woodbridge. Bob was here as the new course matured, and he believes it has developed into a challenging test for all golfers.

Now in his third season at Brantford, BILL WALSH came from the Val Morin Club in Quebec where he served as the professional for fourteen years. Bill enjoys being involved with the golfers, teaching and serving their needs, and he feels that the course is among the top five in Canada.

T h e C o u r s e R e c o r d

Bob Panasiuk, August 19, 1970

Par out	5 4 3 5 4 4 4 3 4 - 36
Panasiuk out	5 4 3 3 4 3 3 3 3 - 31
Par in	3 4 5 4 5 3 4 3 5 - 36-36-72
Panasiuk in	3 4 4 3 4 4 4 3 4 - 33-31-64

The Stymie

Bobby Jones

"It has been appalling to me to find that there are golfers of today who do not even know the meaning of 'stymie.' Twenty years ago I should never have dreamed that it would ever be necessary to explain that a stymie results in match play when one ball on the putting green interposes some of, or all, its mass between the other ball and the hole. For a while, the offending ball could only be removed by the concession of the remaining putt; but now a player may insist upon its removal if he 'considers that it might interfere with his play.'

"Two aspects of the stymie must be understood. If the balls lie so that the space between them is less than six inches, the nearer one may be lifted. Also, within a radius of two feet, a competent player can make, almost every time, any stymie that may be laid him.

"With the stymie in the game, match-play golf becomes an exciting duel in which the player must always be on guard against a sudden, often demoralizing thrust. More than anything else, it points up the value of always being the closer to the hole on the shot to the green and after the first putt. The player who can maintain the upper hand in the play up to the hole rarely suffers from a stymie.

"I think the stymie merits a respected place in the game. I know a return to it would greatly enhance the interest and excitement of match-play golf for player and spectator alike."



Curling

Curling came to the Brantford Golf and Country Club in the fall of 1962. The association between golf and curling is quite old, both games having originated in Scotland. It was the Scots who, in 1807, founded the first curling club in Canada, the Royal Montreal Curling Club. Coincidentally, the Brantford Curling Club was established in 1879, the same year as the Golf Club, and in 1882, the Victoria Curling and Skating Club opened a rink on the canal. So when the first curlers of Brantford threw their opening rocks, they were participating in a ritual brought here by the Scots, and forged, as golf was, with individual effort and initiative.

In 1962, the first director in charge of curling was A.K. Newcombe, and greenskeeper Vince Piccolo became the ice-maker. The first major bonspiel was called "The Big Chief," an event which is still popular. A curling competition is every bit as subtle as a golf match, and one can easily imagine why the Scots were attracted to the game. Like golf, curling appeals to players of all ages. For many, a special lure of the sport is the "brotherhood of the rink" and the camaraderie shared by the players after the contest. The six sheets of ice now found at the Country Club have been the scene of many enjoyable and dramatic competitions.



Opening Day, 1962

Men's Curling Champions

- 1963 G. Salmon, F. Ginn, J. White, W. Wilson
- 1964 W. Vanstone, J. Sherritt, W. Sherren, T. Staples
- 1965 H. Butcher, E. Vance, J. Greig, J. Conkin
- 1966 P. Shultis, J. White, N. Woods, R. Musson
- 1967 G. Salmon, J. Sherritt, B. McGregor, D. Maich
- 1968 E. Vance Jr., M. Hitchon, F. Wells, B. Hurley
- 1969 T. Goodman, D. Williams, C. Messecar, F. Mitchell
- 1970 B. McClelland, J. Slein, S. Gullen, R. King
- 1971 B. Forbes, D. Pascoe, M. Forchuk, W. Garbedian
- 1972 T. Popplewell, W. Hnatiuk, G. McMillen, T. McMillen
- 1973 B. Forbes, D. Pascoe, M. Forchuk, D. Eddy
- 1974 E. Luterbach, A. Oughton, S. Verrall, C. Powers
- 1975 S. Resnick, A. Spence, H. Fairfield, G. Smith
- 1976 S. Resnick, A. Spence, H. Fairfield, G. Smith
- 1977 E. Frame, B. Greenwood, A. Dormer, M. Uniac
- 1978 S. Resnick, D. Vance, S. Innes, M. McKinley
- 1979 B. Humble, T. Humble, H. Fairfield, R. Sovereign

Ladies' Curling Champions

- 1964 S. Wells, K. Carpenter, V. Cheyne, M. Dymond
- 1965 N. Hill, E. Sharra, G. Woods, E. Lingard
- 1966 H. Salmon, M. McGregor, M. Fissette, H. McDonald
- 1967 H. Salmon, M. McGregor, M. Fissette, H. McDonald
- 1968 M. Dobson, D. King, H. Forde, J. Statham
- 1969 M. Dobson, D. King, H. Forde, J. Statham
- 1970 D. Smith, H. Butler, J. Munro, J. Jones
- 1971 J. Spence, N. Mitchell, D. McGee, M. Finkelstein
- 1972 G. Woods, E. White, A. Barker, C. Bunnell
- 1973 N. McMinn, N. Mitchell, A. Vaughan, D. Smith
- 1974 H. Salmon, J. Maich, J. Boughner, M. Stockall
- 1975 K. McKinley, A. Markovich, M. McGregor, A. Hester
- 1976 H. Salmon, E. McWade, J. Maich, H. McDonald
- 1977 K. McKinley, A. Hester, M. McGregor, J. Prendergast
- 1978 J. Humble, P. Mitchell, B. Eddy, W. Snow
- 1979 J. Humble, B. Easton, B. Mott, W. Snow

W. Hastings Webling

W. Hastings Webling was a popular Brantford member who, in the tradition of noted golf writers Bernard Darwin and John Kerr, wrote eloquently and wittily about the game. He was Captain of the Club in 1915, a prolific writer, and a charming raconteur. His short stories and poems were published in *Golfers' Magazine*, *American Golfer*, *New England Golf News*, *The Canadian Golfer*, *Maclean's Magazine*, and *Saturday Night*. Following are some samples of the grace and humour of "Husky" Webling.

MY CADDIE

Who meets me with a furtive grin
All keen the contest to begin
With hopes of "Extra" if I win,
My Caddie.

Who never seems to mark a ball
Or seeks the place where it might fall
Or finds it, which is worse than all,
My Caddie.

Who chatters all the bally time,
On things to which his thoughts incline
Tho far from favorites of mine—
My Caddie.

Who always hands me out a club
That's wrong, and thus I often dub,
And if I scold, begins to blub,
My Caddie.

Who chews a wad of gum, or he
Will smoke a fag incessantly,
And spends his cash the films to see,
My Caddie.

And when the eighteen holes are done,
Who holds me up to ribald fun,
With other lads, son of a gun,
My Caddie.

STYMIES

Little traps and bunkers,
"Lies" in waving grass
Help the gallant golfer
Demonstrate his class.

Little bets on foursomes
Syndicates, et al,
Keeps the rash young duffer
Feeling far from well.

Articles from Experts,
Pointers from the Pros.
Sometimes cause confusion
Every golfer knows.

Little golfing chestnuts
Ancient anecdote,
Frequently repeated
Gets the golfers' goat.

Useful little flasklets,
Carried on the hip
Sometimes help a player
When he's needing it.
Amen!

"THE OPTIMISM OF SPRING"

When Spring is here the golfers wake
To tempt once more elusive fate,
And tell each other, once again
How they expect to play a game,
Much better, yes in every way
Than that which once they used to play.

The Pro. who oft with magic skill
The duffer's heart doth often thrill,
Proclaims aloud emphatically
That he this year will better be,
And show the world ere summer's past
They've broken "Sixty-five" at last.

And amateurs of stellar rank
Will proudly to their cronies swank,
About the game they hope to play
To corner coronets of bay.
And possibly, if fate decrees,
Soon break their former "Seventies."

The "Ninety men," consistent class,
Are likewise hoping soon to pass
Into the ranks of "Eighties," then
To be acknowledged golfing men,
With handicaps now coming down
Before their well deserved renown.

The duffer too of every type
Believes the time is growing ripe
When he may beat the jinx, and be
Below the fatal "Century"
And later on, Lor bless his soul,
Tell how he did it, hole by hole.

And so it goes when Spring is here,
The wish of every heart sincere
Is planning optimistically
A winner in his class to be—
Yes, so it goes till Autumn's o'er
And we remain as heretofore.

HUSH

Dr. Bean approached the green
His shot was just immense, sir,
But his ball, alack! fell into a trap
(The rest won't pass the censor.)

Browsing Through the Minutes

Following are selections from the minutes of the club; in these records the flavour of the club is evident.

APRIL 16, 1914

The President reported a communication from the City Council inviting the Brantford Golf and Country Club to entertain His Excellency The Duke of Connaught for tea on the occasion of his visit to the Club May 9th. The City agreeing to finance the expense of the tea and decorations. The Directors were unanimously agreeable and the House Committee was appointed to look after the decorations.

FEBRUARY 9, 1917

Moved by R.H. Reville, seconded by W.H. Fitton, that the directors be appointed to consult a competent architect, at a price not to exceed \$100 to submit plans for the building of a new Caddy house, stable, and ice house that would coincide with the present buildings as to the scenic effect, usefulness etc.

An amendment to this was made by G.D. Heyd, and seconded by J.G. Scarfe, that the \$100 clause be struck out.

AUGUST 6, 1920

It was decided that the fees for caddies shall not be more than 25 cents a round.

NOVEMBER 25, 1922

It was decided that the horse at present owned by the club be disposed of at once.

OCTOBER 20, 1927

Moved by Dr. Marquis, seconded by W.B. Preston that the recommendation of the Committee appointed to arrange with the Professional Fred Hunt for his engagement next year be approved as follows: \$600, for season 1928, also that he be given a bonus of \$100 for season 1927. The Secretary be instructed to secure a signed contract from Mr. Hunt for his engagement for next season.

APRIL 27, 1927

Mr. Bruce Gordon thought the greens fees should be increased in keeping with those of other clubs, and Mr. Gordon moved, seconded by Dr. Marquis, that out greens fees should remain at \$1.00 per day excepting Wednesday afternoons, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays when the fee shall be \$1.50. The motion was carried unanimously.

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