

BELMONT GOLF CLUB

1961-2011

50TH ANNIVERSARY

An Extended Family

Nancy E Fenton

Published by Belmont Golf Club

45809 Ferguson Line

Belmont , Ontario

N0L 1B0 Canada

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ISBN: 0987708902

Printed in Canada

Dedicated to Mom and Dad

With everlasting love and admiration

John, Nancy, Shelley, Jane



The 4 willow trees on Number 12

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PREFACE

It's great to know people like my parents. While writing this book, I was once again humbled by their incredible strength of character and the strong values that guide their lives. Listening to the stories that I grew up with and meeting people I have known most of my life was a gift, and the process of writing this book was like settling into a comfortable chair in the corner of a sunlit room. This book is about honouring achievement - 50 years of a family business. The book is not a traditional golf book, but rather a story of two people whose determination and love created a place where people feel valued, a place where they belong. In this respect, it's really a story about "extending a family." It's filled with anecdotes, memories, and stories that were very meaningfully shared by club members, friends, and associates to acknowledge Jan and George's devotion in making their lives more enjoyable. Their stories thread through the memories I hold closest to my heart growing up at the golf course. This book is about ethical, hard-working people whose values of equity, fairness, and respect have shaped the lives of hundreds of people. We celebrate and honour their dedication in creating a place we all call home.

Nancy Fenton

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Voices of friends, club members, and associates of my parents echo throughout the book. The stories signify the connection and deep respect they have for them. I am grateful for and want to especially acknowledge the many people who took the time and care to share their experiences and stories. Special thanks to Steve Haskell who lent his poetry and photography skills to this entire project, I could not have done this book without his assistance. Thanks to other members and friends – Sue Todd, Lyle and Muriel Young, Ron Bishop, George Wise, Carl Fishback, Art Abbey, Glen Vosborge, Keith Neil, Ross and Linda Masseur, Brian Edwards, Tucker and Gloria Johnstone, Helen MacKinnon, Harvey Stover, Audrey Churchill, who shared their personal stories. A special thanks to Louise Berry and Marilyn Campbell for the stimulating conversations and historical information they provided about the local farming community. I very much appreciated Jan and George's CPGA friends - Jack Pullen, Jim McCann, and Ken Girard for their stories.

Special thanks to all those who took pen to paper to share their memories – Donna and Earl Grawburg, Beth and Arthur Cairncross, Ron Allen, Angie and Pete Harder, Mike and Barb Abel, Jim Haylow, Ruby and George Leverton, Margaret and Paul Brewer, Ron Lidster, Rosalie and Don Morrison, B.H. "Gus" Langley, Norma Chamberlain, Jean and John Copeland, Bernie Stankevich, Donna and Wally Lockwood, Pat Lauren, Joanne Eitel, Marion and Paul Lord, Antoinette Jans, Tom Butler. I am also very grateful to Ann Lounsbury for researching and writing "A Tribute to the Tree Keepers of Belmont."

It's been an honor to write this story, but it would not in any way be possible without the love, support, and contributions of my siblings who freely gave in very meaningful ways. Jane, the master typist, lovingly transcribed each and every interview. Shelley, the master greenskeeper, coordinated the anniversary celebration. John, the master of kindness, shared his own story and encouraged this book right from the start.

I am deeply indebted to my parents for their unconditional love and support from the very start of this project. Their encouragement has been a gift. Their model of hard work and spirit of resilience has always kept me grounded in reality.

Finally, I am especially grateful to my wonderful husband Rick, who fills every part of my life. His constant love and support have helped sustain me as I traveled this incredible journey.

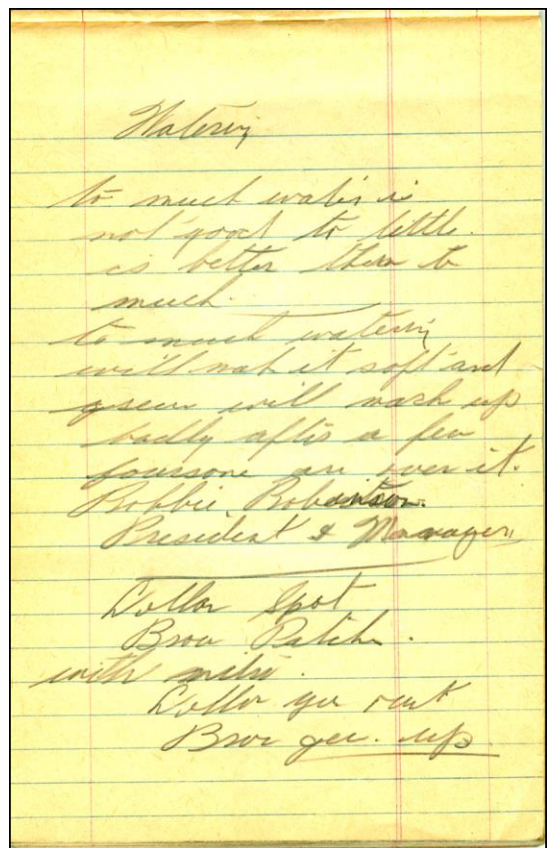
CHAPTER 1 - THAT'S ALL I HAD IN MIND

The story begins with a journey from home.

George and Janet lived in Walkerton in the early 1950's. George was in the construction business and building homes, and Janet was working at home doing the company books and caring for their four small children. The Loughlean's lived on Johnson Boulevard, right down the street in clear sight of Janet's Mom.

The idea to build a golf course came when George developed an allergy to the oil used to keep nails from rusting, and had to find different work. George said: "The most important thing at the time was to make a living, to support my wife and kids - that's all I had in mind." Early on in the process George phoned his father Vic, in London, Ontario, and asked him if he thought he could make a living with a golf course. Although George played a bit of golf he had no experience building a golf course. Vic however, believed he could do it and thought London was the best location because there was already a golf course in Walkerton. Not long after their conversation, George drove to London to visit his father; who meanwhile had spotted a property with some potential near Belmont, on what is now named Ferguson Line between Highway 74 and Highbury Road, about 5 kilometers south of

Belmont. George looked over what turned out to be an old bean field, and bought the 50 acres for \$4,600. He recounts: "I went home and told Janet and the four kids that we were moving and building a golf course." As you might imagine, Janet's response was, "I thought George had gone out of his mind."



George's black book



First 9 *circa* 1964

In 1960, George made the long trek back and forth between Walkerton and Belmont every week to build the golf course. Jan remembers: "George working Monday to Friday in Walkerton and then driving down to Belmont on weekends, so it wasn't a lot of fun." Of the early stages of building the course, George recalls:

I went to talk to Morley Finley the superintendent of the London Hunt Club and I didn't know him from a hill of beans, but he was nice, courteous and gave me a few little tips to go by when I was just starting out ... I made a lot of trips down to build the place. I would work up north doing the building during the week and then come down here on weekends. So that is

why we had a little shanty at the back of the property, so I didn't have to go any place – didn't have to rent a room.

George admitted that he "had no experience in building a golf course." But he grew up with a philosophy his Dad had taught him early on in life about learning: "If you don't know 100% what you're doing then for Christ sakes, ask!" He admits that, "Asking people was actually my life story." In fact, George called many golf course greenskeepers in those early days to learn about the business. He even had a small black book where he jotted down key points and tricks of the trade, tricks such as: how much Fescue to mix with Kentucky Blue; how deep to dig a water supply pond.

“Too much watering is not good, but too little is better than too much. Too much watering will make it soft and then the

greens will mark up badly after a few foursomes.”



Number 2 Green

George and Jan brought their family down from Walkerton June 1961 and opened the golf course on July 1, 1961. For Jan, the ride away from home was a pivotal moment: “I remember the ride going down the hill in Formosa and all four kids and I were crying and that was the start of it all. But once we got the place open, at least we were all together.” For the Loughleans, 1961 marked the start of their “family business.”

Jan describes the early days “as a struggle” but is quick to acknowledge their kids helped a great deal: “They worked with us, and I think when you do something like this

and you move away from home, you need family. You need family or something, and that was probably the stabilizing influence for us.”

Their 50-acre property was in the heart of farm country. Unbeknownst to Jan and George, their new neighbours were keeping a close eye on them. Marilyn (and Dugald) Campbell remembers that the property George and Janet bought had been previously owned by the Lawson family of Nilestown, who had rented it out to farmers. Marilyn recalls: “It was interesting for us to watch this land be developed from

a large, bare bean field to a golf course that over the years has matured and now contains thousands of beautiful trees, shrubs, flowers and ponds." In the early days, neighbours watched George plant one tree after another, who all the while thought only he could visualize what others couldn't see: but Marilyn saw that "his heart was in it, just like a farmer loves farming, it is part of him." When she drives past the golf course now on her way home, she says, "It is a picturesque, beautiful piece of property, truly an asset to our community."

Louise (and Colin) Berry, neighbours on the east side, remembers one community member saying, "I can't imagine a golf course on the 12th concession of Yarmouth.

People aren't going to come out to the country to play golf because they only golf in the city." Louise described the farming community that George and Janet had moved into as a tightly connected place where most farms were passed along from one generation to another. In the beginning, Louise said they all wondered how Jan and George had come to this area, because "they weren't connected to anyone." They were considered outsiders. Carl Fishback, a 17-year-old farm boy who started working for George in 1962, thinks that "If one of the people who had lived here all their lives had built a golf course, it would have been nothing, but George and Jan came from out of nowhere and came down here and they weren't known."



The clubhouse

Jan says with a grin: "George hired a couple of school kids to help outside ... we didn't have money for an adult and we didn't know an adult. We didn't know anybody here and I think we were considered kind of freaks in a rural community that had been set as farms for hundreds of years."

Louise Berry remembers the golf course property as once being home to pasture cattle: "Everyone had cattle back then and there were fences and gates everywhere to keep them in and you sure didn't cut the grass for miles around. We wondered back then how George and Janet were going to keep all the grass cut."

In 1948, Louise moved into the farm house down the road from the golf course when she married Colin. She fondly reflects upon the rhythm of their farming community:

We didn't have a tractor yet and were still using horses. When Colin and I were first married, Colin's Dad was quite superstitious. He wouldn't start a new job on a Friday and never worked the farm on Sundays. There were a lot of things we didn't do then. We never drove a truck to church because it was considered a farm tool and you just didn't do it ... There used to be a train station down the road (where the tracks run along the 12th concession), but the train didn't stop all the time. If you wanted to get on the train to go to St. Thomas or to Belmont, you just walked down the road to the post and pointed the arm up and they would stop and pick you up.

Trees had always been a large part of the fabric of this small farming community and in the early 1960's hard maple trees lined both sides of the 12th concession road. Louise recalls: "We used to make maple syrup when there were trees all along the road – the hard maples. When you first drove up the road, it was just like a tunnel because there were trees on both sides and they came over like a net in the centre." For George, trees are the heart of the place and a thread that runs through this story in defining a love of nature. In fact lumber was transported from a bush in Chesley to build the golf course clubhouse, a story proudly shared by Jan in describing George's enterprising efforts:

George got a lot of the two-by-fours for the clubhouse from a bush up north. He built a house for somebody on the other side of Chesley and the guy didn't have very much money, so he said, "You can have whatever you can take out of the bush." Well I guess he didn't think George was very enterprising, because George went out and bought a portable sawmill and went in there, and all the studs that he used to build the clubhouse came from that bush - hard working ... that is just hard work and determination, that is all it is.



Jan and George *circa* 1968



On the way to the Number 11 tee decks, after the corridor of Pines and White Birches, we pas what seems to be a special tree on the left, a Tulip Tree, perhaps one of the trees the Loughlean kids have given to George and Jan through the years. A hit too far to the left on Number 11, and a scent of Spruce will be wafting past you. Ann Lounsbury.

CHAPTER 2 – THE FIRST NINE

1961

Belmont the First 9

*Those who are of a certain age,
Can close their eyes and turn the page.
Backward to the early time,
When Belmont's holes numbered only 9.
The characters that played there then,
Had varied background, and were mostly men.
The alternating ball racks helped to make,
Time between nines for give and take.
Creating the friendships and feeling of family,
That remain part of Belmont in the 21st century*

Steve L. Haskell



The First 9

Belmont opened as a nine-hole golf course on July 1, 1961. For the first year, George, Jan, and their kids lived in a small house on Highway 4, outside Lambeth. For Jan, being at a distance and running the business was “a real tough balancing act.” It was challenging to make meals and drive the food over to the club when they ran small tournaments, sometimes, “in the pouring rain, getting a flat tire with all the food in the car.”

The day-to-day challenges of running a business from a distance, aggravated by a

break-in thief who stole all they had, forced George to build a new home above the club house where the family could live.

Despite these early challenges, George reflects upon his luck, “Well it wasn’t easy, but when I look at kids today, I think we were luckier than people are today. We didn’t make enough money to spoil our kids and they went on the bus in the morning and came home at night ... I think Jan and I grew up in the best of times.”



Number 8 gets its honour because it's the site of perhaps everyone's favourite tree – the one that hosts the hole from its lofty position on the hill to the left. Sadly, it has lost much of its previous grandeur and vibrancy. However, even in skeletal form, it has not lost its interest.

Ann Lounsbury.

George and Jan proudly speak of their course being “a working man’s golf course.” As George notes, “We always wanted to make it affordable for the working man. We tried to keep the rates reasonably cheap to allow the regular player to come out and have a good time.” Even today, George is in disbelief that they managed to keep afloat; he often wonders how they “were ever going to make a living.” He said in the good old days when they first opened, green fees

were \$2 to play a round of golf and memberships were \$25 a year. Founding members Ron Bishop and George Wise remember paying \$25 for their first membership. Ron recalls: “Nyle Surgent and Bill Johnson heard about this little hick course in the country that some guy was building; so we came out to see it, met George, liked him, and decided to join and has never left.”

BELMONT GOLF CLUB
ROAD

PLEASE READ RULES

Hole	Men's Yardage	Men's Par	Ladies' Yardage	Ladies' Par	Handicap	Strokes	Strokes	Strokes
1	265	4	265	4	11	4	4	4
2	450	5	450	5	3	4	4	4
3	145	3	145	3	15	2	2	2
4	320	4	295	4	9	3	4	4
5	120	3	120	3	17	3	3	3
6	200	3	150	3	13	3	3	3
7	470	5	400	5	1	5	5	5
8	440	4	400	5	5	5	5	5
9	445	4	415	4	7	4	4	4
out	2855	35	2640	36		38	31	
10	265	4	265	4	12	3	4	4
11	450	5	450	5	4	5	5	5
12	145	3	145	3	16	4	3	3
13	320	4	295	4	10	4	3	3
14	120	3	120	3	18	3	3	3
15	200	3	150	3	14	3	2	2
16	470	5	400	5	2	5	4	4
17	440	4	400	5	6	4	5	5
18	445	4	415	4	8	5	4	4
In	2855	35	2640	36		36	32	
Grs	5710	70	5280	72		69	63	
Handicap								
Net								
Certified Self <i>Harvey Stover</i>								
Certified Opponent <i>Floyd Boughner</i>								
REPAIR BALL MARKS ON GREENS PLEASE REPLACE THE TURF <i>George Jones</i>								

1974 Aug 7
Belmont
Institutes
Race
"Ink"
Course Record
63
Oct 10
82

Course record 63 by Floyd Boughner

Harvey Stover, who was 14 years old when he joined in 1962, remembers paying \$10 for a junior membership.

had to leave or until Jan would yell down to tell George: "get those kids out of there."

My Uncle Al told me there was a new golf course on the 12th concession of Yarmouth, so I bought clubs and joined. It was really my home. I would get dropped off at 7:00 a.m. every morning and get picked up at 10:00 or 11:00 at night. We would have \$5 in our pocket and we could eat all day and back then it was only 65 cents for a cheeseburger and 25 cents for a Coke. We were set for the day; we played golf and then played cards or monopoly until we

When it was nine holes, Harvey said, "It was so close knit and wasn't as busy back then, but then again we played 54 or 72 holes of golf every day. We had a lot of good times and met a lot of great people - we lived together."



From the clubhouse circa 1968: (L-R)
Donny Clarke, Harvey Stover and Wayne
Smith

Other longtime members fondly remember the early days. Brian Edwards loved the nine holes because he “could fly around in no time.” For George Wise, “The greens were always good. I have always said and can still say that people can go anywhere they want in driving distance and they won’t get better greens than we have at Belmont.” Lyle and Muriel Young, who joined in 1962, remember the cracks in the clay and the rivers that ran across the fairways, especially down Number 4. Lyle says: “George just had the tractor with some movers behind him; he didn’t have much equipment at all, but he kept the grass cut.” Lyle and Muriel’s daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Ross Massecar, started golfing in 1968 just after they were married. Linda says, “It was more like a family, everybody knew everybody.” Despite all the years Muriel and Lyle played golf, their most vivid memories centred on all the fun they had at Belmont:

I can remember working at the
invitational. We helped Jan make

pies and we used to get the food
together back then. Lyle used to
help George with the hamburgers
or whatever was going on. We
remember coming down in the
winter time, playing music and
playing cards with George and Jan –
we had so much fun.



Muriel Young and George, 1968

Carl Fishback worked for George after high school in 1962; he fondly remembers his first job shoveling and “putting the tile in by hand” because there was no fancy equipment back in the early days:

I always remember spiking and cutting the greens. I would do that on Monday and we used to walk back then to cut the greens. We used the Jacobson mower and it would take me 4 hours to cut nine greens. We worked hard, but we had a lot of fun doing it. But back then, we did everything by hand. When we cut the fairways, we didn’t have to go around any trees

because we didn't have any in those days. But it was just like everyday life, it was just fun. It was something I looked forward to – watching the people and how terrible some golfers were, yet see them improve over the years.

Forty-nine years later, Carl still walks into the clubhouse and calls out for “Mom.” Carl calls the place home and reflects upon his best memories as, “Jan and George teaching me how to be a better person ... just the way they taught me how to deal with the public and George showed me how to basically fix anything.” Carl remembers “tarring the roof on the second floor with George. I still have scars on the top of my foot, where I was throwing tar. I was working up on the roof, making the tar, putting it in a container and running it upstairs and some of it fell down my boot.”

The job Carl liked best was cutting greens, which he did back then every other day. He remembers the first time he cut the greens both ways for the first men's invitational in 1967.

The Annual Invitational

At that time and for many years, the invitational attracted as many as 150 of the best golfers in the area.

The tournament was always a Loughlean family affair with everyone helping out; year after year, many of the same people would gather to play.



The Loughlean family

Suzie, the golf course manager, remembers, “The invitational was very memorable; people you hadn't seen for a long time would come back year after year with lots of stories.”



George starting the 40th Men's Annual Invitational

Dick Harback never missed a tournament. Jan said, “He would fly from Elliott Lake where he worked throughout the year to come and play every year.”

George Wise remembers when the course was still nine holes and 150 guys played in

the annual tournament: “George would be handing out prizes at midnight.” George and Ron Bishop shared a funny story about helping out with the scores one year:



Jan, Sue Todd, and George

Marty Harris was helping us, and we had all the scores written down, and then we came upstairs to figure out who had won. We only had three or four flights back then and there were four sheets. George, Ron, me [George Wise] and Marty Harris worked on them. Marty was writing the scores down. We had the score sheets and the black markers ... Okay, there is Ron Bishop – 84. And we stroked it out. Marty would write it down, and we got all the way down the sheets, and we were scratching all the names out as we went. By the time we’re at the end, you can’t read the name any more, because they were scratched out. And we look over at Marty and he is sound asleep. He hasn’t written a thing down and here we are with all these lines through the names and we can’t read them anymore. We are holding them up to the light trying to read what they say.

The annual men’s invitational ran for 42 years, ending in 2009. Jan admits, “It was a

hard thing to stop because we had held it for so many years and used to see people that we only saw once a year.” Jan reflects on the year they decided to stop it: “We waited and waited up until one week before the tournament date and then George said, ‘we need to cancel it,’ and it is now a thing of the past.”



Dick Harback

George Loughlean: CPGA Professional

In 1972, George became a CPGA golf professional. He was one of the last pros to qualify as a club owner and because he had run his own course for so long they waived the apprenticeship component, but he still had to write the exams.



Early days as a Pro

In those days, the golf business was different, and there were fewer golf courses in general. Ken Girard, a long time friend of George and Jan, and a pro himself since 1958, acknowledges “how tough the business is today. There is too much product and too many courses. There is only so much supply and demand.” He remembers in the early days, when golf courses thrived “there was a retail line of products and a pro line of products.” Ken, now retired from the London Hunt Club, believes, “it’s difficult today for pros to make money in their shops and that the golf business has become very competitive.”

Jim McCann, CPGA pro, another long time friend, and the owner of Science Hill golf course, considers George “his mentor.” After working as head pro at the Ingersoll Golf & Country Club for many years, Jim wanted to operate his own club: “I went to talk to George and we chatted about it and he helped me think it through and then I got the owner’s name of Science Hill and called him that night about the buying the club.” Jim speaks fondly of George, acknowledging that “there are not a lot of guys that have done what George has done; he has helped me do what I have accomplished and has done the same for a lot of other guys in the area ... I’ve met so many people in life, but I know there are not a ton of George’s, I will tell you that for sure.”



George and Greg Norman



George Loughlean and Jim McCann, winners of the Rolex Pro-Pro Championship (1981 & 1982)

“George and I became friends,” Jim adds, “many years ago when we started traveling together to play in pro tournaments.” In fact, Jim and George won the Ontario Rolex Championships two consecutive years - a highlight in Jim’s golfing career. Jim remembers driving down to the tournament the second year, saying, “George, I want you to bear down and grind this out because I don’t want any of these guys from Toronto thinking we just lucked out last year.” As Jim notes, “we tied the

second year with six teams and then had a playoff and ended up winning it again ... I saw then that George is a real competitor.” Jack Pullen, retired pro at Talbot Park Golf Club in St. Thomas, “enjoyed playing golf with George. We would always have a friendly rivalry.” As Jack remembers, “Derek Jones, George and I would drive to local tournaments together. Derek and I would always get into a bit of banter about something and George would inevitably be the referee and chuckle all the way.”



George Loughlean Foursome winning Team Title at the 17th Annual Charity Pro-Am Golf Tournament, Sarnia Golf and Curling Club

It was in 1988 when Ken Girard took over the PGA and first met George at his course. Ken remembers "playing cross country golf in the days when Belmont was only nine holes. You could see people putting around the whole course because there were no trees then." In 1990, at one of the Western PGA mini tour events, Ken proudly remembers "shooting a course-record 62 at Belmont and giving the card to George." Ken says, "We've been friends for all those years. If George didn't play in our mini tour, we wouldn't see him, because he works so hard," but acknowledges that "George enjoys what he is doing, which is terrific." Jack Pullen says: "I think George and Jan have done remarkably well to do what they have done and the golf course is always so

nice. I always tell people new to town to play at Belmont because it's the nicest semi-private course around." Jim McCann reflects upon George and Jan's success, saying "It just doesn't happen by chance. Jan has done more in managing the other side of the business than most people realize. It's a whole different side of the business and I said to George one day, 'you're a lucky sucker to have her.'"

Jan's feisty nature proved successful in many situations when she manages the administrative side of the business. She explains:

I can remember a few years ago when we bought Shell's new rough mower, the first one, and the chap

that sold it came, maybe 5 or 6 years ago, and he came. He came with a sheaf of papers and said, "We need all this filled out," and all the rest, you know, bank statements, and so forth.' I responded with, "Eddie, you are a good guy and I know you, so I want you to go back to the people where we're going to lease this from, and tell them, if I have to sign these papers after I have spent forty years trying to get a good credit rating, we're not buying anything from you, so please make sure they know that." About 2 days later, he came back, and said, "I guess we are going to do business with you." I said, "I hope so, because I am not going to prove to you that I can afford to buy your damn machine ... This is the way it is Eddie." It was none of their damn business. When I have to fill anything out, and they ask for bank statements, I just send it back in. It is not their business; it might have been 49 years ago, but not today!

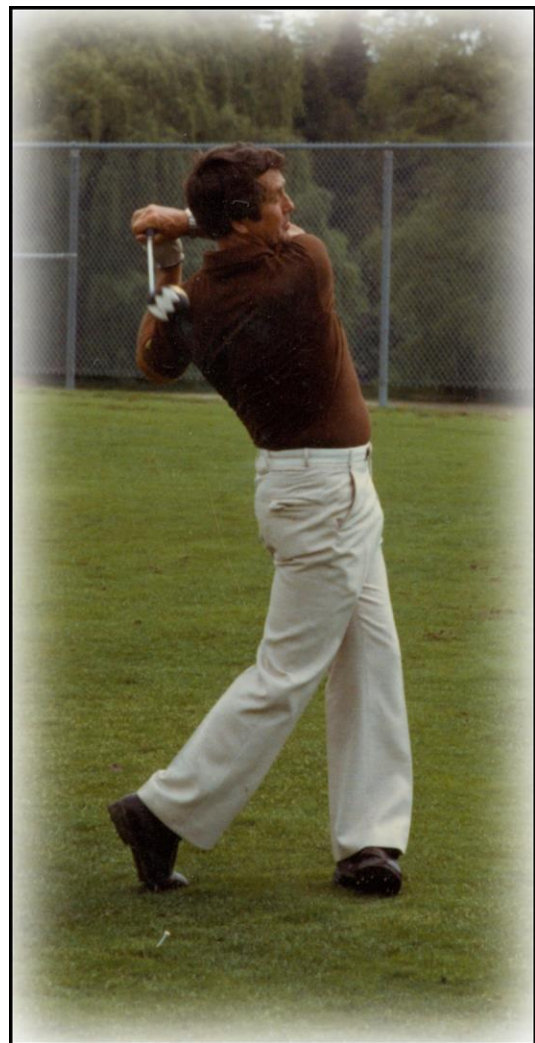
Many members shared stories of George as both a CPGA pro and a competitor. Tucker Johnstone reminisces about 15 years ago, when George and Jack Pullen played head to head at Greenhills Golf Club:

They had a match, and by god they got to the eighteenth hole, and they were tied, and Jack sank a putt and George just missed. That was a damn good match. You know, they were both fighting away and they were hitting good shots, and I thought that was really good.

Tucker discusses another occasion:

Another time, I was over at the Oaks, and I was watching George play with some of the seniors. Guys he plays with and they are all good

golfers, and they all get along ... It was nice to see him get away from the place, and go play some place with the guys for a day ... He used to play ball, too. I saw George about 25 years ago, and the man could play golf. Boy he could play golf. He would fit right in with anybody. He played a lot of golf courses, and that is what kind of got me ticked off a bit, because I would say to him, "George, you used to go out and play with the guys. Why don't you go and play with the senior guys now?"



George Loughlean in competitive play

Other members recall George as a being a great teacher. Keith and Glen Vosburg remember George giving them golf lessons. In Keith's words: "I was out at the driving net and I asked George what I was doing wrong. He watched me for a little while, and he said, 'Keith, you will never be a good golfer with a golf swing like that.'" He chuckles: "You know, I have kept the swing over the years, and I am still not a good golfer." Helen MacKinnon remembers taking golf lessons from George when he used to run clinics every year: "George would ask us what we wanted to get the most help with and then would watch us. Sometimes he would watch us around the course and offer advice with a cheery smile and wave.

In the Southwestern Ontario Golfer magazine (1972) George offers advice in the "That's Golf" section:

A fellow professional once told me, and I quite agree with him, that the biggest mistake golfers who wish to master the game, but who suffer from various types of swinging flaws, indulge in too much guess-work and turn to a pro for correction of their faults only as a last resort.

The greatest mistake beginning golfers commit is trying to put all their weight behind a swing, or to swing themselves off balance not only with wood shots but with their irons as well. Women golfers, I have noticed in my years of observing players go through their paces on the golf course, are often too conscious of what others in their

group are thinking of their ability as a golfer. Self-consciousness on the tee, the fairway or the green (yes, and in the rough and sand traps, too), develops a tense atmosphere which can result in a whole morning or afternoon's fun going up in flames. A calm study of each situation which results in proper stance, selection of the right club, a loose, facile swing, will help to develop confidence and a better score.

Lessons by a professional are a must for the beginner who hopes to accomplish more than dig up turf, blow easy shots, chalk up a score bigger than big. If you can't find time for lessons, then take a few moments (and this applies especially to the fine people playing at our Belmont Golf Course) and discuss your style and your problems with the pro. Sometimes just a word on this or that problem is enough to supply you with the key to work out your own problems. Practice is the thing. You won't become sharp at putting until you learn what putting is all about. This is true of all phases of golfing. Play often and you will learn to play better. A lower score is a credit to your senses of perseverance and determination, your ability to master the clubs in your golf bag.

One more thing, people basically swing too hard in order to get distance. Distance comes with tempo and balance. It never results from brute force alone. If that were the case, then the weight-lifting champion of the world would find guys like Gary Player, Arnold Palmer, Dan Sikes, Jack Nicklaus, Billy Casper, Lee Trevino and other golfers of class and renown "duck soup" to take.

Play your game of golf for enjoyment. But each time off the first tee, strive to do a little better. Think about your style. Play the game

with earnest confidence in your personal ability to do your best. Most of all, keep your cool!



Moving forward on the fifteenth, towards the green, we are treated further with the sight of pink blossoms on the crab apple trees that line the fairway. Depending on the weather, the blooms greet us in spring and then reappear in the autumn. Here again, we reconnect – this time with a former Ladies League gal pal, as we pass by her memorial maple. Ann Lounsbury



Looking through to Number 7

CHAPTER 3 – THE NEW NINE

1988

Belmont the Second 9

*In 1988 the dream finally came true,
When George bought the land for nine number 2.
Without hesitation he kicked into gear,
And had the grand opening the very next year.
The holes blended seamlessly right from the start,
With the changes to Number 4 playing a big part.
More trees have been added over the years.
Their beauty and difficulty can bring you to tears.
The OGA rated it too low it's true.
We would like them to play it, and see how they do*

Steve L. Haskell

In 1987, George and Jan bought the property next to the clubhouse to build a second nine. George had been interested in purchasing the farm for quite some time. Their neighbour Louise Berry, who owned the property with her husband Colin, recalls: "Years ago, I remember George

asking Colin's mother about buying the land but, no, she wouldn't sell, it was just after grandpa died in 1965." Louise has vivid memories of the day George came down to speak with her husband Colin in 1987. Colin said, "Here comes George, I'm ready for him this time."

When George was almost 60 years old, he figured he had been patient enough and went purposefully out to stop the school bus that Colin Berry was driving at the time and said, "I don't know whether you're interested in selling this place or not, but I either satisfy myself with having nine holes or you sell me the land so I can build another nine holes." They never heard a thing from him for about a year. And almost one year to the day later, Jan remembers

coming in from playing nine holes of golf with George to hear that Colin Berry had called for George. Jan said, "So up George went ... and he was there for quite a while." George remembers, "The conversation lasted a few hours ... it finally was all done over a hand shake and I knew the deal was as good as something written down by lawyers."



Aerial view of 18 holes *circa* 1990

Louise Berry fondly remembers watching George build the course from their farm house window: "We're high enough above the knoll to have seen them building it." When Louise and Colin's son-in-law Joe Morphy worked at the club, they used to sit eating breakfast at their kitchen table and watch Joe cutting the greens. Louise was fascinated by "the bulldozers coming in and pushing the dirt around," but at the same time reflected upon the years when they used to take "cattle down the road and open the gate every morning for them to pasture in that field." She chuckles to herself: "You sure couldn't do that now because there are too many golfers."



Joe Morphy

George worked hard during the summer of 1987 to get the course ready for the following year. Harvey Stover remembers "Archie McPherson coming in with the bulldozer and shaping it and George planting trees, like the three birch trees planted on Number 16." Tucker Johnson acknowledged George as "quite a guy" adding:

One day he came off Number 9 and had some binder twine and some sticks and a hammer in his hand. I said, "where are you going, George?" And he said, "I am going to lay out the new nine. I watched him in that field laying out the design and he knew what he wanted to do; he has great vision. You know, George doesn't say too much, but he knows what to do and then he brought Archie McPherson in with the big machinery and the earth movers and the two of them worked together to build the course - digging the holes, and it finally all came together.

Despite Mother Nature's uncooperative spirit, George and Jan never wavered from their intended opening day. Tucker remembers the summer of 1987 as being hot and very dry, and "the grass wasn't coming along too well." He adds, "George brought in boxes and boxes of tobacco grindings that were left over from the Imperial Tobacco and he spread the tobacco all over the golf course to make the grass grow." Astounded, Tucker said "by golly, if the grass didn't start to grow." It was the same summer of the drought that George built a new well to augment the supply of water to help combat the record dry spell and help the grass grow.



Beautiful gardens

Ironically, it was 27 years later, to the day that the new nine opened on July 1st, 1988. Jan's emotions wavered in remembering the opening day: "The first ones to go out that day were our four kids and they all planted willow twigs around the pond on the 12th hole, and now those trees are 20 feet high."

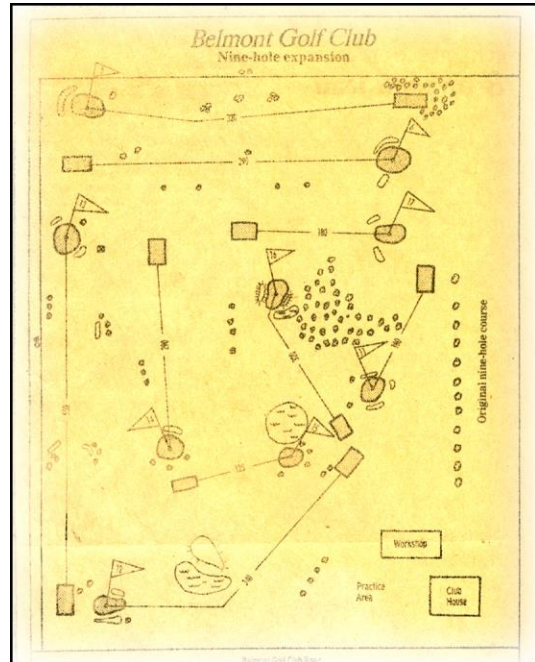


One of several Austrian pines on the course comes into view on the right. As the cross over to six happens, the birch trees mustn't be overlooked. As is well known, birches are not generally known for their longevity, but the birches at Belmont seem to fare quite well – evidence of an excellent beginning, great circulation and the general properties of a happy planting ground. Ann Lounsbury

With the expansion, there was a small bump in the membership rates the following year, and still no initiation fee; Jan proudly says, "We only had 500 membership tags made." Like other clubs in the area, it was also the year when Belmont implemented a dress code – with shorts no less than 16 inches, sleeved shirts, shoes and socks. Tucker Johnstone chuckles remembering Jan measuring shorts with a ruler: "We used to get the biggest kick of out watching Jan tackle someone with a pair of short shorts."

On the surface, the course came together seamlessly to create 18 holes. But it took 13 months of great ingenuity and vision - and a lot of hard work - to make it happen. George passionately explains the details of his design, providing a few tips along the way (Times Journal article, 1988):

- *Number 5 (320 yard, par 4) – The first of two new holes that will play in the front nine. The tee is set back into mature trees. Some young trees sit directly between you and the pin. You're out of bounds right and beyond the green. Play your tee to the crest set left in the fairway about 250 yards out and then pitch in to a two-tiered green. A grass bunker rolls out behind the putting surface.*
- *Number 6 (290 yards, par 4) – You are straight away to the largest green on the course. Small trees to the left and right shouldn't come into play. Sand protects the front of the green, both left and right.*



The New 9 Expansion

- *Number 11 (180 yards, par 3) – Bad news for left-handers who can't play a draw, especially if the markers are set back on the tee. Right-handers can play a slice into the green that is sheltered halfway out by trees on the right and is surrounded by three sand traps.*
- *Number 12 (340 yards, par 4) – Give this one a thought. Prudence will tell you to stay left to avoid the pond and hill that threaten on the right. But a long-ball hitter can clear the pond if he doesn't get too greedy. A three wood down to a three iron are your best bets to a good approach position. But be straight. This one's a ball guzzler. Sand guards the front right and the left length of the green.*

- *Number 13 (550 yards, par 5) – Straight away with out of bounds on your left. Twin bunkers, left and right, challenge your tee shot, so steer true. There’s another bunker on the right to keep you thinking on the second stroke, while sand also sits front right and back left of the green. If you push it off way right of the green, there’s a hydro tower coming back. Under dry conditions,*

this one’s reachable with a solid driver and a three iron.

- *Number 14 (290 yards, par 4) – A few small trees on the right, but otherwise an open fairway. Second shot is to a small, slightly elevated green with a large sand trap staring you in the face. The elevation falls off to the front left and the green runs off to the right.*



Peeking through trees to Number 15

- *Number 15 (125 yards, par 3) – Just a pitching wedge, but watch out for what you can’t see. The green is cradled in a tiny valley and sits up tight to a pond on*

its left. Be straight, or stay right and stay safe.

- *Number 16 (320 yards, par 4) – The prettiest of the new additions. The green,*

nestled between two mounds, sits slightly below you with trees on the right side that camouflage a pond that peeks out at you. Another pond on your left and the Number 11 green to your right may be distracting. Play just a little left off the tee to avoid approaching over water or babying it over the mound. Go right at all and enjoy the hunt.

- *Number 17 (180 yards, par 3) – A patch of trees on the right will swallow up a few errant tee shots and sand protects the front of the green on both sides. The green lips up and away from you, but then levels out.*



The glory of springtime colour as captured in the rosy pink of crab apple trees along ninth fairway is highlighted by the brilliant yellows of the sun burst locust. Is it possible that the ninth hole is the crème de al crème of any area golf course hole in the spring? The count for flowering trees and bushes is about 60. Ann Lounsbury.

The course flourished as an 18-hole course. Audrey Churchill, a longtime member confessed: “I loved the place, so it didn’t really feel like a change to me.” Audrey’s buddy Helen McKinnon, also a longtime member, admitted: “It was nice to have two nines because sometimes when there was a wait, you could go out the back nine (if you asked permission).” Keith Neil and his longtime friend and golf partner Glen Vosburg believe “18 holes made it a real course.” Ross Masseur agrees that “Making

the course 18-holes was the best thing they ever did.” However, Linda Masseur feels, “It was more like a family with nine holes because waiting between nines meant everyone was in the clubhouse eating Jan’s delicious hamburgers.” Lyle and Muriel Young enjoyed the challenge of the new course, but admit,

We used to play two rounds of nine and you knew where everything was, but now with 18 holes things are different. There are a lot more

members now and you can't get on the course as easy... They also redesigned Number 4 ... I thought it was a good idea because the game of golf is meant to be 18 holes.

Muriel admits that "the back nine is a long ways up with lots of hills and the new Number 4 always used to get to me." Lyle Young remembered when the hydro went down through Number 4 and "the helicopters flew in with all the towers." They call it the signature hole at the course and it was designed about 20 years. The Ontario Hydro had approached Jan and George, offering them a financial package to bring heavy equipment onto the golf course and replace towers and power lines that ran across the holes: "We redesigned the hole and they paid for it. We took out some bush down the right side, made a pond and turned it into a dogleg. A straightaway par four was made into a dogleg right by moving the old green from the path of the new towers." The new hole was made into a 365-yard par-four with a huge pond guarding the green - a tricky little hole that requires pinpoint accuracy on both the drive and the approach.



Number 4 signature hole

"All it takes to play the hole is a driver, then a nine-iron or wedge to a large, but very sloped green. Three puts later and you have a bogey. I can vouch for that," chuckled George, who added that "Its fun to watch people leak it right on that hole. Even though it is only a 150-yard shot onto the green, you can put up some big numbers on that hole. I think it's one of the most intimidating holes on the course." Tucker Johnstone reflects upon the days before the new nine was built and admires George's vision: "Well, I saw the field before he started, and he sure had vision. I also heard other reports about how George had helped so many other people redesign courses, but a lot of people don't know that. But he has helped design things ... he has helped a lot of people."



Apple orchard full of flowers or fruit, depending on the season, just behind the tee blocks on fifteen. Ann Lounsbury.



A welcoming host of Spruce and an alleyway of Sunburst Locust trees line either side of Number 2 fairway as you approach the green. Ann Lounsbury.



Constructing the new nine

CHAPTER 4 –ALL YOU DO HERE IS PLAY GOLF

Pro Shop Girl – A True Story

A fellow came into the Pro Shop one day.

Asked the girl, “Do I need a tee time to play?”

“No,” she replied. “As a matter of fact,

Just go outside, and put your balls in the rack.”

Steve L. Haskell

Some say the club is really a throwback to the old days when golfers walked and showed up at the club only to play a game of golf. When you want to play the course, you don't phone the pro shop and book a tee time. Instead, you show up and drop money on the counter and then drop a ball in the rack next to the first tee and wait your turn. When your ball reaches the bottom of the rack, it's your turn to tee off. It's one of the last courses using a ball rack on the first tee to determine the order of play.

Even though you may have to get up bright and early to have your ball in the rack first, George is still fine with the fact that anyone can play golf there at the last minute. George said, “You can always play at our course. Even if it takes you an hour wait, you will still get to play that day.” In fact, you can arrive at 7:00 a.m. and find people sleeping in their cars, reading the paper, having a coffee, and just waiting for the

clock to strike seven so they can hit the course.



First ball in the rack - Brian Edwards

Tucker Johnstone says, "I love that there are no tee times: the ball racks are fine. I get out at the club early in the morning, read the paper and then I see Jan put the light on." George Wise, who has coordinated an early morning group of about 20 guys called the *Coffin Dodgers*, earlier named the Melville Marvels, for the past 13 years, says, "We don't have any trouble with the ball racks because we have one of our guys comes out and puts all the balls in." Ron Bishop and George Wise are proud of the early morning league they created along with about 20 other guys. George Wise says, "It's almost like our own private golf course." The Coffin Dodgers attracted Ron Lidster to Belmont: "I retired a few years ago and joined the Dodgers full

time and have played a long time with George Wise and Ron Bishop. We have about 25 guys in our group at any given time and we all enjoy the friendship and laughter we share on a daily basis." George Wise and Ron Bishop, longtime friends and golf partners, shared a funny story about the ball rack. George Wise remembers:

One time, the one ball rack was full and the second rack was half full and it got down part way in the one rack (on the front nine) and one of the guys said, "I'm going to take some of the balls out of this rack and put them in the other rack." So when he took the balls out and let them all go at once and all the balls went on the ground ... He didn't make too many friends that day.



The Coffin Dodgers

Angie and Pete Harder say, "What we like about Belmont Golf Club is that we don't need a tee time; for us that is very important, as we almost never know ahead of time exactly when we'll get a chance to go play. And the fact that there are no corporate or charitable tournaments at Belmont Golf Club is of the utmost importance as well. We hear all too often where members at other clubs have to play around these events and the frustration they feel at not being able to play, especially on weekends. If there is a tournament, it's probably for the members and nobody else. You can't beat that!"

Ron Bishop also remembers when George "used to be out at the ball rack when it was busy and he would make sure twosomes were joined. He would say, "you guys play together' and he would take their ball out and would get people connected." George Wise said, "Jan used to do more than that. She would make sure people alternate, first rack and second rack, so the poor guy that played his nine didn't have to wait until everyone was out of the rack." George remembers years ago when "at 6:30 in the morning both racks would be full on a Sunday morning."

Sue Todd, the clubhouse manager who has worked at the club for 30 years, says "people don't really understand the ball rack." She shared some funny stories about the phone calls she frequently gets: "I have had calls for everything - 'Has it rained out there? How many puddles are on the golf course? Do you think it's going to stop raining in the next few minutes, at least by the time we get out there?' They want to know how wet the golf course is all the

time and ask, 'Do you think it is going to dry up soon'? I mostly get questions about the weather and about how busy it is going to be: 'Do you think we can get off at a certain time?' I explain that we don't have tee-off times and then they ask, 'Do you think we can get off right away?' Exasperated, Sue explains, "Well, I don't know how busy it is going to be when you arrive."



Gary Anderson and Bill Herald

Brian Edwards talks about one early morning arrival at the club:

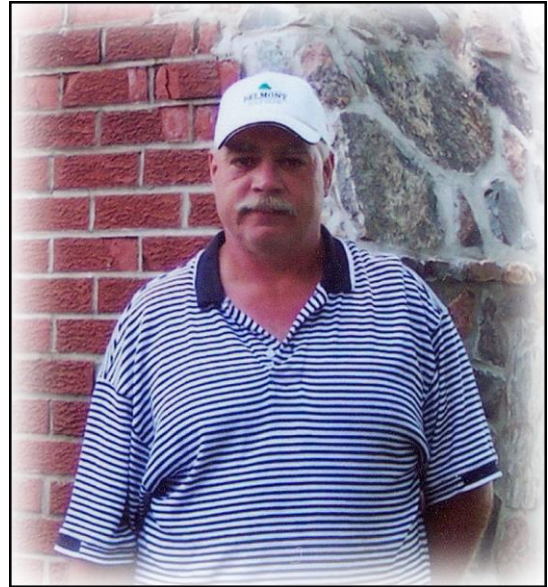
I drove out to the club and I had set my alarm clock wrong and it turned out to be half past four in the morning. So, I had a sleep at the top of the hill before I pulled into the parking lot. Sometimes, Freddie and I would come out at half past two in the morning to beat Tucker out and put a ball in the rack. Another day, I came out at half past three to beat Freddie and I didn't beat him. We used to have a battle for getting the first ball in the rack. These days, I get out at the club about 5:45 a.m., put my ball in the rack and have a little sleep and a cup of coffee. Sometimes, I have to be woken up,

but one day they didn't wake me up and played nine holes without me.

Steve Haskell, another longtime member says, "I love that they still have the ball racks because they run themselves. Everybody you talk to is the same and they say, 'I don't understand.'" Steve says, "I am always honest and tell them, 'why don't you come and play at a good golf course.'" Harvey Stover adds, "You could play with anybody. It doesn't matter who they are, it's that close a club because nobody will turn you down for a game."

Belmont is probably the only course in the country not selling beer in the clubhouse. Yet George and Jan pride themselves in not having a liquor license and not holding tournaments anymore. George is very clear: "We are totally different from other clubs. We still use the ball rack, we have no liquor license, no tournaments; we just sell golf." George once considered applying for a license but when he phoned around to several private courses, he discovered it was not profitable." George also admitted he, "didn't want golfers hanging around after dark" because he and Jan live upstairs over the clubhouse. Jan said the nice thing about the way they run the club is that "at any time, Mary and Bill can bring Charlie and June out to play golf and we don't have

to worry about any nonsense going on – they just come out and enjoy themselves."



Men's A Flight Handicap Champion 2003,
2006 John McLennan

At Belmont, all you do is play golf. For members over the years, George and Jan have organized hundreds of events that include opening mixed scramble events to welcome members, men's and ladies' leagues, men's and ladies' club and handicap championships, and for a few years a ladies' inter-club competition with golfers from Belmont, Pleasant Valley, and Talbot Park Golf Club.



Belmont Golf Club receives a plaque from the Elgin Cancer Society for fundraising in The Longest Day of Golf. George and Metta Hunking-Atchison were two of the Belmont golfers.

The leagues have changed over the years according to Sue Todd: "They used to have different rules with more ladies playing and a big executive, but now you can play nine or 18 whenever you want to play it." She explained,

It doesn't have to be done at a certain time. It is a small executive, and they are just there to have fun. There is really no competition in this at all ... The Cancer Charity events run every month for fundraising. I don't know how that started, but I think it was likely because we've lost a few ladies to cancer.

For the past decade, the focus of attention for many members has been to participate in the events such as the Canadian Cancer Society's Longest Day of Golf that raise money for different charities. In recent years, ladies at the club organize monthly fund raisers and make it a fun event with prizes. For example, in 1994, players at Belmont played 72 holes and raised \$1,200 for cancer research. In 2011, the same tournament attracted more than 84 ladies for the 7th annual Stokes Fore Cancer tournament and raised \$3,000. The funds go towards the work of Dr. Ann Chambers, of London Health Sciences Centre, in her breast cancer research project.



Seventh Annual Strokes Fore Cancer tournament - 2011



Ladies Club Champion 2010, Senior
Ladies Club Champion 1994-1996,
2005-2009, Ruby Leverton

Muriel Young remembers when you could take a guest to the last night of the Women's League finale. She said, "I took my sister when I went, and it was just so much fun. And back then the prizes would be like a dribble glass, or some trick thing. It was something that didn't cost very much, but

everybody got a prize, and they were great. I wouldn't have missed that for nothing." Lyle Young said, "We both got a plaque for the tournaments we were in ... I've still got them - they're not going any place. Muriel went on to say, "In 1985, I won the ladies championship and in 1987, Lyle won the Men's League. In 1974/75, the first year Keith and Glen joined the club, Glen proudly remembers that "I won Rookie of the Year that year."



Ladies Club Champion 1990-2000, 2002-
2006, Linda White.

In the early 80s, Steve Haskell remembers organizing the junior league with his wife Barb and long time friend Jimmy Willsie. Steve recalls “running a junior event for 3 or 4 years and then when our kids got older and started working, it ended.”



Ladies League Event.; Anne Lounsbury (L) and Barb Abel (R)

Audrey Churchill talks about one of her proudest moments:

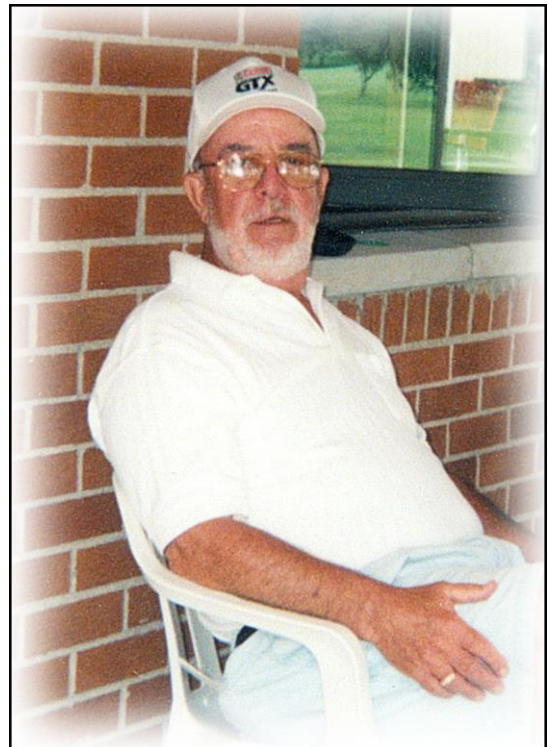
I think the one I was the most proud of, even though it likely caused the most controversy, was the year that Jan and George had the trophy for the Senior Ladies, in memory of Lillian Caldwell. I wanted to win it. I never said that to anybody, except Bob, and he was a friend of Lil’s nephew, and then of course Lil’s brother knew about it too. I said, “Bob, I want that so bad,”

Hole-in-Ones

A point of pride for many golfers is achieving a hole-in-one. There is a long list of members – men, women, and juniors who have recorded a hole-in one at the club. Brian Edwards recorded the course’s first hole-in-one of the 1998 season, aching the par-3, 112-yard, 15th hole with a

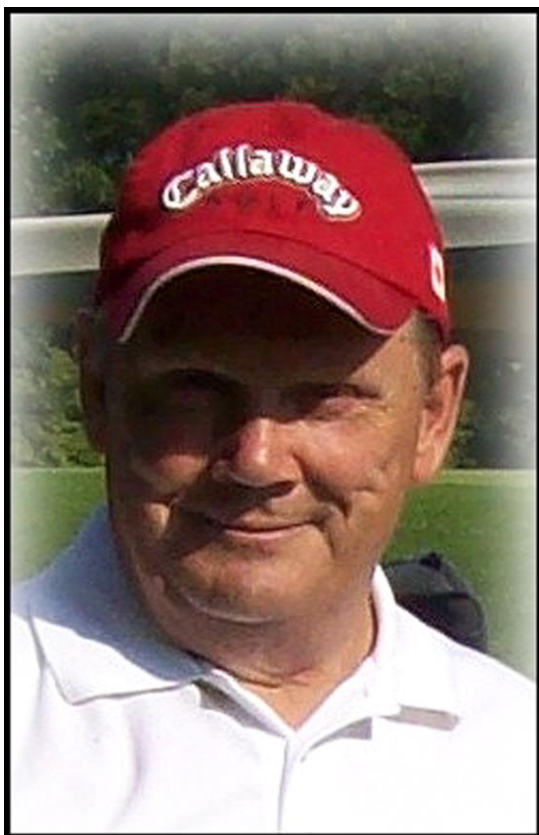
and I won it. You know, I cried and I think that was the highlight for me.

George Wise remembers having “a great men’s league. When we first started the men’s league, you had to play with the guy that you were playing against.” George Wise and Ron Bishop remember organizing the league and all the fun they had doing so.



George Wise

pitching wedge. Club records show that it was Brian’s third hole-in-one at Belmont over the years. His name went on a special plaque and the club awarded him a trophy. After 39 years, Ross Masseur explained in great detail the hole-in-one he got on Number 8.



2006 Hole-in-One Award recipient Ross Massecar

He said, "It was a windy day and I remember the ball coming in. The pin was at the back left. I saw the ball hit the front of the green and thought I overshot the green. I walked back and looked behind the green and my buddy said, 'why don't you look in the hole?' I walked up and there it was."

David Montgomery describes his hole-in-one on the 17th green as, "A once in a lifetime thing." It is even more of an accomplishment knowing that David was born without a left arm. Montgomery says, "It never made a difference to me. I grew up on a farm and was always an outdoor type. I started playing golf when I was about 10

years old, but it was the first time I've hit the 17th green."

Bob Stover, a long time member at Belmont, was the first and only member to ace the 259-yard, par-four, first hole.



Men's A Flight Handicap 1986 Champion
Bob Stover

Amazingly, his grandsons, Rob and Mike Wakefield, both fired hole-in-ones the same day during a Junior Championship. Rob, 14 years old at the time, spread the news and hustled back to his group to resume play; meanwhile, Rob's 12-year-old brother Mike stepped up and followed his brother's lead. They had scored back-to-back aces in the space of five minutes, from the same family at the same tournament. Jan remarks: "It is very, very unique. I can't imagine this sort

of thing happens a lot, especially from two kids. What better day to do it than at the club championship.”

Grampa Bob marshaled at the tournament and proudly said at the time, “We were riding in the cart and we went to watch Rob hit. I thought it was a good looking shot and then we went over to have a look and sure enough ... it was in the hole.”



Rob and Mike Wakefield



Number 16 pond

Just Great Golf

Tucker Johnstone acknowledges George and Jan for their efforts in running a 24/7 business and for handling it so well:

Over all the years that I have been there when they have a scramble, Jan has to get up first, and get things organized with the girls for people to eat something afterwards. George has to cut the greens, and Shelley helps too, but then George tees it up and plays, then he comes in and gets all the scores organized and then talks to everybody, he loves to chat – he’s a real people person.

Many members talk about the sense of belonging they feel at Belmont. Tucker Johnstone remembers George saying, “Our course is more for the lunch-pail people.” Tucker said, “They always had enough members and it was mostly word of mouth – no advertising. Brian Edwards said, “There are a lot of places we don’t mix – you know, we’re just average people, but we’re happy to know that at Belmont, there was no la-di-da.” Brian marveled at the fact that,

Nobody is ever turned away - never. Jan is really good when a new member comes along; she won’t even bother with us, but she’ll say, “you are going with those guys,” whether we like it or not, which is good. It is good for golf too because I don’t like to see twosomes or singles. It is supposed to be four ... Jan introduces new people and always looks after them.

George Wise adds:

I think it is the people at Belmont that make it great. I never belonged to any other club, so I don’t know what other clubs are like. I have been at Union many times when I was working, and I had a company membership, like I played there when I wanted to. It just wasn’t the same. The atmosphere is not the same. You have to be in the clique, or you are not in it. Where at Belmont, I can come out here tomorrow morning, sit out there on the bench, and I wouldn’t be here 15 minutes, before I was invited to play with somebody.

The one thing Tucker Johnstone loves about Belmont is, “It never changes, and you can always go out and look around, see someone, and pick up with anyone to play golf. You can get a game whenever you go, it doesn’t matter when you go. Gloria went out by herself once and someone said, ‘Hey Glo, let’s go.’”

Brian Edwards observes:

I haven’t seen a lot of members come and go, you know. I bet you can count them on one hand the number of members that have come and gone. And I don’t think I have seen too many people who are dissatisfied ... it’s a good place because people keep coming back every year.

For Ron Bishop, “It’s the people all together” that make Belmont a special place.”



View of Number 18 from Number 10 pond. "The evergreens on Number 18 are hungry for round orbs it seems, if the number of players found amongst the trees to the right or the left is any indication. Many a good match has been decided by a roll into the branches here. Ann Lounsbury.



Looking at the right hand side of Number 16 green from Number 17

CHAPTER 5 –HOME AWAY FROM HOME

What does this place mean to me?

Well, I look out over the place
I am proud as hell of George
We never had any money, or any education
And look what he created
That is all that matters
For me, if George is happy
That is all that matters
It is good enough for me

Janet Loughlean

What does this place mean to me?

I guess security
You know people say to me
It must be your desire
You probably had this burning desire
all your life to have a golf course
No, I say!
My burning desire was to make a living
To look after my family and make a living
It sure is a lot of hard work for something
you
might have dreamt about

George Loughlean



Early morning on Number 8

George and Jan built a home and “a home away from home” for many others in the small farming community they started in 50 years ago. Jan says, “It’s our life with family at Belmont.”

Over the years, George and Jan earned their way into the farming community they started in. They were once considered outsiders, but are now considered “great neighbours.” Louise Berry always appreciated that “Jan and George still take time to wave.” Marilyn Campbell

acknowledged George and Janet as “wonderful neighbours. They always have time for a chat, and lots of good laughs. And if one needs a little help, George will be there in a flash.” She adds:

One time, I recall Dugald, and Jim at the farm across the road from the golf course, and they happened to get stuck with the old tractor, and in a few minutes, George was over with his tractor, and they were out of the predicament in a short time. Now that is a good neighbour.”



Jan & George

Marilyn confesses she had “never been on the course.” Word got around, of course, so George gave her a ride on a cart and Jan hosted lunch. Marilyn said, “The golf course teases me every time I drive by and I

always wondered how many trees that were planted over the years.” George commented one day, “You know Marilyn, I was just wondering that myself and one day I might try and count them.” As it

happens, George spent the better part of a day counting trees and came up with a total of 1,735 trees. Marilyn chuckled: “We always have lots of laughs. Every spring, I seem to wonder what George will do to change the place. I can’t imagine what there is left because it is just so beautiful. But George always comes through and finds something.”

“There isn’t another club in the world that operates with two people outside,” says Jim McCann. George and daughter Shelley passionately care for the course. In fact, Shelley was honoured as one of three Canadian women among 88 greenskeepers

in North America nominated for Superintendent of the Year, an award given annually by GOLFWEEK, a popular weekly published in Orlando, Florida. Most days, you can see Shelley and her dogs, Megan and Maggie, riding on the equipment next to her as she works away. Shelley and George normally work seven days a week outside cutting greens, fairways, roughs, and tees. Jan says: “George is always tinkering with things to make the course a little more difficult for the good players. He lets the rough grow longer or will always think about adding a pond or a sand trap to make things harder.”



Shelley Leverton on the mower.

What Does this Place Mean to You?

"I still think of George and Jan as my second parents," says Carl Fishback, adding:

I will never forget how much they helped me through my growing up years. I will always consider Jan and George as my second parents. I have so much respect for George because he showed me how to fix a door, how to put a floor in, how to put a window in. When I bought my house in St. Thomas in 1970, I came out to ask George how to fix something and he would explain how to do it ... But just things you picked up, you know. How to fix a lawn mower? How to get something going? How to mix oil and gas together for the old two strokes? I learned the kind of things that if you don't know how to do it, you could muck up. It would cost you a lot of money on stupidity, you know, but it was just a good growing up. It just gave me things I would never learn in a factory or growing up in town. You know, how to look after grass. I still remember every fall George always spent a lot of money on the greens, so the greens would be good in the spring, and you come out here in the spring.

Audrey Churchill says,

Belmont was a lot of good times. It was like family and I can remember one time when I first went out there. Bruce, my husband, had just passed away and I was sitting on the bench one Sunday waiting for someone to come. Jan quietly sat there with me for a long time, introducing me to everybody that walked by. They always had time for us. We felt like such a part of the

place and we watched their family grow up.

The way Audrey sees it "It was family, and George and Jan say hello to everyone. Next to my family, Belmont meant everything to me. I remember one night coming off the course and my daughter and her husband were standing waiting for me. They said, 'we never get a chance to see you' so we thought we'd come to you." Audrey called it her, "Home away from home," and said, "There aren't enough words to praise Jan and George for what they have created together ... a place where you could drop your grandkids, let them play, and not worry about them."



Ladies Club Champion 1984, 1984, 1986,
1987 Audrey Churchill

Helen McKinnon cherished the friendships she'd made at Belmont and talked about the friends who had come and gone. "Year after year," Helen said, "the golf course improved and the flowers and trees were spectacular. I don't know how Shelley ever

did it. I remember one tree by the clubhouse that used to gather the bees in the fall and the birdhouses were nice, too. It was a nice place to walk around ... I really miss it." She described her most memorable experience as:

The surprise 89th birthday party her friends threw for her at the course. We had great times there at all the different parties we enjoyed where Jan would cater the food and look after us. It was something I looked forward to every day. It was my whole summer ... part of my life. That part is really missing in my life now, but I do go out every so often. When you go out and look around, it is such a beautiful spot. In the spring, all the wild flowers come up and the blossoms on the trees are in full bloom.



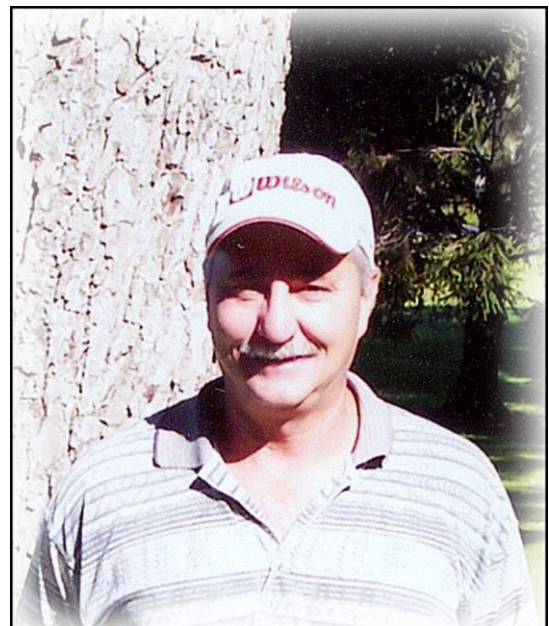
Ladies 1984 Handicap Champion Helen McKinnon

For Sue it is very straightforward: "Belmont Golf Club is about family, with everyone. It's not just the job you come to, it's the people that own the place and how they run it. It is like family."

Lyle and Muriel Young describe Belmont as home:

We have known George and Jan forever and we always get a hug when we see them. It is just a great place, it is the friendships we've made and the friendship we've had with George and Jan over the years. We felt like we belonged there; we watched their kids grow up and saw the course grow and develop into something spectacular.

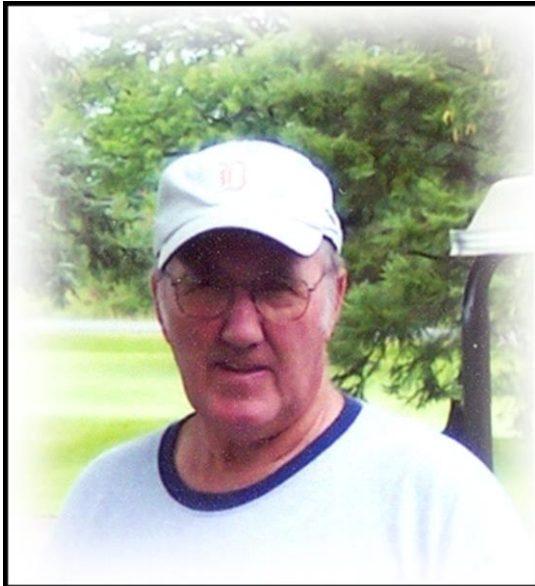
For Glen Vosburg, "It's a friendly place." Keith Neil adds that "George and Jan treat us like family and we appreciate it. They are also great golf ambassadors."



Men's 2006 Senior B Handicap Champion Keith Neil

Tucker Johnstone calls it “a walk in the park, it is really beautiful. It’s a place that you can go to and get away from everything. Everybody is friendly and nice.” Gloria, Tucker’s wife, said “It’s nice to go some place where everybody says hello.”

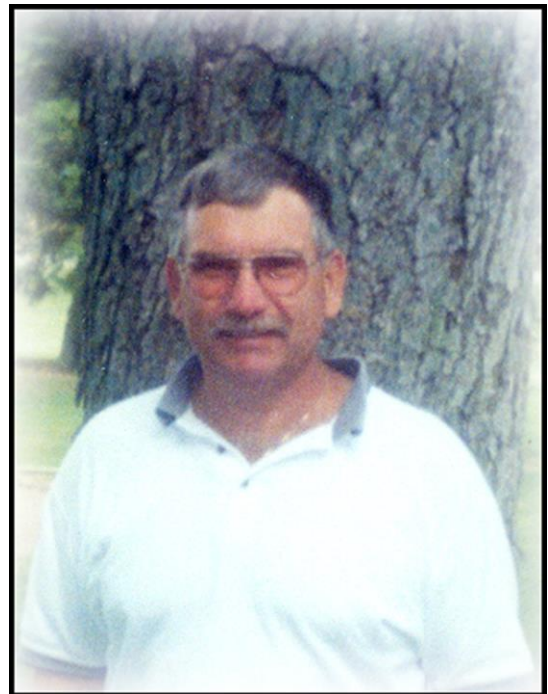
Brian Edwards owes his life to Belmont. He says, “I tell you, it has meant the world to me. I would have been dead by now because I stopped drinking when I started golfing. I don’t know what I would have done without George and Jan. It has been super.”



Men’s Super Senior Club Champion 2001,
2005, 2006 Tucker Johnstone

Steve Haskell credited Belmont with “getting him through his work week.” He said, “I had a job that you could take home with you, but instead I headed to Belmont and forgot about work. The people are a whole different group of people. Golf has really helped me relieve stress, but also helped me keep working. I would come golfing right after work two or three days a

week. I remember having a laugh every day out there.” Steve went on to say, “Everyone is comfortable at Belmont, it’s the family there and the people you meet. You can get a game any time you want. It’s funny, you see a lot of people coming and going, but a lot of them come back. I’ve seen a lot of change through the years, but George and Jan never change. They always make you feel welcome and they were great when my kids worked there – they were great with them.”



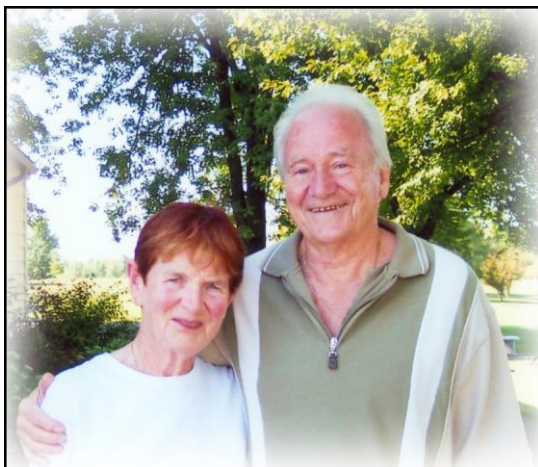
Men’s C Flight Club Champion 2001, 2003
Steve Haskell

“The word that comes to mind when I think of Belmont is happiness,” says Tucker Johnstone. It’s just a nice place and Jan and George treat everyone equally ... everyone is treated the same. No matter whether you are a kid, middle-aged, or an older person,

it doesn't matter; we're all treated the same."

Harvey Stover says:

Right from the start it was like home because we were there so much. We always got along with George and Jan and their kids. I've met some wonderful people out there, some have gone now, but it was the camaraderie. There were never any differences at Belmont, everyone was treated the same. I appreciated the friendships. We all got along and everyone played golf and it was just a fun place to come. We were made to feel welcome. Even now, I come out and talk to everyone, so the friendships from all those years I still have them. Our roots are at Belmont, it's kind of like being a part of a big family. We grew up with the family and were all together.



Jan and Jack Lane

Pete and Angie Harder first played Belmont in the summer of 1997. The following spring they became members and have been there ever since. They comment:

Right from the beginning we were made to feel welcome there and by now it feels like our second home. When we met George and Jan we met some of the nicest people we have ever known. Jan, with her genuine interest in others' well-being, their work, their lives, or whatever. And George, with his great sense of humour, ever-ready smile and always joking and teasing. This couple with their strong work ethic and their cheerful pleasant disposition make coming back every year very easy.



Ladies 2007 Club Champion Angie Harder

Carl Fishback says,

It the whole place ... when I get back on Number 4 and look down the tower lines, I know that I used to live five towers away. I can see the top of the house that I grew up in ... it's hard to explain, this place is part of me. When I come out to the golf course, a feeling comes over me and I remember it being the greatest part of my life."



George and Ken Hough



Enjoying the steak dinner at the Men's Annual Invitational



Jan looking out

People Who Have Come and Gone

Ron Bishop acknowledged Belmont as “a part of my life.” He said, “It is just part of your day, part of your week. It is just automatic now that you get up to go golfing. We’ve met a lot of people at Belmont. They come and go.” George Wise quickly adds, “A lot of great people have come and gone.”

Sue feels sad when she thinks about “the people who have come and gone.” Steve Haskell says, “I still can’t play at Belmont without thinking about my good friend Jimmy Willsie.”

But, Jan says, “Some people come back again.” As she notes,

You know, people will come back again or come out to visit at certain times of the year when the trees are out in bloom because it is so pretty.

We planted 98 percent of the trees. They weren’t here and George cut the holes out of the bush. When George and I play golf, I always comment on something or often I’ll go out and sit on Ross Moore’s bench and talk to him. He faces out over the 16th hole, under a tree. It’s great to chat with him.



Honouring Ross Moore

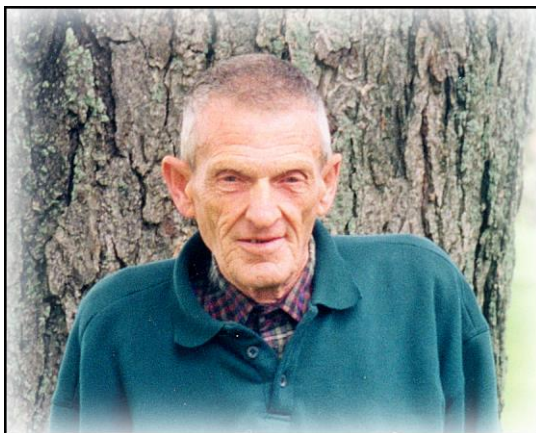
With emotion, Jan adds: “George and I feel so proud when families ask us to honour their loved ones. Ross Moore loved it at Belmont and it’s wonderful when people want to acknowledge it as a place to come back home to; it’s an honour for us.”

Carl Fishback is also very clear:

Well all I know is - and this is a true story, and you can phone people right now, and they will authenticate it - when I get cremated, they are going to put me on the old, original nine, eh. They are just going to come out here, and have a couple of drinks of cheap whiskey or good vodka. They are going to throw me on the original nine, and my sister knows it, and everybody knows it... That is where my ashes are going on the original nine. I hope I don’t kill anything. Keep me away from the greens.



Honouring Bill Wall



Honouring Art Ingram



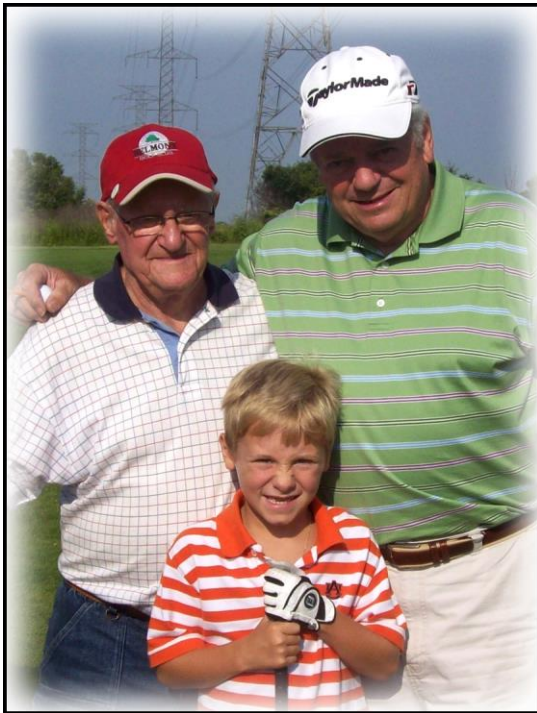
Honouring Bob Barnes



Honouring Joyce Manners

Celebrating Family Occasions

Other members talked about celebrating memorable family occasions at Belmont. Lyle Young remembers when 2 years ago when he, his son-in-law Ross Masecar, his son Don, and grandson celebrated his 90th birthday. Lyle says: "I will tell you that I enjoy the friendships that I've developed over the years."



Lyle Young, son and grandson

Most everyone talked about the park-like setting with the beautiful trees, gardens and bushes. Some say the course is one of the most manicured in the area. The course itself is user friendly as well, although not as easy as you might think. Pete and Angie Harder admit the role that trees play in their game;

When we first started playing here, for the most part it was okay to spray your shots somewhat. Usually you still had a decent chance at a shot, but any more you will more often than not be punished. The trees and bushes have grown and filled in so much that you must stay in the fairways to shoot a good round. And that is a good thing, because if you are going around spraying your shots every which way that should give us the incentive to improve our accuracy, our game. On the other hand, it won't cost you a dozen balls to play a round here either; it might cost you strokes, but not like a lot of courses where every wild shot seems to eat up your ball and cost you extra penalty strokes. It's not uncommon to play the same ball for four or five rounds.

Audrey Churchill was moved by all the beautiful mountain ash trees on the course. She reflects upon the meaning of the mountain ash tree:

Linda and I were at a tournament, and somebody had a plaque on a tree, and I said to her, "That is what you can do for me, Linda." Mountain ash trees have a lot of memories for me, because in our home on the farm where Grampa and Gramma lived they had mountain ash trees ... I always remember when George planted all the little cherry trees

along the ninth and saying to someone one day, "Well, when I get old, I will have George drive me around, and see all the trees." And then they grew so much when I was still there that, well, I am still driving around myself.

George proudly says: "Many people talk about that maple tree on Number 8 ... I guess it was hit by lightening a few times, and it is still half there, but, yeah they really

love it." Jan proudly acknowledges the marvelous accomplishment and the beauty of the place.

For Ron Bishop, "The big old one on 8 is pretty much gone, but it was so beautiful in the fall ... My favourite tree is the red maple up on eight by the green on the right hand side. George Wise would get up behind it, and he would hit the tree."



Number 8

As George remembers:

The only trees that were here when we started in 1960 were on Number 3 and Number 4, you know in that area around Number 3. We cleaned all the trees out of the back of the bush area ... And then over by 16, you know, 11, 16. Other than

that, all the trees we planted. There was nothing here, just farm land."

Ron Bishop also remembers: "I saw the trees grow, they were just wee trees when we first started in 1961 and a lot of trees have died off now."

Tucker Johnstone talks about George and Jan proudly, saying “they are just something.” He adds, “For them to take that land and create what they have is something. I remember George saying to me one time, “Tuck, I drove by the place and saw this chunk of land and wanted to get something together.” Tucker went on to

say, “They took that piece of land and started with nine and then they build the other nine, and just look what they got. Hell, it is just like a park. You go out there, and all the trees. You know in the spring, how beautiful it is out there, like in May.”



Sprinklers on Number 9 Green

Tucker goes on to say,

George always had a vision about what he wanted to do with the course. Once he got the new nine situated, then they started planting trees ... He planted hundreds and hundreds of trees. ... I remember when they brought in that great big evergreen; somebody in town give it to them, and they brought it out

and put it behind, would be Number 9 green, I think. ... But I always remember George telling us out on Number 5, “You guys are hitting the ball all over the place, but pretty soon, in a few years laughing you are going to have to hit it down the fairway. And all the different things he’s done with building the tee offs, straightening them out, and digging ponds, and oh god. Like Number 7, putting the

wall up in front. That really made it great. ... And then putting the trap in behind, and clearing out behind the green and all that stuff. He has done a hell of a job. And then expanding Number 4, when he put the tee back, and then moving the green over to the right with the water on the right. There are so many things he's done.

change some of the holes. He said, "Number 4 is all together different, even from before the hydro lines went through, the trees were moved back and all the brush was cleared out."

Tucker concludes, "I just call it a walk in the park ... I enjoy the walk. That is what I enjoy, the walk. It is so peaceful."

Harvey Stover agrees that "the biggest changes over the years have been all the trees and the work that has been done to



Spring Blossoms on Number 10

CHAPTER 6 – THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES . . .

George and Jan have created a place where memories are stored and experiences are treasured. Many people shared stories – some funny, some sad, but all very memorable about the meaning of Belmont Golf Club and the gratitude they feel towards Jan and George.

First of all, thank you Jan and George and their wonderful staff for all the hours we spend at Belmont Golf Course and we're hoping for more to come. One memory that stands out is a closing party many years ago. It was very cold outside, to the point where you could see your breath, but not to fear - the Cider Punch was on hand and the evening warmed up quickly. What a wonderful party as usual!

Donna and Wally Lockwood

To the Loughleans – Bravo for a job well done! We appreciated the convenient location of the Belmont course, when we lived on the 11th concession Yarmouth Township. In 2006, we moved to an apartment in St. Thomas. Guess what? We drive from St. Thomas and golf 5 days most weeks. Once in the car, it is not far to travel. We thank Shelley and George as they keep the course “park like,” which makes for a pleasant game of golf, helping us ignore our score. In my diary June 2, 1986 we had just left putting on Number 7 green and were headed to Number 8 tee-off, when we noticed the top portion of the tractor, in the pond. There was no sign of Shelley. We heard afterwards that the machine had locked up and pulled the tractor into the pond. Shelley had jumped off and had gone to the clubhouse, apparently OK, but shaken. Who wouldn't be? Thanks to all for your friendliness.

Donna and Earl Grawburg

Congratulations on 50 years of providing fun for thousands of us! Marion and I have had memberships at Belmont for over 20 years. My secretary, Gail Woodhouse (Joe) in my retiring year said, “you will like Belmont.” No doubt about it. We enjoy: a family run course, where you can chat with the owners and family anytime; an out in the country setting that is just beautiful; there are no “tee times” and we rarely wait; there is no bar and people come to golf; no geese and love those dogs; the challenge of Number 4 and Number 7.

Marion and Paul Lord

John and I joined Belmont Golf Course in 1990. We played at another course for 20 years and when they expanded we decided to try Belmont because it was close to home and 18 holes. We were impressed with the condition of the course and enjoyed playing it. The next year we joined Belmont and have never looked back. It was wonderful to play on a golf course where the owners put the course first and look after their members. I was involved in the ladies section and was ladies captain for 2 years, in 1994 and 1995. We played at Belmont until 1996. I bought a pizza business in August 1995 and found that I could not golf and run a business, so the golf had to go. I really missed my golf. In 2009, we sold the business and I am happy to say that we are back playing at Belmont. The course is in great shape, thanks to Jan, George, and Shelley. What is there not to enjoy about BGC: the course is in great shape, easy to walk, but still challenging to play. The staff is friendly and very helpful and Sue does a great job running the club house. Shelley works non-stop on the course along with Jan and George, but they always have time to stop and say hello. Where do they get their energy from? My most memorable story occurred at a mixed gathering in late summer: George was going around telling the ladies it was his birthday and could he have a kiss. When he asked me, I reminded him that his birthday was in April and that burst his bubble and we all had a good laugh.

Joanne and John Eitel

Belmont is friendly and down to earth ... I can remember going out to play golf, and there weren't too many people around, and Jan would say, "Well just a minute, so and so will be coming down nine," and then she would say, "Hey you guys, Audrey is going to come out and play this back nine with you, and be careful or she will beat the heck out of you." They are always the same, just so helpful and friendly.

Audrey Churchill

Congratulations on your 50 years George and Jan! One story that stands out for us is the time when we were coming down Number 6 when it started getting extremely dark and overcast overhead and extremely threatening looking. We abandoned our balls and hurried back toward the clubhouse; we hadn't gotten far when it started to rain. We dodged into the implement barn at Number 11 tee-off just as it hit hard. I work outside and have all my life, and I've seen a lot of stormy weather, but this was the most brutal one I've experienced. Between the howling wind and the heavy rain you couldn't see more than a few feet out the door. The noise inside that barn was out and

out scary. It didn't last long however and we ventured out and took a look around. On seeing all the water, leaves and branches strewn about we decided to call it a day and started walking back. As we neared the clubhouse we noticed something different; the trees beside the clubhouse looked odd. When we finally reached it, we could hardly believe our eyes! Two of the big maples had crashed over right onto/into George and Jan's house! Fearing the worst we soon found out that they weren't hurt, although their home certainly was. George and Jan were fine as were a few other members who had gotten caught on the rear patio area. That was a huge relief, although we did feel for them about their home. The damage was soon repaired, the remaining trees cut down and I guess their lives restored, but to think how much worse it could have been is frightening.

Pete and Angie Harder

It is quite an accomplishment they built that business, and the people that they have influenced through the years. That is really something ... they are awesome at what they do.

Steve Haskell

Congratulations Jan and George on the 50th Anniversary of Belmont Golf Club! Jan and George, you can be very proud of the work you have done. Not only have you built a very successful business, but you have helped make many happy memories for your family and for friends of Belmont! Mike and I joined the Club in 1993 and have been members each year since. The membership fee that first year was \$900 plus G.S.T. for the two of us. We have golfed as guests at many different courses over the years and constantly remind ourselves how lucky we are to be able to golf at such a beautiful course so close to home. The trees, the gardens, the water, and the wildlife create a picture postcard beauty that remains constant through the seasons. As well as its beauty, the challenges of the course keep calling us back - the ponds on Number 7 and 12, the sand trap on Number 14 and the trees - everywhere! We remember the free lifts we got when trees were under 6 feet high - but that was long ago! George, Jan, Shelley, and Sue always make you feel welcome, whether it's a friendly wave across the fairway, a smile, or a brief chat in the clubhouse. Mike always enjoys his early morning coffee with Jan, when they solve all the problems of the world, before beginning the day. We've made many friends at Belmont and intend to golf there for many more years.

Mike and Barb Abel



Early morning mist on Number 10

It is almost like going some place where you know it is going to be friendly. You always see friendly faces. And the part that gets me is they remember people's names. Like John Pine will come out once every 3 years. He will walk in the door, and they will say, "Hi John."

Rob Bishop

Best Wishes George and Janet on the 50th Anniversary! My first encounter with the Belmont Golf Club was in 1960 while I was working for Ontario Hydro. We were asked to go and check a site for the installation of a temporary hydro service requested by a Mr. George Loughlean. When we arrived the only thing on the site was a pile of used lumber and a grey radial arm saw covered with a canvas tarp under a large maple tree. Everything looked fine from our perspective; the site was sketched and we left. The next day we returned and connected the service; George was on site and as we talked I found to my surprise that George was a former employee of Ontario Hydro and was with

the Construction Department. We exchanged stories of the trade and found that we knew many of the same people. Shortly after, I mentioned to a good friend of mine, Leo Renner that the course would be open the following year and we should try playing. We tried and with a great deal of help from George and others we managed to at least make our way around the course. I moved to Walkerton in 1967, where a number of George's friends and former work-mates lived. We ended our travels in Bracebridge where I retired. After being away for 20 years, we returned to St. Thomas and I resumed my friendship with George and Janet. It has been one of the more enjoyable experiences of my life playing at Belmont and enjoying the good friendship of everyone here.

Jim Haylow

We got our first seasonal membership in 1983; the membership rates were \$246. Being new to the game, we were taken under the tutelage of Bill (Trout) Caldwell, who had played the game for many years at the Belmont Golf Club. He taught us the proper etiquette, as well as giving us tips on playing the game. We also enjoyed golfing with his wife Lil. Don Berdan joined us in playing and was fortunate to get a hole-in-one on the old Number 5 hole, over the water. This was quite an achievement for a new golfer, particularly since Trout had been playing for so long and never had one himself. Unfortunately this happy golf arrangement ended tragically in May of 1985 when Trout died of a heart attack, playing on number one fairway. He was playing with his wife Lil, Ruby and George. We have been members of Belmont since 1983, except for a few years playing at other courses. When returning in 2004, we regretted having left for even this short time and found it to be the same as when we left, except for the trees and shrubs, which were bigger and came more into play.

Ruby and George Leverton

In 1984 Margaret Jackson met Paul Brewer. He liked to golf so she decided she should take some lessons. As Margaret remembers, "Paul suggested George Loughlean at Belmont Golf Course." I had never been to Belmont Golf Course even though I lived in south London on what is now called Bradley Avenue. I met George and had a few golf lessons and bought my first set of clubs and golf bag. These were bought at the Pro Shop at Belmont Golf Club. As we were both still working, we chose not to have a membership but played local courses including Belmont. Paul married up with other guys from GMD - Rudy and John, who played Belmont every Tuesday and Thursday evening. I still played with other ladies at local courses - sometimes Belmont. Getting near

retirement, we decided to buy memberships at Belmont. I joined the Ladies' league and met a lot of new ladies who have now become good friends. Upon retirement, Paul joined up with the Coffin Dodgers and still plays at least four times a week. He enjoyed ~ holes-in-one at Belmont Golf Course.

Paul won the Melville Trophy with the Coffin Dodgers in 2008 and I won the Ladies 9-hole championship in 2009 and most points for league play. We hope, if our health holds out, that we can keep on golfing at Belmont. We've made many lasting friendships and enjoy the camaraderie at special breakfasts and scrambles. What better way to start your day than to be welcomed by Sue and staff or to chit chat for a few minutes with Jan, George, or Shelley.

Margaret and Paul Brewer

I have been a member at Belmont for about 25 years; I've kept all the bag tags over the years. A couple of years ago, our Dodgers had a small tournament at the course. During the tournament, one of our members, Ray Kneeshaw, was teeing off the first hole. He swung his driver very hard and it slipped out of his hands. It ended up in one of the maple trees right beside the tee area. It was lodged in some branches about 40 to 50 feet up in the tree. Some initial attempts were made to loosen the driver, but time was ticking, so Ray left it there and played the rest of the tournament. After the tournament was over a bunch of us came outside to try and recover the club. We asked Sue Todd for her softball she keeps behind the counter. We threw that at the branch for several minutes, but to no avail. Then somebody came up with the idea of a fishing pole, and one of our members, George Knott (an avid fisherman), went to his car and came back with a fishing pole. We found a good heavy sinker and started casting the fishing pole at the tree. Finally, after about a dozen casts and some forceful tugging, we managed to dislodge the driver from the tree. By the way, the driver was a TaylorMade R7, which Ray had recently purchased, so it was worth about \$400. Ray was very grateful to George Knott and Ron Bishop for retrieving his club. Ray offered to buy Ron and George a case of beer for their efforts, but being the generous good-natured guys that they are, they passed on the reward for retrieving the lost club. A couple of other funny incidents at the course ... I wasn't playing with the people involved at the time, so I can only relate what I heard from people who did see it. One day Mack Jackson fell into the pond by the tee on Number 8. You may have to contact him directly to get the details. The other incident happened to George Leverton. He had a battery-operated golf cart, which used a remote control. Apparently, George was putting on Number 2 green and his cart was parked at the back of the green. When he bent over to pick his ball out of the hole, he inadvertently activated the remote control for

his cart. The cart headed for the pond near the tee on the Number 3 tee area. Again, you will have to contact George to get further details.

Ron Lidster

They accomplished everything they wanted to do... they have done a terrific job there, and they provide a service to all the people in the area.

Ken Girard

Don started in 1997 and I started in 1998 at Belmont. We enjoy the friendliness of the people and management. One time, I remember Don hitting his golf ball into the BBQ - luckily it landed there instead of the window behind. Another time, when Don's brother Bruce came to visit us, we took him golfing and after we finished the first nine, Bruce buys a hotdog, put it on the bench to hit his shot, and when he turned around to get it, it was gone. The dog had eaten it, but Jan had seen it happen and gave Bruce another one. We all had a good laugh!

Don and Rosalie Morrison

I first started to play at Belmont in 1996 when we returned to Canada, after 20 years in Vermont. We had a foursome of Dint (B.J.) Moore, Bill Allen, John (Slim) Crandell, and myself. Bill and Dint shared a cart and Slim and I walked. On the second hole, Dint was in the right rough and Bill was in the fairway. While Bill was hitting his second shot, Dint walked over to play his shot. Bill decided to go get him, but to drive the cart from the passenger seat. What he did, we do not know, but the result was he hit Dint and then a tree. Slim and I hurried to the spot as we had seen the accident develop. The thought at first was he had killed the poor bugger, but then Dint started to move and we knew he was only hurt, but still with us. The end result was a broken ankle and a lifetime ban for Bill ever to drive the cart again ... We sure had a great group; however, I am all that is left now. We enjoyed each other's company and always had a good time.

B.H. Gus Langley

Congratulations to Jan and George for hosting a successful golf club for 50 years. Hope you continue! It has been and will continue to be a pleasure to golf at Belmont Golf Course for now about 30 years. It is a friendly golf course, both people and play. Jan and George greet me with a smile and a hug. Shelley waves while she is forever cutting grass. Sue, at the front desk, always has a welcoming smile. I love the pretty gardens on the course and around the

clubhouse. Oh, the fantastic pink hibiscus. And the trees – Jan told me that George has planted at least 2, 000 trees. One story I recall was when my golfing partner gracefully slid into the pond on the “signature hole,” Number 4. She only went up to her knees, thank goodness. She managed to scramble out with a little help. What a person will do to retrieve a ball!

Norma Chamberlain

John and I decided to drive out to Belmont golf course to see if we could get on the waiting list for the 1991 season. We were so surprised that we got on that year. We played in the last fun tournament for the season and I was so surprised that my name was drawn for next years’ memberships. I was so happy that my name was drawn that I was speechless, so I had a free membership for the 1992 season. Both John and I never regret joining Belmont Golf Club.

Jean and John Copeland

I started to be a yearly member at Belmont Golf Club in the spring of 1985 and found it to be a very friendly and well-kept course. I did play two or three times prior to 1985. After I joined in 1985 and played in many events, I was pleased to have played with George and Jan’s son, John. I recall one day while playing on Number 3, Joe Morphy had to remove a turtle from the fairway with a square mouth shovel and the turtle grabbed the shovel and Joe carried it to the pond, with the turtle hanging onto the shovel. I still enjoy the course and walk the 18 holes as it is a great layout. The changing colours of the trees and the gardens are a pleasure to look at all year long and the beauty of the course is a pleasure for all to enjoy.

Bernie Stankevich

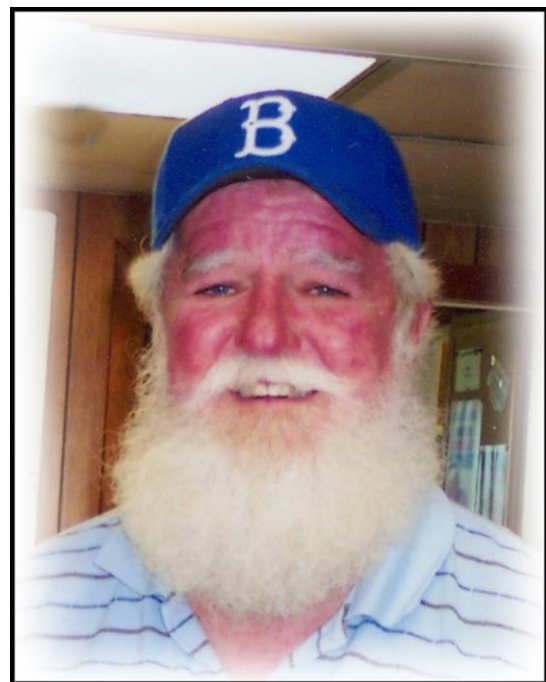
I first joined the club in 1986 for 5 years and then came back a second time in 2004. I enjoy the beauty of the course, and the friendships I’ve made. Before I took lessons from George (in 1985) I tried golfing with a borrowed set of clubs. On the old Number 7, I remember breaking a three wood on a tree while I was golfing with Edith Walter and Betty Pickersgill. When the back nine was just opened, I remember it was a very dry year and there were cracks in the soil and you never knew where your ball would bounce. We had a lot of laughs with our crazy bounces.

Pat Lauren

One of the most memorable games I ever played at the club was the very last game I played with my son Michael, who was killed in a car accident a week later. To this

day, I can't stand on the 3rd tee-off without seeing him standing on the green getting his first par. Michael and I shared the whole day together and it will be etched in my mind forever. I learned a valuable lesson at Belmont a month after Michael's death. It was the first time I played golf after he had died. As I was getting prepared to play, Lloyd Miller (an old friend of mine) approached me, shook my hand, and told me how sorry he was for my loss. I looked at him and saw tears falling down his face as he told me of losing his son 25 years before. The lesson learned was, my grief would take a long time to get over. I know these are not the happiest stories for your 50th anniversary, but they are the most important to my own and Lloyd's families. Another great day for me was my first day as a member at Belmont. I had been a member at another course the year before and had spent many days waiting on their first tee hoping to be asked to play. The day I joined Belmont, I was asked to join a group before I even had time to place a ball in the rack. I knew then that this was going to be a long relationship. I believe we still have the greatest people to ever stand on the first tee with and we are never stranded at anytime.

Ron Allen



Our 10 Favourite Benefits of Belmont ... (please note these are in random order and not numbered as they are all VERY important to us!)

- Jan's auburn hair; only one man is allowed to call her "Red" and live.
- The ball rack on the first tee, especially with the "forgotten balls" left in it.
- George and his ENCOURAGING presence on the tractor, especially near the lady golfers.
- Sue Todd and her ever-present smile, no matter how hot the kitchen may be.
- Shelley the sweetheart, for all the golfers, always a friendly wave.
- The "great" breakfasts as you round the turn on tournament days.
- The spring blossoms and the activity of all the birds in the trees. Even the bird feeders at Belmont!
- The magnificent gardens everywhere, especially on the west side of the clubhouse.
- The pond beside Number 15 with the swallows diving for insects. What a picture of peace!
- The "tough" pin placements that cause an errant stroke to wander away and away, and away ...
- The "grandfather" turtle that lives in the pond on Number 4 - what a magnificent creature he is.
- You should not be counting of course there are more than 10 benefits to Belmont.
- The trees everywhere, and to think each was planted and tended with loving care.
- For a special daughter who labours beyond measure to keep the course appealing. Thanks, Shelley!
- For a friendship made that will last a lifetime.
- For the privilege of walking and playing George and Jan's labour of love as health recovers.
- In jest, there is only one negative issue: Maggie's ability to get a chocolate bar from the golf bag on Number 10 tee in the twinkling of an eye.

Beth and Arthur Cairncross

Many years ago with a dream and not much change, George and Jan built themselves a golf course. It has been their life and the atmosphere of the place so reflects their love and commitment.

George, Jan, Shelley, and Sue -They are a family and when they welcome you in, going to the golf course is like coming to a second home

George and I are exactly 3 days apart in age, so sharing with him is easy and natural. Being peers, he is for me a mentor of energy and fun. We BS over coffee while laughing at each other's jokes.

Jan is ever present in the clubhouse. She is not hesitant to speak her mind or to express her opinions be it religion, politics, or whatever. She is a thought-provoking woman and together we have solved many of the world's problems.

Shelley is a lovely woman who keeps a wonderful golf course. I have gleaned much insight from our brief chats over her tractor. I often evaluate people by how they treat their animals: Maggie and Megan rate her A+.

Sue may not be blood but she blends in as family and has been present longer than many an adoption. She has a warm and friendly greeting for everyone. She seems to me to have a quiet and humble presence that may mask how deep her water runs.

And yes, of course - golf! I am a classic duffer but it doesn't seem to matter; in fact, I don't think I am the worst golfer on the course.

George was generous and gracious enough to play nine holes with me in 2010. He not only didn't laugh at me but also gave me a couple of suggestions. His golf swing is like poetry in motion.

Good people ~ Positive energy ~A well-run 18 holes. I love it there!

Tom Butler

I first started playing at Belmont in 2000 and what I enjoy the most about the place is our breast cancer tournaments.

Tony Jans

50 years of success at Belmont – a great achievement!

Ann Lounsbury



Looking down Number 8 fairway

A STORY OF LOVE ... THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

“All in all, it’s been great,” said Jan.
“Periodically, I think about us
stopping, but this place is the heart
and soul of George. After 50 years,
still being able to work together, not
always peacefully mind you, it has
worked out.”

“Yeah, I couldn’t have done it
without Jan,” says George.

Jan says, “The journey still goes on ... Some days I get up at 5:30, do my exercise, go out and take the blocks off, put the blocks back on, run into town and get supplies, put the carts out and wash them. On Sundays, I usually wash the carts until 6:30 and then George will take the blocks off, and after a while I’ll think to myself, ‘where in God’s name is he,’ and I’ll drive up over the hill and I’ll see him coming with the tee mower having already cut the tees. Then, I’ll put the blocks back on and at about 7:30 or 8:00 at night, we’ll both head back home.”





Jan and George

APPENDICES



Early morning from the Club House

Belmont Golf Club - Hole-In-Ones

1988	John Crandell Ray Gallagher Peter Moeller Harvey Stover Lottie Hague Gerry Elford Robin Lawrence	Mike Farquhar Jack Bowes Brian Vandenhroek John Esler Charlie Wightman Dennis Rahn Verna Moore Barb Abel	1997	Ron Bishop Terry Bauwens Jim Huston Dave Vandervelden Donna Lockwood Angus Lee Tim Howard Steve Haskell Jason Dasilva Jamie Nelson Ben Linton Mike Clements Ray Newson Tucker Johnstone
1989	Ben Stover Jack Ryan Clyde Shaw Ron Payson	1994	Tom Kydd Tom Harrison Helen Ryan Joan Johnson Steve Zukowski Ken Jones Brian Pfeffer Tucker Johnstone	
1990	Earl Grawburg Ben Sletsma Ray Barnier Art Ingram Al Ingram Ted Hudson	1995	Ken Cooper Trevor Esler Chuck Henry Tim Jack Paul Lord Paul Sampson Jean Thomas George Wise	
1991	Lottie Hague Jan Loughlean Paul Brewer Ken Reid Robert Heslop Andy Taylor Brian Edwards Al While Steve Haskell Marinus Booy Andy Taylor	1996	Tucker Johnstone Dick Butterwick Jim Brokensbire Chris Berthelot Fred York Gord Manners Brian Pfeffer Jack Dewaasteniet Brian Edwards	
1992	MettaHunking- Atchison Jesse Brown	1998	Brian Edwards Sherry Chantler George Doman Wally Lockwood Dave Stinchcombe Ken Jones John Esler Kim Giles PeterDyck Roger Cyr	
1993	Mike Wright Rudy Fuhrman	1999	Mark Walker Ron Bishop Barry Thompson Ron Allen Karen Dunn Brian Edwards	
		2000	Ted Hudson Murray Jackson Jim Willsie Matt Dale	

	Bob Fletcher Roland Bailey Sue Bedour Isaac Harder Matt Morrison		Ross Moore Audrey Churchill Claire Wintermute Jon Lumley		
2001	Audrey Churchill Stephannie Shaw Nick De Gouw Bill Wall Mite Henderson Peter Laursen Mack Jackson GeorgeWise Chris West Ron Lidster Rob Wakefield Mike Wakefield Clark Coombs Rob Spiers	2004	Betty Maat Theo Kempkes John Lounsbury Brian Parker Joel Mayne Keith Neil Steve Haskell Wayne Smith Joyce Manners Mike Hunter Murray Jackson Keith Dunmore	2007	Hazel Johnson Billy Barnes Bob Doan Rick Goodacre Marnius Booy James Dewan Frank Kindt
				2008	Donna Aitken John Vanderheyden Pat Connor Don Bate Russell Owen Tucker Johnstone Jim Huston Bill Cottom Art Cairncross
2002	Betty Maat Steve Brown Ken Vantooten Harry Dykstra Steve Haskell George Dornan Katherine Harder Bill Herold Sam Bradica Wayne Lewis Ray Kneeshaw	2005	Shirley Edge Stephan Brown Bob Johnstone Al Dakins Peter Weibe Ken Hough Ron Bishop Jack Dykstra Ken Vantooten Tim Oliver WM Thorpe Paul Walker	2009	Mark Walker Hugh Loughrin Steve Haskell Gloria Johnstone Gus Langley Ken Wood Jim Brokenshire Tom Boyd Jim Huston Paul Brewer Grant Jeffery
2003	Ian Sclater Mike Hunter Keith McGregor	2006	Roland Bailey Steve Harris Brian Edwards Julianna Rinas Ross Masecar	2010	Claire Wintermute Len Parsons

Ladies' Invitational

1981 Joan Lidster

1982 Babe Fowler

1983 Lynn Owen

1984 Shirley Lark

1985 Gloria Buchan

1986 Shirley Lark

1987 Gloria Buchan

1988 Lynn Owen

1989 Cathy Davis

1990 Averil Moore

1991 Ann MacDonald

1992 Ann MacDonald

1993 Jennifer Lavis

1994 Judy Girard

1995 Chris Penny

1996 Judy Girard

1997 Sue Postian

Men's Invitational

1966 Ken Doig	1980 Rick Fifield	1994 Mike Machan
1967 Jack Chapel	1981 Bryan Vine	1995 Brad Ideson
1968 Bill Doohan	1982 Rick Fifield	1996 Dan Wencel
1969 Ken Doig	1983 Rick Fifield	1997 Brad Ideson
1970 Doug Galloway	1984 Terry Dunford	1998 Jay Campbell
1971 Doug Galloway	1985 Clark Coombs	1999 Marty Wilkins
1972 Doug Galloway	1986 John loughlean	2000 Brian Leverton
1973 Bert Lacroix	1987 Mike Machan	2001 Sieve Brown
1974 Harvey Stover	1988 John Loughlean	2002 John McLennan
1975 Doug Galloway	1989 Jake Goddard	2003 Stave Broadhead
1976 Jim Smith	1990 Mike Machan	2004 Paul Herbrand
1977 Doug Galloway	1991 John Legg	2005 Matt Hind
1978 Peter Sherman	1992 Steve Atkins	2006 Al Dakins
1979 Gary Knight	1993 Marty Harris	2007 Jeff Langley



Men's 22nd Annual Invitational. (L-R) Steve Haskell, Jim Willsie, Ned Burford, Bill Woodford



Top: (L-R) Bernie Stankevich, Brian Edwards, Randy Baker, Jim Houston

Middle: (L-R) Dick Harback, Bob Shoebottom, John Harback, Tim Dawe

Bottom: (L-R) Paul Brewer, Phil Bishop, Ron Bishop, Rich Bishop



Top: (L-R) Bob Lane, Jack Lane, Andy Rainey, Brian Carrol

Middle: (L-R) Doug Brailey, Ron Lidster, Grant Simmons, George Wise

Bottom: (L-R) Steve Haskell, Steve Moyse, Jim Willsie, Ned Burford

Ladies Club Champion

1978	Nancy Vine	1993	Linda White S: Gladys Busby	2001	Barb Haskell S: Donna Aitken
1979	Barb Haskell				
1980	Brenda Cairns	1994	A: Linda White B: Gladys DeCoste S: Ruby Leverton	2002	Linda White S: Linda Chanyi
1981	Gloria Buchan			2003	Linda White S: Joyce Manners
1982	Barb Haskell	1995	A: Linda White B: Chris Smits S: Ruby Leverton	2004	A: Linda White B: Shirley Franche S: Donna Aitken
1983	Audrey Churchill				
1984	Audrey Churchill	1996	A: Linda White B: Betty Maat S: Ruby Leverton	2005	A: Linda White B: Linda Wood S: Ruby Leverton
1985	Brenda Cairns				
1986	Audrey Churchill	1997	A: Linda White B: Gladys DeCoste S: Joyce Manners	2006	Linda White S: Ruby Leverton
1987	Audrey Churchill				
1988	Ruby Leverton	1998	A: Linda White B: Joanne Bridgnell S: Joyce Manners	2008	Angie Harder S: Ruby Leverton
1989	Barb Haskell				
1990	Linda White	1999	A: Linda White B: Joanne Bridgnell S: Joyce Manners	2009	Pat Laurin S: Ruby Leverton
1991	Linda White				
1992	Linda White S: Audrey Churchill	2000	Linda White S: Bunny Ward	2010	Ruby Leverton



The 1993 Vic Loughlean Senior Ladies Club Champions. (L-R), Linda White, Gladys DeCoste, (George), Gladys Busby.

Men's Club Champion

1977	Bryan Vine	1994	A: Marty Harris B: Steve Haskell C: Dave Taylor S: John Copeland	S: Jerry Jeffery SS Tucker Johnstone	
1978	Brian Abbey			2002	A: Mike Zukowski B: Brian Parker C: Ken Vantooren S: Jerry Jeffery SS: Brian Edwards
1979	John Loughlean	1995	A: Dan Wencel B: Dave Todd C: Ian Sclater S: Bob Johnstone		
1980	Gary Knight			2003	A: Steve Brown B: Gord Horton C: Steve Haskell S: Jim Somerville SS: Ian Sclater
1981	Bryan Vine	1996	A: Dan Wencel B: Dave Todd C: Montie Boughner D: Jack Dundas S: Bob Johnstone		
1982	Gary Allen			2004	A: Chris Harwood B: Mike Sawatzky C: Peter Harder S: Bob Johnstone SS: Fred Kelso
1983	Harvey Stover	1997	A: Ray Brown B: Dan Esler C: Bill Burling S: Bob Johnstone		
1984	Tom Nelson			2005	A: Steve Brown B: Ken Vantooran C: Roger Bennewies S: Jim Somerville SS Tucker Johnstone
1985	Mike Bishop	1998	A: Brian Leverton B: Mike Goodwin C: Tony Haayema S: Bob Johnstone		
1986	John Loughlean			2006	A: Dan Shoup B: Jason Graham C: Don Steenbergen S: Paul Herbrand SS Tucker Johnstone
1987	Harvey Stover	1999	A: Scott Sclater B: Dave Walsh C: George Klein S: Paul Brewer		
1988	Harvey Stover S: Wray Busby	2000	A: Steve Brown B: George Esler C: Bill Burling S: Jim Somerville SS: Wally Lockwood		
1989	John Loughlean S: Wray Busby			2007	A: Brian Leverton B: Don Steenbergen C: Bob Micks S: Jerry Jeffrey SS: Jon Lumley
1990	Mike Bishop S: Bob Johnstone	2001	A: Steve Brown B: Jamie Johnston C: Steve Haskell		
1991	Marty Harris S: Bob Johnstone			2008	A: Steve Brown
1992	A: John Loughlean B: Jim Willsie C: Brian Edwards S: John Copeland				
1993	A: Jeff Langly B: Mike Wright S: Bob Johnstone				

B: Steve Harris
C: Bob Micks
S: Walt Parsons
SS: Jon Lumley

C: Ed Miller
S: Bryan Vanpatter
SS: Ron Brownell

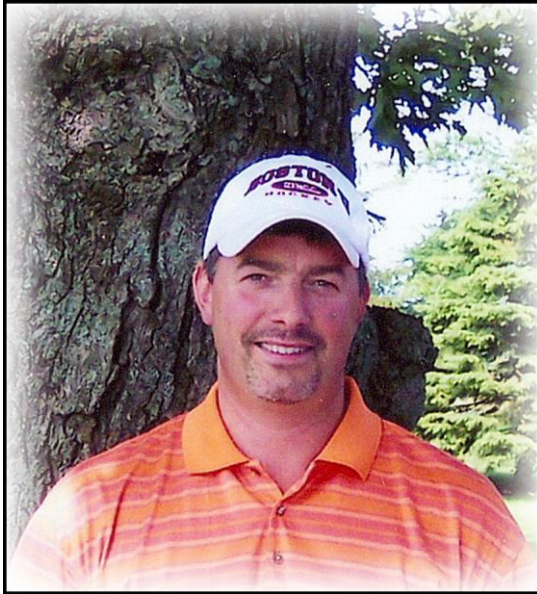
S: Bill Woodford
SS-A: Jon Lumley
SS-B: Ed Walsh

2009 A: Mike Hunter
B: John McLennan

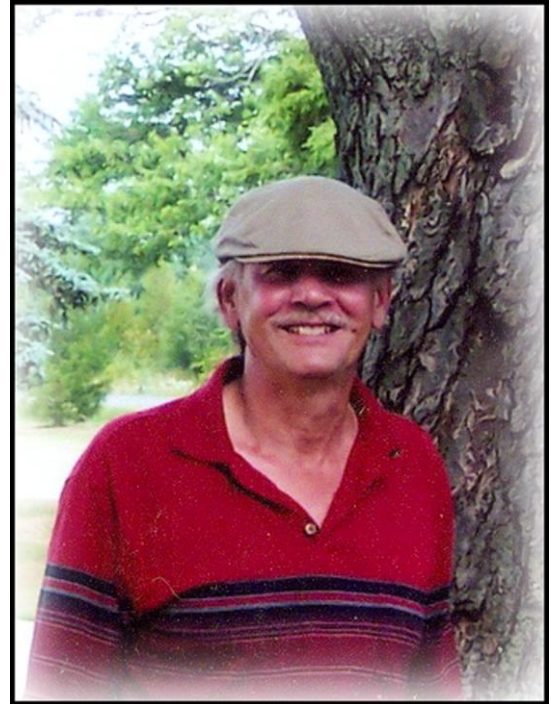
2010 A: Steve Brown
B: Don Steenbergen
C: Rick Izzard



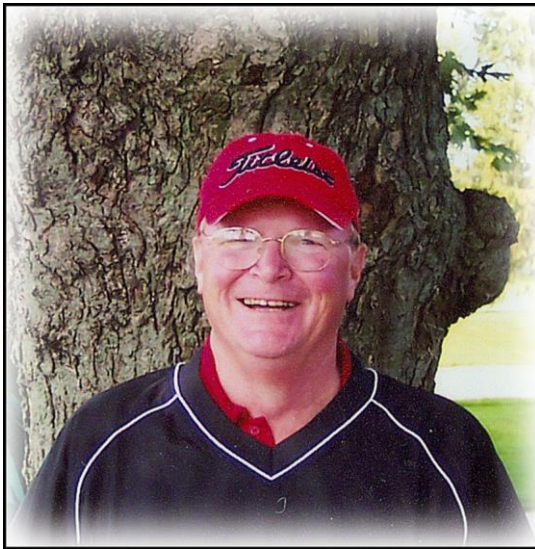
1979 Ladies and Men's Club Champions. (L-R) Barb Haskell, (George), John Loughlean



1998, 2007 Men's Club Champion Brian
Leverton



2007, 2008, 2010 Super Senior Men's Club
Champion Jon Lumley



2000 Senior B Club Champion Bill Burling



2006 Super Senior B Handicap Champion
George Leverton



1994 Senior Men's Club Championship John Copeland with George

Ladies' Handicap

1978	Betty Fentie	1989	Betty Pickersgill	1999	9: Betty Hebert 18: Denise Cyr
1979	Barb Calvert	1990	Audrey Churchill		
1980	Linda Hough	1991	Audrey Churchill	2000	9: Betty Hebert 18: Barb Newson
1981	Audrey Churchill	1992	Linda White	2001	9: Hazel Johnson 18: Metta Hunking- Atchison
1982	Audrey Churchill	1993	Gladys DeCoste		
1983	Audrey Churchill	1994	9: Liz Vanderwyst 18: Joanne Eitel	2002	9: Betty Hebert 18: Metta Hunking- Atchison
1984	Edith Walter				
1985	Helen MacKinnon	1995	9: Chris Bogart 18: Gladys Busby	2004	9: Brenda Sheridan 18: Metta Hunking- Atchison
1986	Audrey Bostwick	1996	9: Chris Bogart 18: Audrey Churchill		
1987	A: Liz Nunns B: Debbie Lemmons	1997	9: Liz Nunns 18: Betty Maat	2005	Ruby Leverton
1988	A: Betty Pickersgill B: Jean Wise	1998	9: Dot Shackelton 18: Barb Newson	2006	Olga Ryan



Senior Ladies Club Champion Betty Maat



Ladies League Year End Closing

Men's Handicap

1977	Marvin Simpson		B: Ian Sciater C: Bill Robinson		S: Ron Bishop SS: Wally Lockwood
1978	Garry Hassale				
1979	Rich Bishop	1993	A: Brian Leverton B: Jim Somerville	2001	A: Marty Wilkins B: Mark Walker C: Mark Broughton S: Peter Weibe SS: Bill Robinson
1980	Jack Ryan	1994	A: Bob Chantler B: Don Titchener		
1981	Roy Willsey				
1982	Steve Haskell	1995	A: Marty Harris B: Jim Willsie C: John Woodruff S: Brian Edwards	2002	A: Mike Zukowski B: Steve Harris C: Nick Loewen S-A: Perry Whitehead S-B: Sam Bradica SS-A: John Loundbury SS-B: Roly Groulx
1981	Roy Willsey				
1982	Steve Haskell	1996	A: Ray Brown B: Stuart Nobbs C: Ron Atchison S: Wally Lockwood		
1983	Roy Willsey				
1984	Bill Robinson				
1985	A: Don Watson B: Paul Hoffer	1997	A: Dave Todd B: Todd Wait C: Fred York S: Georges Menard SS: Bill Robinson	2003	A: John McLennan B: Todd Wait C: Rob Willey S-A: Perry Whitehead S-B: Walt Parsons SS-A: Tucker Johnstone SS-B: Orv Herbert
1986	A: Bob Stover B: Al Hawke				
1987	A: Fred Kelso B: Bernie Martin	1998	A: Brian Leverton B: Tarry Shale C: Wayne Flood S: Ken Jackson SS: Brian Edwards		
1988	A: Murray Jackson B: Joe Morphy				
1989	A: Brian Edwards B: Ian Sclater	1999	A: Brian Leverton B: Dave Wash C: George Klein S: Terry Shale SS: Paul Brewer	2004	A: Mike Zukowski B: Ralph Snowsell C: Adam Laing S-A: Randy Baker S-B: Walt Parsons SS-A: Fred Kelso SS-B: Bill Herald
1990	A: Fred Kelso B: Terry Lanning				
1991	A: Scott Sclater B: Brian Edwards	2000	A: Steve Brown B: Ed Walsh C: Ian Sclater	2005	A: Al Dakins B: Paul Walker
1992	A: Bill Nichols				

	C: Roger Bennewies		SS-B: George Leverton		SS-A: Fred Kelso SS-B: Brian Edwards
	S-A: Randy Baker		SS-C: Max Frost		
	S-B: Rick Izzard			2009	A: Brian Leverton
	SS-A: Thom Anderson	2007	A: Mark Walker B: Don Steenbergen		B: Ken Wood S: Bill Harwood
	SS-B: Verne Melville		C: Ken Wood S-A: Jim Somerville		SS-A: Fred Kelso SS-B: Ron Allen
2006	A: John McLennan B: Ray Pyatt C: Ken Wood D: Brad Thorpe S-A: Walt Parsons S-B: Keith Neil SS-A: Art Cairncross		S-B: Jim Anderson SS-A: Jon Lumley SS-B: Leo Van Dyk SS-C: Max Frost	2010	A: Theo Kempkes B: Roger Behnewies S: Len Parsons SS-A: George Leverton SS-B: Ron Allen
		2008	A: Brian Leverton B: Theo Kempkes C: Roger Bennewies S: Len Parsons		

