

GOLF GETAWAY HOT SPOTS

MAUI - ARIZONA - NORTH CAROLINA



Win **BIG** prizes
@ insidegolf.ca

IG

INSIDE GOLF MAGAZINE

VOL. 14 • #4 • 2007

How To Make It
SPIN
Like The Pros

**Opening the door
on Nike's R&D Oven**

CN Women's
Open In Edmonton

OCHOA
engineers a
convincing win

**HOT DEALS
FROM ACROSS
THE WEST**

fantastic
fall
finishes

GOLF IN NOVA SCOTIA



fins

&

CAPTAIN STEVE ON THE ROD

IMAGE CREDIT ANDREW PENNER

skins

BY ANDREW PENNER

BEAR MOUNTAIN'S 15TH GREEN

ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

FALL OFFERINGS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

The consortium of Vancouver Island Golf Courses (GVI) offers a Fins and Skins packages at four locations up and down the island. Prices range from \$225 to \$349 per person, based on double occupancy.

In Campbell River, Salmon Fishing Capital of the World, the package includes 2 Nights Accommodation at Painter's Lodge, 1 Round of Golf at Storey Creek and 1 Tide (4 hours) of Salmon Fishing.

At NanOOSE Bay, near Parksville, it includes 2 Nights Accommodation at Schooner Cove 1 Round of Golf at nearby Fairwinds and 1 Day (4 hours) of Fishing.

At Cowichan Bay, it includes 2 Nights Accommodation at the Oceanfront Grand Resort, 1 Round of Golf at Cowichan G&CC

Continued on next page

I swivel my captain's chair to the left and absorb a stellar view of the soaring, ice-custed Olympic Mountains.

In between our small fishing boat (it comfortably holds three men, some fishing gear, and a bunch of beer) and these impressive mountains, which are actually in Washington State, miles and miles of foam-flecked sea spills before my eyes. Steve, my guide and fishing partner, flings me another cocktail from the "treasure chest." But, unlike some other fishing adventures I've been on, I haven't had too many wobbly pops. I'm too keen on catching salmon the size of first-graders. And tomorrow is on my mind as well. I'm determined to be in fine form for Bear Mountain, one of the best golf

experiences in Canada, for sure. You see, I'm on a "Fins and Skins" junket on Vancouver Island. And life, as I know it, just doesn't really get a whole lot better.

golf and fishing go together like hot apple pie and ice cream. It's a marriage made in heaven.

Everyone knows it (and those who don't have been living under a rock): golf and fishing go together like hot apple pie and ice cream. It's a marriage made in heaven. Both are recreational pursuits at the top of the food chain. Both appeal to sports-minded, outdoor lovers who don't require near-death experiences to taste glory. That's me. So, when an opportunity

Continued on next page

FALL OFFERINGS - CONT'D

and 1 Day (4 hours) of Fishing.

In Victoria, it includes 2 Nights Accommodation at the Comfort Inn, 1 Round of Golf at Arbutus Ridge and 1 Day (5 hours) of Fishing 1.888.465.3239 / golfvancouverisland.ca

Glacier Greens has a number of events in September including the Ladies' Shoot Out that will take place over 3 Tuesdays - 11, 18, 25, the Shotgun PAW Tournament Sat, Sep.22 and a new event that is guaranteed to be very popular... the North Island Pro-Am Sat, Sep.29 250.339.6515 / glaciergreens.com

Prospect Lake is offering a 10 9-hole rounds Game Card for \$180 and Annual Pass for just \$875 250.479.2688 / golfprospect.com.

Long Beach GC will play host to the The Wickaninnish Inn Pro-Am Sept 14th (A.M. and P.M. shot guns) and Sept 19th/20th will be the Last Men's and Ladies Night. From Nov - Mar, they offer the unbeatable rate of \$15 to play all day! 250.725.3332 / longbeachgolfcourse.com

Located in the heart of Victoria, Executive House Hotel offers you the comfort and ambience of a European boutique style hotel, world class hospitality and full service facilities. For a special getaway they offer one night's accommodation in an executive floor jacuzzi room chilled bottle of sparkling wine, chocolate heart filled with truffles, breakfast for two and a romantic carriage tour. Available from Oct 15th to April 30th for just \$310. If a guy can't get permission to go tee it up after this, it's time to hang up the clubs. 1-800-663-7001 / executivehouse.com

Cottonwood offers a great regular rate of \$30 for 18 holes, a 5 round -18 hole package for \$119 and an even better 10 round package for just \$199 plus tax (In effect - Oct. 22/07 to Mar. 06/08)

Matchosin GC has a 9 & Dine \$22.95 Mon - Fri featuring an 8 oz steak and offers the use of their banquet facilities at no charge for tournaments.

Glen Meadows has a winter green fee that ranges from \$15-39 and a Membership special of just \$199/month - minimum 12 months for full playing privileges.

The two Vancouver Island courses of GolfBC, Olympic View Golf Club and Arbutus Ridge now offer the opportunity to book last minute tee time specials online. Be sure to check back often, as last minute tee time specials

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

arose to go fishing and golfing on Vancouver Island I jumped on it like my kid on a Smartie.

The trip begins with a chartered fishing adventure on the salmon-rich waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Located right smack dab in Victoria's Inner Harbour, Riptide Fishing Charters couldn't be more conveniently located. Captain Steve manoeuvres us out into the Strait and the good times begin. Stocked with all the necessary goods - you know the ones - we push off and make for a

Sure it's tough. And sure it's got a couple of uphill shots, blind shots, and do-or-die shots. But, to me, this provides a stage for the game where the highs are super high. And the inevitable lows, well, let's just say they're necessary for the highs to be as good as they are. Big and brawny, punishing yet pristine, Bear Mountain is, undeniably, one of my favourite places to play golf in Western Canada.

Another cool thing about Bear Mountain is the fact that they're far from done. In fact, before the sushi-fest the evening I was there,



IMAGE CREDIT ANDREW PENNER

popular spot in the channel. The water is surprisingly calm, the winds barely noticeable, the sky overcast: a perfect day to be out on the water. I'd love to say we caught fourteen succulent salmon that first day, guzzled all the beer in order to make room for the bonus 100-pound halibut, and bobbed alongside a tour boat loaded with half-cut cheerleaders, however, the truth is we only caught one fish. And the only thing remotely female we encountered was a seal, who actually bit off the fish - or most of it - when it was just metres from the boat. So I ended up reeling in the head (and a few stringy guts) of a lingcod. Yup, this is real fishing. And in fishing, just like golf, sometimes the ones that get away make for the best stories.

Beautiful Victoria, while offering world-class fishing opportunities in some of the most scenic waters on the globe, is fast becoming just as good for golf. Now into its fourth year, the sprawling Jack and Steve Nicklaus-designed Mountain Course at Bear Mountain is about as daring and dramatic as golf gets.

brawny, punishing yet pristine, Bear Mountain is, undeniably, one of my favourite places to play golf in Western Canada.

Todd Mahovlich, the Director of Golf at Bear Mountain (also a scratch sushi connoisseur), took me for a tour around the new Valley course at Bear Mountain, which is set to open in 2008. Not surprisingly, given the topography and the route (the course parades through tumbling rock-peppered terrain on the northern flanks of Bear Mountain),

Mahovlich's excitement for the course was palpable. "Personally, I think it could be better than the original course," he said as he mixed his wasabi and soy like a champion. "The quality of the golf holes is outstanding and visually it's even more stunning."

After a luxurious stay at the Westin Bear Mountain and a morning round at nearby Olympic View, another one of my favourites in Victoria, it was off to Campbell River for the second leg of my "Fins and Skins" adventure.

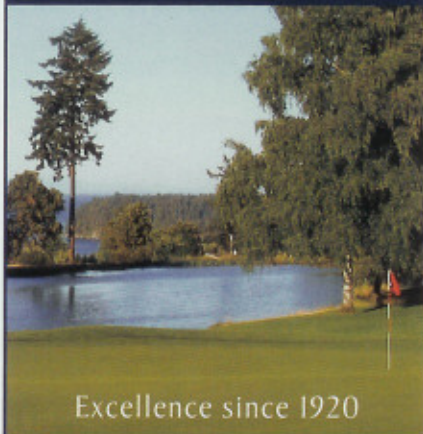
I was happy to find out that Campbell River, besides being home to one of the most

Continued on next page



NANAIMO
GOLF CLUB

18 Hole Championship
Golf Course



Excellence since 1920

TEE TIMES
250-758-6332
2800 HIGHLAND BOULEVARD
NANAIMO BC, V9S 3N8
WWW.NANAIMOGOLFCLUB.CA

Exec Golf
ONLY A SHORT DRIVE AWAY




EXECUTIVE HOUSE HOTEL


The best of Victoria at our doorstep.

Located in the heart of Victoria, just a block from the magnificent Inner Harbour, National Geographic IMAX Theatre, Royal BC Museum, shopping and attractions.

Experience Barkley's Steakhouse, the charming Caffè d' Amore, Doubles Oyster Bar and Bartholomew's Bar and Rockefeller Grille.

Complimentary high speed internet.
Complimentary Inner Harbour Shuttle Service.

1-800-663-7001

 777 Douglas St., Victoria, BC, Canada,
www.executivehouse.com



**FALL OFFERINGS
- CONTINUED**

are added daily. Their Men's and Ladies' Nights are Mondays and Tuesdays and start at \$25! Other offers include a Golf, Wine and FREE BC Ferries Reservations Package with 2 rounds, 2 nights of accommodations, a guided wine tour and a free BC Ferries reservation for just \$349. Those with an RBC Mike Weir Visa card can also save up to 25%. golfbc.com

Arrowsmith is offering a 10 game pass for just \$269 (expires Mar/08). They are running a Nine and Dine Package on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays throughout the month of September for \$29. Tee times to be booked after 4pm.
250.752.9727 / golfarrowsmith.com

Morningstar events this fall include The Ironman Sept. 9, the final men's night on Sept 1st. The final Couple's night of the year is set for Sep. 19

(Both include lots of prizes, and a great dinner - Visitors \$45) 250.248.8161 / morningstar.bc.ca
Alberni GC will be holding their No Name Tournament: (1:00 p.m. shotgun start) September 19 and on Oct. 14 Fall Iron Man & Iron Lady 250.723.5422 / albernigolf.com

Duncan meadows will be hosting their Mixed Two Ball- Sept. 15 - 16. 250.746.8669 / duncanmeadows.com

Continued from previous page

impressive waterfalls I've ever seen (Elk Falls), is kinda like the Disneyland of salmon fishing. It's actually dubbed "the salmon fishing capital of the world." One of the classic spots for fisherman - or anyone with an appreciation for gorgeous lodges hard on the sea - is Painter's Lodge. But, in my opinion, topping Painter's is its picture-perfect sister property located across the channel, the April Point Resort & Spa (plenty of royalty and celebrities have stayed at April Point, you'll see why when you go).

I'd like to say that I had an epic, bloody-knuckled battle with a mighty Chinook salmon capable of eating a flat-hull fishing boat, however, that'd be stretching the truth a bit. Ok, a lot. In fact, I chose to take the high road. That is, I left all the salmon, halibut, and whatever else swims in that channel, in the deep, dark depths so you, the real customer, can have your way with them at a later date. Hey, what can I say, I'm passionate about looking after my extensive and loyal readership base. Ok, my loyal reader. (Thanks, mom, and sorry about all the questionable verb usage).

But, suffice it to say, fishing in Campbell River was awesome. I mean, come on, a corn-fed prairie boy fishing alongside killer whales and eagles in one of the prettiest environments

on the planet, now that's cool.

Not surprisingly, eagles, too, were spotted on the nearby Storey Creek Golf Club on the following day's "skins" adventure. Dubbed "a course in nature," you might have to travel a million miles to find a course as tranquil, as un-urban, as supremely serene as Storey Creek. Every hole is a quiet amphitheatre unto its own. I love it. My 80-yard block slice is safe and secure here. It will not kill anyone or anything except, maybe, a crow.



CAMPBELL RIVER'S ELK FALLS

IMAGE CREDIT ANDREW PENNER

Another great "skins" option in these parts is the Crown Isle Resort. The accommodation is first-rate and the Graham Cooke-designed course is a

treat to play. Of course, with any "Fins and Skins" package booked through www.golfvancouverisland.ca (the best and cheapest way to do it), you can have your choice of a number of great golfing and fishing options. But, really, whatever type of "finning or skinning" you do, the bottom line is this: you're pursuing two glorious activities that will, forevermore, be perfect soulmates. And, no doubt, you'll have a few good stories to tell. **ig**

Andrew Penner is a Calgary based CPGA Professional & author. He has written for Inside Golf for the past six years.