

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST GOLFER



BRITISH COLUMBIA EDITION

MARCH 2007



## Naturally Challenging

*Garibaldi Springs  
Golf Resort,  
Squamish Valley, B.C.*

Just opened in 2004, Garibaldi Springs Golf Resort is one of B.C.'s newest and brightest golf facilities. Designed by Les Furber, the course is located in the Squamish Valley on the Sea-to-Sky Highway between Vancouver and Whistler.

A signature of a Furber-designed course is his use of the natural features present on the property, blended with a few tricks of the trade, creating a naturally challenging test of golf and aesthetic quality we in B.C. are so lucky to enjoy. With tree-lined fairways, water on 13 of the course's 18 holes, plus dramatic elevated tees, Garibaldi Springs can present a challenge just to keep from being distracted by the view and beauty of the course. >>>

# The Isle of Worth

*Long-awaited and long-cherished Vancouver Island ready for its close-up*



by Paul Ramsdell

*Anyone who knows about golf on Vancouver Island realizes there are enough courses and plenty of variety already in place. For those still unconvinced, go ahead and wait just a couple more years, but by that time you might get trampled by the rush of golfers flying or boating toward the island.*

Beating that rush are some big-buck developers who are bringing along some big-name course designers as the popularity of the island, and its enjoyable climate, continues to grow.

"The buzz starts with the locals who are excited and ripples out to their friends, families and colleagues," said Jason Lowe, the president of Golf Vancouver Island.

There are already courses drawing attention in the Victoria area, then heading northward into the Cowichan Valley, then on to the Oceanside area and upward to the North Island area.

"Golf Vancouver Island bookings as a whole are up 50 percent from 2005 to 2006, which is a measure of the interest of Vancouver Island as a golf destination," Lowe said.

In 2008, a second course will open at Bear Mountain, with Steve Nicklaus designing this one to accompany the one his father, Jack Nicklaus, already designed at the Westin Resort in Victoria. Also that year, The Cliffs over Maple Bay, designed by Greg Norman, will open on its scenic location in the Cowichan area. And everything is full-steam ahead for another Jack Nicklaus design, this one at the Wyndansea Oceanfront Golf Resort in Ucluelet on the less-traveled west side of the island.

"Golf fanatics who didn't have Vancouver Island on the radar do now," said Lowe, who is also the regional sales manager for GolfBC on Vancouver Island.

Those golf fanatics must have missed Conde Nast magazine, which for six years running has designated Vancouver Island as the top North American destination

island. The island received that honor for the mildest climate in Canada, one that allows golf virtually year-round. The natural beauty of the island and the immense outdoor activities also caught the eye of Conde Nast.

In turn, developers now have their eyes trained on Vancouver Island.

"From a real estate standpoint, I think the property here on Vancouver Island has been undervalued in the past," said Lowe. "Developers recognized this opportunity, teamed with the area's attractiveness and solid foundation as a golf destination."

And one thing led to another, Lowe said.

"The big-name architects wouldn't be here without the vision of the developers, and the developers have done their research."

The attraction of the new resorts and opportunities benefits everyone.

"Golfers stay longer and spend more," said Lowe.

"We already have a great variety of golf courses to choose from," said Lowe, adding there are more than 50 courses on the island, "but these new developments are raising the bar and getting the attention of new markets. The spin-off to other business really helps the economic situation."

There's another benefit Lowe enjoys pointing out.

"One of the best features is that the new developments are somewhat spread out over the island. Too many people come to Vancouver Island and just visit Victoria, not knowing what could lie to the north. If they took an extra few days, they would have a real discovery."

The first stop north out of Victoria is the Cowichan Valley, which is a growing wine-producing area to add to golf as an attraction. Arbutus Ridge and Duncan Meadows are two of the top spots there for golf.

In the Oceanside area, Morningstar and Fairwinds draw golfers, with Fairwinds offering accommodations overlooking the Strait of Georgia.

Further north, but still an easy drive from Victoria, is Crown Isle and Storey Creek. Storey Creek, located in Campbell River, is the farthest point north on the Vancouver Island Golf Trail, and is cut out of a dense forest and known for its isolation.

Crown Isle is less than 30 minutes away and the resort offers great accommodations as well as a 7,000-yard golf course with great views.

With the new developments spread out, that should help the exposure to the other golf hot spots on the island.

A Nicklaus course in Ucluelet could mean more golfers from Calgary or Edmonton flying into the airport at Comox and landing right near Crown Isle.

"The Cliffs Over Maple Bay will be great for the Arbutus Ridge Golf and Country Club as well, providing an additional incentive to drive to the Cowichan Valley area," Lowe said.

And all can peacefully co-exist, as has been the case so far with Bear Mountain coming in not far from Olympic View, a GolfBC property. When the Valley Course joins the Mountain Course as a 36-hole facility at Bear Mountain, Lowe is ready to reap the rewards nearby at Olympic View.

"The supply and demand of golf in Victoria will still be



healthy. Olympic View has the busiest tee sheet within the GolfBC family," he said, "and there are no signs of slowing down. Bear Mountain's first course did not decrease our number of rounds."

In fact, Olympic View is adding a nine-hole, par-3 course that will complement the championship 18 holes, as well as add to Olympic View's reputation as having the best practice facilities on the island, which includes the GBC Golf Academy.

Add the entire package together, and it's easy to see why Olympic View was named among the top 20 best golf experiences in the Western U.S. and Canada by Fairways and Greens magazine.

*Paul Ramsdell is a former editor for ESPN and past editorial director of PPGA Publications. He currently is on the board of the Northwest Golf Media Association.*

## where to stay

### VICTORIA AREA

#### Victoria Regent Hotel

800-663-7472 \* [www.victoriaregent.com](http://www.victoriaregent.com)

Located on the Inner Harbor in downtown Victoria, walking distance to the city's finest restaurants and shopping.  
Rates -- \$199 to \$1,199.

#### The Westin Bear Mountain Victoria Golf Resort

888-533-2327 \* [www.bearmountain.ca](http://www.bearmountain.ca)

Right on the golf course at Bear Mountain, overlooking the 18th fairway of the Mountain Course.  
Rates -- \$129 to \$399

### OCEANSIDE

#### The Schooner Cove Hotel & Marina, Nanoose Bay

800-663-7060 \* [www.fairwinds.ca](http://www.fairwinds.ca)

Offering views of the marina and the Strait of Georgia  
Rates -- \$75 to \$179

### NORTH

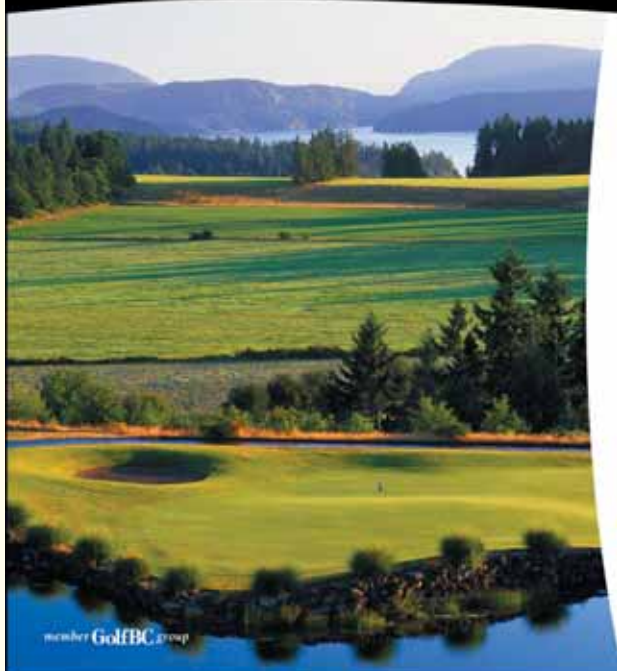
#### Crown Isle Resort, Courtenay

888-338-8439 \* [www.crownisle.com](http://www.crownisle.com)

Rooms available overlooking the first hole  
Rates -- \$109 to \$415

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## PEABODY ELECTED BCGA'S FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT



Anne Peabody, former president of the BC Ladies' Golf Association (BCLGA), has been elected president of the British Columbia Golf Association (BCGA). She is the first woman to head the board of the governing

body for amateur golf in the province.

Peabody's background is impressive. She has spent more than thirty years dedicated to amateur golf, starting at the club level in 1974 at Tsawwassen G&CC, entering the provincial level in 1992 serving as Provincial Course Rating/Handicap Director and achieving Master Course Rater status. She served as vice-president of the BCLGA in 2001-2002, and as president in 2003-2004.

On the national level, Peabody served as Canadian Ladies' Golf Association (CLGA) board member and has chaired the CLGA Nominating Committee and served on the By-law Committee and Membership Sub-committee. From 2002-2004, she represented both the BCLGA and BCGA on

the Golf Canada Council.

In September of 2004, the BCGA and BCLGA merged into one unified governing body. Peabody served on the steering committee that formulated the by-laws of the new BCGA. The BCGA now represents more than 67,000 golfers, in over 300 clubs at 270 member courses.

Peabody will oversee the association for the next two years.

Other members of the 2007 BCGA Executive Committee include George Faithfull, First Vice President; Jack Stevens, Vice President; Keith Larson, Vice President; Helen Steeves, Vice President Member Services; Gerry Walker, Vice President Player Development; and Jack Croucher, Immediate Past President.

Visit [www.bcgga.org](http://www.bcgga.org) for more information.

## BCGA GOES GLOBAL

The British Columbia Golf Association (BCGA) will be exhibiting at the China Golf Expo, being held in Beijing on April 21-23. The Beijing International Golf Development Foundation (BIGDF) had contacted the BCGA a couple years ago, wanting help in growing the game in China

on a grassroots level. China is the largest emerging economic market on the planet, and they see golf as a stepping stone in social and business development.

The BCGA has already contributed in a number of ways since being contacted, among them sending local business leaders to China to assist in course development, and last year exempted two Chinese golfers into the 2006 BC Amateur Championship. These golfers, the first from mainland China to compete for the title, were granted special visas from their government for the trip.

British Columbia is seeking to be approved by the Chinese government as a destination, which would allow easy visa access to its citizens to travel. Canada is currently not approved for travel, but Kris Jonasson, the BCGA's Executive Director, feels that because of the relationship they are fostering with the BIGDF, they expect this approval before the 2010 Olympics, opening the door for China's golfers to walk the fairways of British Columbia's beautiful courses.

For more information, visit the BCGA's web site at [www.bcgga.org](http://www.bcgga.org).



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## COSMONAUT SHOT FLIES THE GREEN EARTH

To commemorate the 35th anniversary of Alan Shepard one-arming a 6-iron on the moon during the Apollo 14 mission in 1971, Toronto company e21 Golf paid an undisclosed sum to have Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin step out of the Mir Space Station 389 kilometers above the earth and hit a ball with their gold-plated e21 6-iron.

And on Thanksgiving Day, 2006, Tyurin did just that. The weight of the gold-plated ball was 3 grams, about 1/15th the weight of a normal golf ball. On the first day, the ball traveled over 6 million miles, flying six miles every second.

After circling the earth, the ball was expected to re-enter the atmosphere

after three days, but its flight exceeded expectations, re-entering the atmosphere after almost three weeks of orbiting the planet.

e21 Golf plans to bring the club back to earth and donate it to a charitable cause. Shepard's 6-iron is on display at the USGA Museum in Far Hills, New Jersey.

The stunt was e21 Golf's way of promoting their new line of Scandium Metal Alloy irons. In the past, the cash-strapped Russians have allowed Pizza Hut to paint its logo on one of their rockets and have a pizza delivered to the space station. They also charged Pepsi \$5 million to have cosmonauts float a replica of a soda can outside the space station.

The flight of the ball could be tracked on e21's web site: [www.e21.ca](http://www.e21.ca)