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## COURSES UNDER CONSTRUCTION

BY JEFF SUTHERLAND

### Greg Signs Off On Cliffs

**G**olfer and course architect Greg Norman was once again front and centre

on Vancouver Island as he made a second stop at his signature golf course on Friday, June 15th. Work has reached the point where golf's former #1 was able to make the tweaks and subtle design touches that have made Norman one of the most highly regarded course architects in the world today. During this visit, Greg reviewed the final shaping / grading for 15 holes and then decided on the finishing touches for contouring.

Norman was ecstatic about the Cliffs' site as a canvas for a golf course. "There's not too many other places like this around the world. I mean, just look at the backdrops and the ambience of the place. The Cliffs is a golf course that's going to be very playable for everybody..."

He was also very complimentary about the entire project. "On a scale of 1 to 10, I give this an 8.5 right now. This is a beautiful place

here, there's no question about it. It's a unique environment up here. Anybody who buys here is going to be very, very fortunate."

Final shaping will continue through the summer with irrigation to be installed in the fall. This will put crews in the position of seeding some holes at that point and the balance in the spring of next year. If the weather cooperates, play will

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- GREG NORMAN -

begin in August of 2008.

The 6,891-yard, par 72 signature layout is the centerpiece for the masterplanned Golf Course and Residential Community approximately 45 minutes north of Victoria. Overall, the project promises to be one of the most spectacular developments in the

province in recent memory. Views stretch from the Strait of Georgia toward Vancouver to the mountains and lakes of the Cowichan Valley for a magnificent vista of more than 210 degrees. All this located in the highest average year-round temperatures in the country.

Developer Warren Paulin sees the prestigious development as similar, and even superior to, other high-end projects on Southern Vancouver Island. "The Cliffs is similar to Bear Mountain... spectacular views, a "name designer" golf layout married to premier real estate. The main difference is that this is on a more intimate and exclusive scale. There are only 360 homesites and 295 condominiums here. Plans are also underway for the development of a high-end boutique 100 room hotel in an ultra exclusive village-style setting."

To date, 130 home-sites have been sold in Phases One and Two and there are none currently available from the developer in either phase. The prestigious home-sites in Phase Three are set to be released in late June. These properties will have some of the finest ocean views in the entire development. Buyers will



Norman shown being re-united with the Presidents Cup trophy during the festivities. The Cup is being taken across Canada as part of the lead-up to the tournament in Montreal in September.

be able to view information related to this Phase in the new, on-site, 4100 square foot show home at that time. The major arterial route through the development now has more than 50% of the sewer and services completed, with road paving set to start next month.

Paulin continues, "We should see Phase I paved by July 31st. That will be Kingsview through from the Properties to Nevilane Drive. We expect construction to begin in Phase I from Kingsview through to Nevilane possibly by August. It will be very exciting to watch as our community starts to grow."

For information about the Cliffs Over Maple Bay call 1.800.886.8439 or visit [www.cliffsovermaplebay.com](http://www.cliffsovermaplebay.com). **ig**

IMAGE CREDITS: QUIET LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY / GREG CORP



Developer Warren Paulin (left) joined Norman, builder Paul Garvie (centre) and GNE senior designer Scott Henshaw (right) on the site review.



As part of the official ceremonies, the second hole, a par three was completely sodded and bunkered. Norman with a couple of practice swings stiffed it to about 8 feet.

**A CONTINUING  
COMMITMENT TO  
EXCELLENCE**

A few years ago, Morningstar decided to pull out all the stops in their ongoing commitment to improve their facility.

After appointing RJ Cloutier as Course Superintendent in 2005, they invited Course Architect Les Furber to return and finesse his creation into an even more enjoyable experience.

Golfers will be delighted to affirm that to date, the combined results are quite remarkable.

The good news for members and visitors alike, is they are not resting on their well-deserved laurels.

With ongoing owner support by the Directors



Course Superintendent RJ Cloutier (above) and Les Furber (right)



of the Operating Engineers Pension Plan, the current improvements to fairways and overall drainage will be even more enhanced over the next 18 months.

"The golf course is in really good shape given

the winter we have had and we will be adding more subsurface drainage on the front nine this summer," says Director of Operations, Michael Casey.

He also comments, "We have just added two more CPGA professionals to our teaching staff, so things are moving ahead and this promises to be another exciting year at Morningstar."

Playing conditions are not the only improvements by any means. One cannot fail to be impressed by the startling progress of the Morningstar Golf Academy and much credit goes to the popular director, David Kuss.

According to marketing manager Steve Miller, one of the keys was the introduction of the Indoor Golf Centre which operates all winter.

"It allowed our lesson program to hit the ground running in the spring," says Miller.

Still regarded as a serious threat to a golfer's ability to rack up small numbers on a scorecard, Morningstar will test the top amateurs in the province this summer when it hosts the B.C. Amateur Championship in mid-July.

There's a reason they are holding it at Morningstar. You should check it out.

*Ken is an international sports web publisher & Vancouver Island Columnist for Inside Golf. He can be reached by email at: [kjen@shaw.ca](mailto:kjen@shaw.ca)*

**Good Luck to All Competitors  
on behalf of Morningstar Employees  
represented by IUOE Local 115**  
Gary W. Kroeker, Business Manager