

# LINKS

January 2024

## GENERAL UPDATES

# General Manager's Message

BRAD YOUNG, GENERAL MANAGER

As 2023 has turned to 2024, and the shorter, dark days are slowly getting longer, the excitement of a new season is ever-growing. The 2024 season will be remembered as our storied Club turns 99 years old in early June. Ian Bowers and Jane Pritchard-Bowers continue to work with their committee to add exciting events to the 2025 calendar to commemorate this monumental 100th anniversary. This season, we will also host the 2024 Canadian Senior Amateur Championships in mid-September—an uncanny achievement for our Club and the community of Saugeen Shores. Over the past four seasons, I've witnessed time and time again a membership that thrives on volunteering, making our Club second to none. I am confident our Club and community will host a national event the likes of Golf Canada have never seen before.

Throughout the off-season, our team has had the opportunity to attend nationwide conferences to network and educate ourselves with some of the industry's top minds, discovering successful trends. Aaron, Riley, and I participated in the national NGCOA conference, while Mike and William recently attended the OGSA Turfgrass Management conference. We're eager to add some learning and trends to Saugeen Golf Club throughout the upcoming season.

Our team has been transitioning our point-of-sale system from Tee-on to Lightspeed since early November. While the transition is taking slightly longer than anticipated, we are seeing the benefits of what Lightspeed will offer our members and team. As mentioned in previous communications, our operation will now integrate with the food and beverage operation to allow for full member charging accounts across the entire operation. This is one of the many advantages of our ongoing transition. As our team navigates through the remainder of this upgrade, we will communicate all necessary changes to the membership in the coming months.

Assistant Professional Brennan Hagey is now in the last stages of finalizing the 2024 Junior Camps. A separate communication with all relevant information will be sent out in the coming week.

Remember to check out our simulators this off-season. They will run into early April. It's a great way to keep your game in check over the winter months to have you open the 2024 season on a high note.

Stay warm

Brad Young

# Update from the Superintendent of Golf

MIKE PELLERIN, COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

The extended fall weather allowed us to complete all the work of winterizing the golf course and equipment. The pump houses have been winterized, chemicals have been applied to prevent snow moulds, and the equipment has been tucked away. This work should give us a good start to the 2024 golf season. The remainder of the winter is in Mother Nature's hands.

So far, there has been minimal winter, and some of you may be curious how that affects the golf course. While I'd prefer the golf course to be covered in snow, there is very little to worry about now. The extended period of exposed turf has allowed the turf to harden off, which is beneficial as we enter the winter months. We will be in good shape to start the season if we see no significant ice development on the short grass areas before February rolls in.

Just a few updates on some of the things we are working on before we see you on opening day:

## Bunker Work Continues on Sunrise:

This fall, we continued with sand replacement on Sunrise. We expect to have all the bunker sand replaced by opening day. You will notice a significant change to the green site on 6 Sunrise. We have stripped the entire right side and shifted the front right bunker closer to the green. The area has been regraded and will require sod. We appreciate your patience until the area is complete; the sod will require some time to knit and mature, similar to last year's work on 5 Sunrise.



## Cart Path Improvements:

We have a healthy stockpile of material on standby, waiting for spring weather so we can begin working on cart path improvements. Legacy will be our focus this spring. We will top up areas that are short on material and grade appropriately.

I hope that you enjoy the offseason. We are looking forward to seeing you this spring.

Mike Pellerin, MS

Course Superintendent



## 2023 Membership Survey Feedback

We want to thank all of our members who participated in our 2023 survey. Last season, 30% of our members participated.

Our 2022 survey results highlighted a few areas that required our team to adjust to serve our membership better in 2023. These areas included tee time management, tee time booking, accountability of no-shows, food and beverage services, and overall club communication. We're happy to report that we received increased ratings across the board when considering the previously mentioned results.

Our 2023 results will once again drive change in areas recommended by feedback to enhance the overall member experience.

We're also excited to announce that the member survey will have a different mindset in 2024. Instead of a long, one-time survey requiring the member to answer over 50 questions, SGC has created a partnership that will now send out potential weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly surveys with ten questions at most at a time. We hope to have more members participate while pinpointing feedback throughout the season. Our partnership also allows us to collect and compare data with other courses on national and international levels.



[DOWNLOAD SURVEY](#)



# Become a corporate member

to target your market.

**We are pleased to offer local businesses and organizations an opportunity to partner with our club through our Corporate Membership Program.**

The program offers a variety of benefits and opportunities, including golf memberships, guest passes, tournament and event sponsorships, and dynamic advertising.

With events like the Canadian Men's Senior Championship, presented by BDO on the horizon - the time is now!

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# CANADIAN MEN'S SENIOR

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## Announcing Golf Fest



SAUGEEN  
GOLF CLUB

# GOLF FEST

*Celebrating Our Exceptional Game.*

**The 2024 Canadian Senior Men's Host Organising Committee (HOC) is excited to announce Golf Fest.**

The whole community is invited to watch some fantastic golfers and, beyond that, to have fun, enjoy great live entertainment, participate in competitions and games, and even win prizes.

**What is Golf Fest?** It is a golf-focused festival that complements the 2024 Canadian Senior Men's Championship. It combines live entertainment, food, a trade show, a beer garden, a silent auction, and indoor and outdoor interactive games.

**When** – Golf Fest will take place from Thursday, September 12th, through Sunday, September 16th, simultaneous with the actual Championship. Mark your calendars NOW!

**Why** – Saugeen Shores has a record of staging memorable events that engage the whole community (think Tankard/Scotties, Hello Summer, Silver Stick, Gran Fondo, Pumpkinfest). Golf Fest will be no exception. Further, we need support from sponsors to stage exciting events. What better way to show appreciation for their help than to showcase their product or service to our community – their marketplace.

**Where** – The Saugeen Golf Course is “action central” for both The Championship and Golf Fest. The Championship will take place on the Legacy and Sunrise courses, whereas Golf Fest will take place on the Sunset course and in a large marquee tent, the “Village on the Green,” erected on the front parking lot.

**Who is involved** – The HOC is the nucleus, and they need the help of 200 volunteers in various areas. So don't be shy. Sign up. The clubhouse will be serving delicious food and beverages in the marquee. Sponsors are the lifeblood. They will be onsite, manning exhibits of their products and services. Entertainers – our community is blessed with talent, and much of it will be on display. And let's not forget the “raison d'être,” those 156 high-caliber golfers from all across Canada and the world. Finally, spectators of all ages, golfers and yet-to-be golfers, will be welcome to watch.

**How** – The “Village on the Green” will house live entertainment, seating for about 250, the beer garden, a golf simulator, various interactive golf-focused games, a silent auction, and sponsor displays. Outside on Sunset, Golf Fest activities will include a hole-in-one contest (win a two-year lease from Port Elgin Chrysler), beat the pro contests, disc golf, putting contests, and demonstrations by Canada's longest drive champion. PLUS, you can join the gallery and follow some excellent golfers.

**How much does this cost?** Saugeen GC members may walk the course as part of the gallery at no cost. The four-day pass to Golf Fest is \$50; however, if you are a Saugeen member or a volunteer, your price is discounted to \$30. And all those kids and grandkids 16 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. Daily and weekend passes will also be available. Passes make a great gift (birthday, Mother's Day, Father's Day), even for non-golfers. Four-Day Golf Fest passes will be available shortly through the club website, the pro shop, and Good Things in downtown Port Elgin. They will be available in other locations come spring.

See you in September.

# Junior Summer Golf Camps



We are thrilled to be offering our junior summer golf camps again through the months of July and August.

Our Junior Golf Camps are designed for junior golfers ages 7 to 14 years old with groups divided into 7-10 and 11-14. Campers can be brand new to the game of golf, or have some experience and are looking to advance their skills to the next level.

Each weekly summer camp session will cover all of the key fundamentals of golf including, grip, stance, posture & alignment. All major swing aspects including full swing, chipping, putting and bunker play will be covered thoroughly. Our coaches will conduct a daily review in the rules of golf and course etiquette to get campers comfortable for when they are ready to hit the links on their own.

Campers will get daily on course play along with the use of multi-sport activities to create and strengthen athletic movements necessary for the golf swing.

We look forward to building the future of golf in a fun, energetic way!

# Staff Holiday Function

Saugeen Golf Club wouldn't be where it is today without our fabulous team members' hard work and dedication. On December 18th, we were fortunate enough to play host to these wonderful team members, as over 40 of our employees joined us for an evening of food, beverages, trivia, laughs, and prizes.

The evening began with another great meal, which our food and beverage team accommodated. The meal was followed by a trivia night hosted by Karen Fehr and Kwizknow. Karen did a magnificent job incorporating some of Saugeen Golf Club's history and other golf-related questions into the evening. Nonstop fun and laughs were had throughout the night, and prizes were awarded to the best team's name and the most and least knowledgeable teams.

We would like to thank our entire team once again for such a great 2023 season and cannot wait to see what's in store for 2024.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

# Junior Golf Simulator



Calling all junior golfers! This simulator season has two more junior golf events on the dates and times listed below. They will be a 9-hole scramble format with some fun games involved.

There will be food (pizza) and prizes. We will start with eight players for the 2-hour block but can grow that depending on interest.

The cost per player will be \$20, which covers food and prizes. The simulator time will be complimentary.

Sunday, February 18th, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Sunday, March 24th, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Please RSVP to this email address if you are interested

[junioracademy@saugeengolf.com](mailto:junioracademy@saugeengolf.com)

# 2024 SGC Winter Golf Tournament



**When:** February 24th/25th

**Course:** Cabot Links on Saturday- February 24th

**Format:** 2-person Team Net Best Ball

**Handicap:** 90% handicap for all rounds

**Eligibility:** Members and Guests with a valid Golf Canada Handicap/index tracking app

**Simulator rate:** \$50/hour

**Registration Fee/player:** \$50 (Includes one drink each and a flatbread pizza per team)

Retgression is in effect if one or more teams tie.

The top four teams on Saturday will advance to the semi-final at 10:00 am on Sunday, February 25th, at Cabot Cliffs (four hours at \$50/hour, playing against the other team).

**Finale** - Real Club Valderrama at 2:30 pm (four hours at no charge, playing against the other team)

**Semi/Final Format:** 2-Person Team Net Better Ball Match Play

**Breakdown:**

65% to the Winning team

25% to the Runner Up team

5% to the 3rd-place team

5% to the 4th-place team

Email Aaron at [proshop@saugeengolf.com](mailto:proshop@saugeengolf.com) to register

First come, first serve to the first 14 teams.

The 2024 SGC Winter Cup trophy is up for grabs!



# Callaway Fitting Day

**Sunday, March 10th from 11:00 am-4:00 pm**

Email Aaron [proshop@saugeengolf.com](mailto:proshop@saugeengolf.com) to register.

More fitting days to come with Ping and Titleist.

Stay tuned for announcements.



# Calling all Content Creators

Since refreshing The Links as a monthly newsletter, we have enjoyed communicating things that matter to our members.

## **Now we want to hear from you!**

Do you have stories, recaps, pictures, or announcements that could be shared with the people of Saugeen? We welcome content submissions from our members on anything Saugeen-related. Together, we can create a monthly beat of our club to capture just what makes SGC so great.

To be included in any monthly Links edition, please send your written content to Sarah Tippin at [info@saugeengolf.com](mailto:info@saugeengolf.com) no later than the last Thursday of each month.



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The monthly email newsletter for  
Saugeen Golf Club members



Contact: [gm@saugeengolf.com](mailto:gm@saugeengolf.com)

