

Blue Springs Golf Club impresses golf officials

Acton officially new home for CPGA

By DAN RALPH

The Canadian Professional Golfers Association (CPGA) finally has a headquarters it can call home.

The CPGA officially announced Wednesday it would be moving its operation to Acton's Blue Springs Golf Club in early 1992. The CPGA's new home will be a 5,000 square foot building located next to the ninth hole. Presently the CPGA is based out of Weston.

Blue Springs Golf Club is located just west of Acton and is still under construction. It's being developed by Acton's olde Hide House. In addition to the 18-hole, 6,713-yard Turtle Lake golf course Blue Springs will have a pro shop, clubhouse site, a Score golf school, practice putting and chipping greens along with a practice fairway. In addition there will be a Trillium Par 3 course as well as the Blue Springs Estates residential area.

In total, Blue Springs will cover some 540 acres and the semi-private course should be complete next year. Oakville's Shelley Woolner will be the club professional.

"We've been searching for a permanent site for some time," said CPGA president Tom Mann Wednesday at a press conference held at Jack Tanner's Table in Acton. "Now we can honestly say we've come to roost and we're looking forward to our association with Acton."

"We've expressed a desire to be a leader in the field of golf, and one of the things we wanted to do was find a permanent home," added CPGA executive director Daving Colling. "Not only were we impressed with the course design but also with the sincerity of the Blue



Tom Mann



Don Dawkins

Springs people. That I think will be the key to our relationship."

The CPGA will hold one of its five annual national championship events (Seniors, CPGA, Ladies, Club and Assistants tournaments) at Blue Springs, starting with the 1992 Seniors competition. The following year the CPGA championship will be held at the Acton course.

"The course will definitely be a test for the professionals," said CPGA tournament director Gary McClinton. "Holding the Senior tournament in 1992 here will allow us to have run one a tournament before going with (the CPGA) event in 1993."

Old Hide House chairman of the Board of Directors Don Dawkins said when plans were being made to construct Blue Springs, he never figured the CPGA affiliation would come about immediately. Dawkins

added he knew shortly after first viewing the land it was best suited for a golf course and while feeling the Turtle Lake course is a good one, Dawkins said having the CPGA involved with Blue Springs gives it instant credibility.

"We wanted the course to be competitive with Georgetown's North Halton Golf and Country Club and the Guelph Country Club," Dawkins said. "We never imagined things would go this far this quickly."

"We feel we're very fortunate to be suited for this affiliation," Dawkins continued. "We hope the Club earns the right to be another significant reason why it's worth the drive to Acton."

Town of Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller was on hand for Wednesday's announcement and said Halton Hills can only benefit from the CPGA coming to Blue Springs.

"This will only bring more people to our Town," Miller said. "It will provide employment and make Halton Hills more desirable to live in. What I like to see is an organization like the olde Hide House staying here and providing something for our community. I've found the Hide House and the Dawkins family to be interested in Halton Hills. When the Acton Tannery left there was a downswing, but the Hide House helped fill that void."



SOMETHING TO TOAST ABOUT-Those individuals involved with Blue Springs Golf Club had a lot of reason to make this toast after being deemed the official home of the Canadian Professional Golfers Association. On hand for the toast are (from left) Club pro Shelley Woolner, Golf

Operations Manager Craig Guthrie, Golf Course Superintendent Ted Ellis, Blue Springs Development President David Dawkins and Construction Manager Calvin Wyga. Blue Springs Golf Club Standing is Blue Springs Golf Club President Rick Glugosh.

TED BROWN, Independent/Free Press

Affiliation with CPGA is instant credibility

The first ball won't be teed up for some time yet, but already Blue Springs Golf Club has the credibility of a course that's been in existence for some time.

That's come about with Wednesday's announcement that Blue Springs will be home for the Canadian Professional Golfers Association (CPGA). The CPGA will move into its new 5,000 square foot office in early 1992, and hold at least one of its five national tournaments at Blue Springs. The first will be the 1992 Seniors event, then in 1993 the Canadian Tour's premier event (the annual CPGA tournament) will be held at the Acton course.

CPGA officials said Wednesday their organization has been longing for a site to call home. The CPGA has moved to different sites in the past, hoping each move would provide a site suited to handle its affairs. But a complaint has always been the CPGA not being able to have an office that correctly captures the mood of a golf organization. Now, instead of looking out the office window and on to a parking lot, CPGA officials can see an 18-hole championship golf course on their doorstep.

"Being able to run a tourna-



Dan Ralph

ment from the office will make things so much easier," said CPGA tournament director Gary McClinton. "It will make it so much more efficient."

The Blue Springs project is being developed by Acton's olde Hide House. Hide House Chairman of the Board of Directors Don Dawkins said Wednesday he had no idea the CPGA would make its headquarters in Acton even before the first player took to the course. While having the CPGA in Acton gives the course credibility, the onus now will be on Blue Springs to prove its worth of such a prestigious honor.

"We've felt we have a good course," he said. "But with the CPGA Tournament coming here in 1993 it will be up to our people to work very hard and make the tournament a success, which I'm very sure we will."

What Wednesday's announcement does is create nothing but a good feeling.

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HOME AT LAST-Members of the Canadian Professional Golfers Association (CPGA) were on hand Wednesday to announce the Association would be coming to Acton's Blue Springs Golf Club and making it their permanent home. From left are

manager, Education and Administration, Tournament Director Gary McClinton, President Tom Mann, Administrative Assistant Paula Mancuso and Executive Director David Colling.

TED BROWN, Independent/Free Press