



## World at their fingertips

Ariene Kamo, a Grade 5 teacher at Halton Weldorf School in Campbellville, showed her nine-year-old daughter Maysa, one of her pupils, a handwork project at the school's recent open house.

Photo by  
Graham Payne

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## New practice facilities approaching completion at Family Golf Oakville

Construction has already started on what will be one of the very best short-game practice areas in the world. Short-game shots are pitching, chipping, and bunker shots, and "Family Golf - Oakville" will offer an area that contains the best ideas in the world of golf.

General manager Larry Armatage explains, "The short-game part of golf, including putting, accounts for half of the strokes you mark on the scorecard, but practice facilities have not given golfers much of a chance to work on this part of their game. We started formulating a design about four years ago, and carefully collected ideas from the best courses in North America."

Last spring, Augusta National completed a beautiful short game facility designed by Ray Floyd, and during a trip to the Masters, Armatage made sketches and took video of all of its features. A trip to the Players Championship at Sawgrass, home of "The Player's Championship", (and the showcase of The PGA Tour), gave an opportunity to collect other good ideas. Similar trips were made to PGA National in Palm Beach, a look at Glen Abbey's new practice facility, and numerous other 'high-end' clubs.

Last fall, the bulldozers started shaping a 3-acre area to the south of the range, and gave a look at what the project will contain. First, 4 bunkers, including a grass bunker, surround an 8,000-square-foot green, which will have 3 or 4 flags to shoot at. Next to it, the practice chipping area, a 4,000-square-foot green which will feature fringes, a large collar area, and a swale to allow every type of shot to recover when you 'just miss' the green with your approach shot. Finally, a 12,000-square-foot area to practice pitching, with an opportunity for every conceivable kind of shot - pitching to a green above you, to a green below you, from down in a swale, off a berm where the ball could be on a sidehill lie, ball above or below your feet, out of light rough, and heavy rough. "We got a

lot of help from Dr. Gary Wiren, (Author of "The PGA Master Teaching Manual"), and tried to anticipate every kind of shot that you can encounter," says Armatage; "The facility also to be able to accommodate a bunch of golfers at a time, and it has to be safe. That's why the area is so large, so that 40 and 50 yard pitches can be part of it."

Having the practice area isn't usually enough to get most people to practice this part of their game... it has to be interesting and fun to accomplish this, there are 2 parts to the practice area. One half is for people who just want to practice one thing at a time, for a longer length of time. The other half has been designed to have a "game" of short-game golf.

The work is being done by one of Canada's best contractors, the same company that did the extensive reconstruction for Glen Abbey when the bridge went through, and for two of Canada's top Courses, Hamilton G. & C.C. at Ancaster, and Thornhill in Toronto.

The 25,000 square foot green will be Bent Grass, with fringes and fairway/rough areas sewn in Blue Grass, the same combination as Glen Abbey. Members will have the facility included in their 1994 Membership fee, and non-members can use the facility for an unlimited period for \$4.

"Several 90-minute sessions at our practice game area, at a cost of perhaps \$15-\$25 for a summer will probably do far more for your game than a \$250. Boron-Graphite Driver", says Armatage. "In addition, we know that for a lot of people, a 5-6 hour golf experience at a fraction of the cost of green fees."

The project is the latest in a series of upgrades that Family Golf-Oakville has completed in recent years. "Family Golf - Oakville" is located on the Q.E.W.'s North Service Road, directly across from the Ford Plant, at the intersection of Upper Middle Road and the North Service Road.

For more information, call Larry Armatage at 842-6120.

## ANOTHER GREAT OFFERING FOR HALTON GOLFERS!

### FREE FREE FREE

Bring this coupon to Family Golf - Oakville and receive a complimentary "tryout" small basket of balls Expires Apr. 194.

Reasonable Prices:  
\$4.75 for 40 balls  
\$7.50 for 80 balls

all taxes included, no extra charge for beaters

### Features:

- You're not "on the dock", i.e. paying for time taken. We charge a flat per-bucket fee... take as much time as you want to hit.
- Natural... this is not an indoor facility, you don't hit the end with your longer clubs, or hit the roof with your short irons
- Full size; 305 yard range, 200 yards wide, 5 target greens
- Comfortable; our brand new high-intensity heaters will make you think you've taken a wrong turn, and ended up in Florida
- No Special winter membership fee required... you can either pay by the basket, or purchase our year long membership, (which is perhaps North America's best deal in golf)
- A terrific winter golf education program, with classroom and range practice

For complete information, and hours, please call (905) 842-6120 after 10 a.m.

How to get there - we are on the Q.E.W.'s North Service Road, 300 yards past Mack Trucks, directly across from the Ford Plant, at the corner of Upper Middle Road, and The North Service Road

from the Q.E.W. exit, turn north at Ford Drive, left at Upper Middle and left at the Service Road

from Highway 5 (Dundas Street) take Trafalgar Road, South, turn East on Upper Middle, and turn right at the Service Road

from Highway 403, Exit at Upper Middle West, and turn left at the Service Road



Please call (905) 842-6120 for details  
**Family Golf - Oakville**  
1516 North Service Road East, Oakville, Ontario

