

Fairways a "taxing" experience

For the tax accountant, there is nothing more serene than waking up that first morning in May, and realizing your life is now your own again, that you have survived another income tax season.

For Stouffville's David Moyer, the past nine springs have all been delayed until May 1. An accountant with the south Markham firm of Norton, McMullen and Co., Dave starts to feel the crunch with his co-workers around the end of February as everyone scrambles to put their income-tax house in order.

He says he'll average around 30 hours of overtime a week during this period, and when the end of April finally comes, he's more than ready for a little fun and frivolity.

So the first of May will always find him up at the crack of dawn, bleary eyed but full of spit and vinegar, ready to hit the links with 15 or so other employees of the company equally anxious to decompress.

The golf these boys play is characterized more by quantity than quality, and it has snowed on them more than once. Dave feels the boys get their money's worth because



FROM WHERE I LIVE
Bruce Stapley

they usually get to hit the ball three or four more times per hole than your average golfer. And, he insists, they refuse to apply the same wizardry to their golf scores that they use to lower the number of tax dollars their clients are required to pay.

Yes, to be sure, most of these guys are just plain bad golfers. Topped tee-off shots, errant three-iron blasts, and an attraction to water that sees golf balls go 'plop' with uncanny regularity, even when the pond isn't anywhere near the fairway.

When I asked Dave if I could be a part of the annual event this year, he looked at me suspiciously, but then smiled as he recalled golfing with me several years back. "You were pretty bad, as I recall," he re-

flected. "I think you'd fit in fine."

And, as it turned out, I was just one of the boys as I 'terrorized' the Gormley Green course with a sizzling 134. That's about 60 shots over par, for those who bother with the technicalities of the game. Mind you, one fellow shot a rather spectacular 88, but I was assured he would be transferred to another company before the advent of next year's tax season.

Markham's Rod Russell, representing management, apparently didn't see fit to include trophy money in the company budget this year, and he was being given the razz by the gang.

Watching Rod burn up the back nine with a scintillating 62, I concluded that he did indeed have a healthy appreciation for the nature of the contest being waged, and that the lack of trophies was simply an oversight brought about by the frantic rush of tax time.

There were highlights that stood out at day's end, classic examples of golf as played by duffers who don't quite have the game down to a science. For example, the par three

hole, 150 yards at best, that saw all three of us in my group 'compensate' for a sand trap to the immediate right of the hole by lofting our tee-shots into the forest to the far left of the green. Our collective score was a mighty 20 for that hole.

Or the other par three hole that saw us break into spontaneous applause, as, one after the other, all four golfers in the foursome just behind us landed their tee-shots plunk in the middle of the pond directly in front of the green.

And then there was the left-handed swinger, who, after experiencing frustration after frustration all day, decided to try a right handed shot, just for fun. The bloke blasted as nice a drive as we had seen all day. "I'd give my right arm to be ambidextrous," was the quick-witted response of another in the group.

So now that Dave and the boys are back among the living, and spring has officially sprung for them as for the rest of us, it is now safe for the real golfers to head for the fairways.

I suppose it's a good thing they golf only once a year.

Young people are "SALT" of earth

By KATE GILDERDALE

Serving and Learning Together (SALT) is a Mennonite Central Committee program that enables young people across Canada to live and work in a different province for 11 months.

Participants live in groups of up to seven, working as volunteers in areas such as hospitals, retirement homes, child-care facilities and organizations for the mentally or physically handicapped.

SALTers work approximately 30 hours a week in their chosen field, as well as spending several hours in other areas served by the program.

As well, they enjoy involvement with the local church, which sponsors them and offers friendship and moral support. Bible study is an important part of life in the unit.

Each unit is under the guidance of a leader who organizes job placements and can offer help and advice to group members, whose ages range from 17 to 20. Independence is stressed, and participants are encouraged to work out an equitable division of household chores, cooking and general maintenance.

The first step of the SALT program consists of a week of orientation before the groups arrive at their destinations, where they'll remain from the beginning of September until the following July.

All the SALTers' needs are provided by the sponsoring church and their wages go towards defraying the costs. Each unit member is given a monthly allowance.

Stouffville unit leader Lil Grove explains some of the benefits SALT offers young people: "We see it as an opportunity for them to be away from home, to explore another area and to see how other people in different areas live out their Christian faiths in another congregation."

SALT is one of many programs run by Mennonite Central Committee Canada, which offers relief and help in countries throughout the world.

The Committee also organizes volunteer support for the needy in cities across Canada, and runs a summer gardening program with native Canadians whose traditional livelihoods such as hunting and fishing are being threatened by pollution and acid rain.

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