

People

Stouffville man creates courses from Bahamas to hometown

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Correspondent

Ted Maude, the self-appointed champion of the cause of the public golfer, has been making his presence felt from Stouffville all the way to the Bahamas in recent days.

The Stouffville resident and former touring golf pro is the key player in Golf Plus Inc., a Markham-based multi-purpose golf consulting firm which

designs, builds and manages public golf courses in Canada and abroad.

While his research shows Canada to have the highest per capita rate of golf play in the world, he had dedicated himself to providing state-of-the-art courses for the pay-as-you-play golf enthusiast.

His company presided over the development and day-to-day operation of the first 18-

hole championship course in Newfoundland four years ago. Called Twin Rivers Golf Course, the facility was carved out of a national wilderness park three hours north of St. John's.

Golfers are treated to the sights of roaming moose, leaping salmon, bald eagles flying overhead, and ice bergs in the bordering waters.

On the local scene, Maude's

company spent six months lining up the necessary government approvals for the recently-opened Timber Creek Driving Range and Adventure Golf complex on Hwy 48 just north of Stouffville.

Maude left Monday for the Bahamas to sign a contract which will put his company in charge of the operation of the South Ocean Beach Resort golf club.



TED MAUDE

The trip was like a homecoming, of sorts for Maude, who was the golf pro at the club for 10 years in the 1970s, working in the employ of noted Canadian financier EP Taylor.

But his biggest project in recent days has been the construction of a brand new high tech public course in Caledon, called the Osprey Valley Heathlands Golf Course.

The course, which opened earlier this spring, represents a victory for the public golfer, according to Maude. Fashioned after the great courses in England, Ireland and Scotland, he insists it is in a class of its own, offering a world-class public facility at an affordable price.

With the land purchased at low recession prices, and using contractors anxious to be competitive, Maude said the project is just right for the times.

"The trend today is for affordable public golf courses," he said in a recent *Tribune* interview. "Yet the public golfer has been overlooked. Our studies show that public golf represents 92 per cent of the golf played in Canada. The public golfer once had an image of the guy in cut-off jeans. Now, you go to the public clubs and there are Mercedes in the parking lot."

Maude said his company's cry about the need to offer public golf facilities is finally starting to get through, especially in light of the current economic conditions.

Some of the private clubs are now going public as well, he maintained.

"Everything we said 10 years ago about private equity not working has been borne out. In southern Ontario, there has been a critical imbalance of supply and demand when it comes to public clubs."

Maude said he's delighted to see the needs of the public golfer finally recognized. He added he will continue to make the increasingly popular summer game available for Canadians who want to go the public route.

"I'm on cloud nine," he continued.

"Granted, there's some self-interest here, but I am elated because I've been promoting public golf for years."

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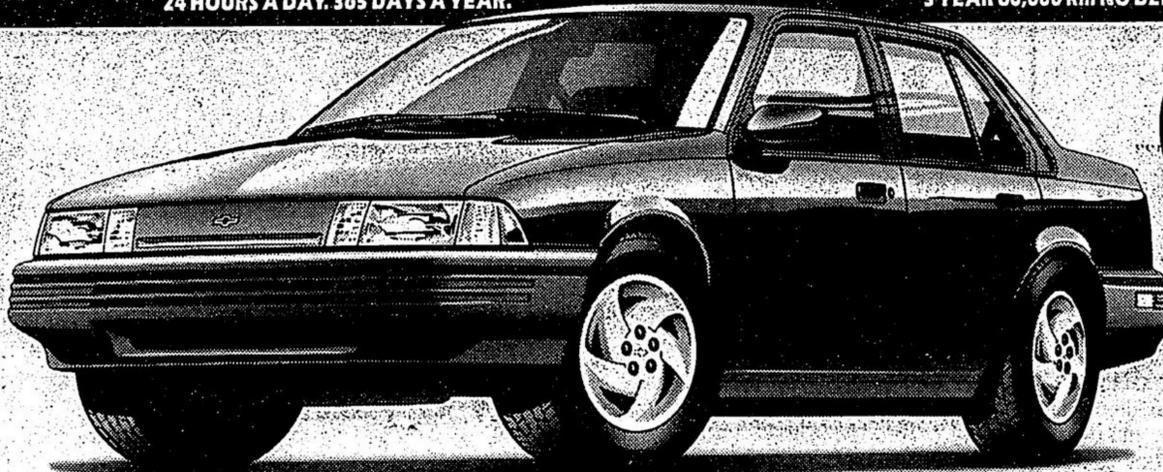
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