

**BUSINESS:** Golfers can get a taste of the world's most famous courses close to home

# Club offers tee time that's carved in stone

FROM PAGE 14

nearly 20 years in the golf industry after earning his card with the Canadian Professional Golf Association. He's also been the point man for a core group of executives in several golf projects, including his work at Glenway Country Club and Targetlines Golf Centre in Newmarket, plus the Golf Dome in Markham.

**You're driving past 30 other courses to get here so we want to make it an experience you'll enjoy at least once a year.**

However, after touring a 132-hectare property for sale in Uxbridge in the spring of 1997, Seemann quickly teamed up with managing partner Alan Chud to formulate plans to build an 18-hole golf course with similarities borrowed from several of the world's most renowned facilities. Augusta National, Pine Valley, St. Andrew's, Royal Troon and Carnoustie are featured prominently at Wooden Sticks.

"I thought if we don't build a great property here, somebody else will," explained Seemann, who not only secured the services of award-winning golf architect Ron Garl, designer of the Heritage Pointe Golf and Country Club masterpiece in Calgary, but got him on board as an investor, too.

With a deposit on the property and a business plan in hand, Chud lined up his hockey friends while Seemann began searching for investors from a vast array of contacts, convincing Craig Glenway, president Gary Lester and fellow CPGA pro Gerard Waslen to come on board.

"You meet a lot of people over the years, and when an opportunity like

this presents itself, you just have to jump at it," Seemann added.

"Canadians always seem to be a little hesitant, but it started to get off the ground after the first bunch of guys jumped on board. Most guys can't envision what it will be like two years down the road.

"It has been a sellable product to the bank, but I don't believe we could have done this project 10 years ago. It's all a matter of getting the right people involved so you can develop a certain comfort level."

With a \$175 individual greens fee, Wooden Sticks may be considered a pricey endeavour. However, the cost covers golf, power cart, a bucket of range balls, two meals plus snacks and non-alcoholic beverages while on the course.

And with a licensing fee concept moulded after today's climate of professional sports teams, the club is offering a tee time ownership program that etches a weekly starting time in stone for a fee ranging between \$6,000 and \$20,000.

"With the replica concept, people won't mind driving a little out of the way," Seemann said. "I mean, you're driving past 30 other courses to get here so we want to make it an experience you'll enjoy at least once a year."

"This has been a dream come true for me, but the stress has been unbelievable. Stepping onto a golf course that's done is one thing, but starting from scratch and not knowing all the procedures is another. You just can't underestimate the value of a good architect."

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\$3,600	\$328/mth	\$6,180.68



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