

Teeing off on the Markham-Stouffville golf season

Late opening of local courses didn't dampen golfers' enthusiasm

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Sports Editor

Good bye winter, hello spring.

To any local golfing enthusiast, those are words are welcomed with open arms.

And to be quite frank, spring's arrival couldn't come soon enough considering that many golf courses last year opened their facilities a week or two earlier than usual.

Mike Begley, a club pro at Parkview Golf Club in Markham, recalled their 36-hole public facility opened March 27 last year. This year, the 18-hole upper course was open for business April 7 while the 18-hole lower course's opening was delayed due to wet grounds in the Rouge River valley and did not open until last Saturday.

"The weather definitely played a role in our course opening later this year," he confirmed. "There was more snow cover this year."

While the later opening cut into some business days, Begley said it hasn't dampened the spirits of those who take to the links.

"People's recreation time has become more valuable and golf is so popular. Last Sunday (April 8) we had 25-degree Celsius weather and we were swamped with people," he recalled.

Old Man Winter's stubbornness to make an early exit also played a bit of havoc with Whitchurch-Stouffville's public courses.

"Last year we opened Rolling Hills on March 8 and Gormley Green on March 12," cited John Finlayson, head pro at both facilities.

But in looking over the last 15 years, Finlayson noted a regular start up time is traditionally around the first of April to the middle of the month. Despite the late opening, Finlayson said golfers will make an effort to make up for any lost days.

"People might think we're behind the eight ball in starting late this year. But we're not. People will play golf and they'll play the same amount. They'll just do it in a shorter period of time."

"The more you can't have it the more you want it. It creates a frenzy. People are hungrier to get out and play."

Here's a rundown of local courses that are open to the public within the vicinity of Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville:

ANGUS GLEN GOLF CLUB

Location: 10080 Kennedy Rd.

Telephone Number: (905) 887-5157.

Course layout and fees: South Course: 18-hole, 7,400-yard par 72 set to open tomorrow. North Course: a new 18-hole, 7,301-yard par 72 scheduled to open June 18. Fees: \$160 plus tax seven days a week and \$110 plus tax weekends and holidays after noon hour. Fees include power cart rental. Golf Academy and club rentals on site as well as full driving range, putting green and new chipping area to open end of June. Existing clubhouse to open tomorrow with expanded 50,000-square foot clubhouse set to open June 18.

BALLANTRAE GOLF CLUB

Location: Hwy. 48 just north of Aurora Rd.

Telephone Number: (905) 640-6333.

Course layout and fees: 18-hole, 6,808-yard par 72. First full year of operation. Fees Monday to Thursdays \$65. Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays \$80. Also multiple play packages available. Club and cart rentals available. Practice facilities on site. Temporary pro shop set up but will be part of clubhouse that is currently under construction.

BUSHWOOD GOLF CLUB

Location: 10905 Reesor Rd. (10th Line).

Telephone Number: (905) 640-1233.

Course layout and fees: Championship course: 18-hole, 6,450-yard par 72 set to open tomorrow. Early season fees until May 19: Monday to Fridays \$32; after 2 p.m. \$28 and after 4 p.m. \$22. Saturday, Sundays and holidays \$42; after 2 p.m. \$38 and after 4 p.m. \$32. From May 20 to Oct. 9: Monday to Fridays \$35; after 2 p.m. \$31 and after 4 p.m. \$25; weekends and holidays \$45; after 2 p.m. \$41 and after 4 p.m. \$35. Seniors and juniors Monday to Fridays (excluding holidays) \$28. Nine-hole, 3,200-yard, par 31 executive course. Early season special rates until May 19: Monday to Fridays \$15 for 18 holes and \$10 for nine holes. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays \$18 for 18 holes and \$12 for nine holes. May 20 to Oct. 9: \$17 for 18 holes and \$12 for nine holes. Weekends and holidays \$20 for 18 holes and \$14 for nine holes. Pro shop and clubhouse on premises, club and cart rentals and practice facilities available.

FOUR SEASONS COUNTRY CLUB

Location: Brock Rd. two km. south of Claremont.

Telephone Number: (905) 649-2436.

Course layout and fees: 18-hole, 5,700-yard par 69. Green fees: Monday to Thursday \$35; Fridays \$40 and weekends and holidays \$45. Twilight rates after 3:30 p.m. Monday to Thursdays \$30 and after 5 p.m. \$25. Membership packages for juniors and seniors. Clubhouse,



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Colin Tam practices his putting on the practice greens at the Unionville Golf Centre while his children Caitlin, 5, (left), and Brandon, 8, look on at the result.

pro shop, club and cart rentals and practice facilities on premises.

GLEN CEDARS GOLF CLUB

Location: RR 5, Claremont.

Telephone Number: (905) 294-4457.

Course layout and fees: 18-hole, 6,525-yard par 72. Fees until May 13: Monday to Thursdays \$40; Fridays \$45; weekends and holidays \$50. After May 13 to Oct. 9: Monday to Thursdays \$45; Fridays \$50 and weekends and holidays \$55. Twilight rates: after 2 p.m. \$37.50; after 4 p.m. \$30; after 6 p.m. \$20. Oct. 10 until season closing: revert to early season rates. Chipping and putting area on site and small area to hit your own balls and retrieve. Clubhouse, pro shop, full bar, restaurant and snack bar on site. Club and cart rentals available.

GORMLEY GREEN GOLF CLUB

Location: Woodbine Ave. north of Stouffville Rd.

Telephone Number: (905) 888-1955.

Course layout and fees: two, 18-hole courses. Creek Course a 6,900-yard par 72. Fees: prime weekend and holidays \$62; weekday prime \$52; regular \$45; opportunity \$35; twilight \$35; dusk \$19. Circle Course a 6,600-yard par 70. Fees: prime weekend and holidays \$55; weekday \$45; regular \$40; opportunity \$29; twilight \$29; dusk \$15. Course has driving range, cart and club rentals, pro shop and clubhouse.

MAPLES OF BALLANTRAE GOLF CLUB

Location: Hwy. 48 Ballantrae

Telephone Number: (905) 640-6077.

Course layout and fees: Championship course: 18-hole, 6,715-yard par 72. Fees: Mondays and Tuesdays \$44; Wednesdays and Thursdays \$48; Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays \$55; twilight 3 p.m. Monday to Thursdays \$36; Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays \$40; 4:30 p.m. twilight rates: \$24 every day. Seniors before noon Monday to Fridays \$40. Juniors anytime between Monday to Friday and after noon hour on weekends \$30. Executive course: a nine-hole, 1,469-yard par 29. Rates: \$16 any time any day for nine holes and \$27 for 18 holes. Club and cart rentals available. Clubhouse and pro shop on site.

MARKHAM GREEN GOLF CLUB

Location: Ninth Line just south of Hwy. 7.

Telephone Number: (905) 294-6156.

Course layout and fees: nine-hole, 3,004-yard par 35. Changes upcoming include a new tee deck on second hole and a fairway bunker to make it a more difficult par five. Also a new path to first tee. Fees (for nine holes) until around June 1: Monday to Thursdays \$25; Friday to Sundays and holidays \$28; twilight weekdays \$17 and weekends and holidays \$20; juniors weekdays \$17 and weekends \$21. Prime rates (after June 1) weekdays \$26; weekends and holidays \$29. Twilight (after 6 p.m.) weekdays \$17; weekends and holidays \$21. Power cart rentals \$16 and club rentals \$15. Licensed snack bar on site. Chipping and putting green on premises along with warm up driving net.

PARKVIEW GOLF CLUB

Location: 6400 Steeles Ave. E.

Telephone Number: (416) 293-2833.

Course layout and fees: Upper course: 18-hole 6,400-yard par 71 and Valley course: 18-hole, 5,860-yard par 71. Fees for both courses: weekends and holidays \$52. Noon to 4 p.m. \$46 and after 4 p.m. \$34. Mondays and Tuesdays \$36 and \$26 after 4 p.m. Wednesdays to Fridays \$40 and \$28 after 4 p.m. Juniors \$26 before 11 a.m. Monday to Thursdays. Seniors \$30 before 11 a.m. Monday to Thursdays. Club has fully renovated pro shop, power and pull cart rentals and club rentals, inside full lounge and outside patio. Putting and chipping area also on

site. Short iron practice facility to open May 1. Parkview has a 24-hour telephone line to reserve tee times.

ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB

Location: Warden Ave. one km. north of Stouffville Rd.

Telephone Number: (905) 888-1955.

Course layout and fees: Championship course: an 18-hole, 6,400-yard par 72. Weekend and holiday prime fees: \$46; weekday prime \$38; regular (Saturday to Wednesday noon to twilight and Thursday and Friday opening till noon) \$35; Opportunity (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday opening till noon) \$27; twilight (five hours before dusk) \$27; dusk (three hours before dusk) \$15. Juniors \$27. Challenge course: 18-hole, 5,000-yard par 70. Weekend prime \$40; weekday prime \$34; regular \$31; opportunity \$25; twilight \$25; dusk \$14. Classic course: 18-hole, 4,000-yard par 62. Weekend and holiday prime: \$40; weekday prime: \$34; regular \$31; Opportunity \$25; twilight \$25; dusk \$14. Clubhouse and pro shop on site. Club and cart rentals available. Practice green on premises.

UNIONVILLE GOLF CENTRE

Location: 44 Main St., Unionville.

Telephone Number: (905) 477-1148.

Course layout and fees: 18-hole, 2,103 yards for men and 1,799 yards for ladies par three. Fees: weekdays \$19.50. Weekends and holidays \$23. Twilight fees weekdays after 5 p.m. \$15 and after 7 p.m. any day \$11. Seniors and juniors \$15 weekdays. Club rentals \$6. Pull cart rentals only \$4. Driving range, putting and chipping areas on site.

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