



Member Profile

Hugh Cameron

Corunna, Ont., Canada

Golf was not an early item on the list of things boys did in Sudbury, Ontario. "Hockey and baseball were the sports we played," says Hugh Cameron. "When I reached my teens we skated 12 months a year."

Hugh played competitive hockey until his early 30s. A defenceman, he suffered a broken bone or two, "and broke a few." He purchased his first set of golf clubs when he was 21 and played once a week. "My first golf membership was when I was 26," he says. "We played from the end of April to the middle of September. That was in Timmins, Ont. (about 300 miles or so northeast of Sault St. Marie, Mich.) where summer was usually on a Wednesday.

"I didn't put much effort into golf until I reached 40. I purchased a canvas bag crammed with hickory shafted clubs in 1977 and they didn't see daylight again until 2006 when I learned of the Society of Hickory Golfers. Now I play hickories exclusively."

Hugh has two daughters and two grandchildren whose father also played competitive hockey. "Through osmosis they have embraced the Canadian passion," he says.

Hugh has worked in Canada's petro-chemical and power generating industry as a boilermaker and plans to retire in 2014. "In 1988 I went to college and received my funeral director's license in 1990," he says. "I worked in that profession until 1993 and then returned to the construction industry when I got an offer (\$\$) I couldn't refuse. I will continue to work in the funeral business, but it won't interfere with playing in hickory tournaments."

And it will give more time to spend with the grandkids and to go hunting. "I hunt moose and deer," he says. "And I have fun and laugh when rabbit hunting with my beagle, Betsy."

How often do you play hickories?

Hickories are all I play now.

What's in your play set?

Driver – Louisville Golf
Spoon – Louisville Golf
Cleek – Louisville Golf
No. 3 – Wilsonian driving iron
No. 4 – Metropolitan mid iron
No. 5 – No name jigger
No. 6 – Orton spade mashie
No. 7 – Stewart deep face mashie
No. 8 – Celtic mashie
No. 9 – Orton mashie niblick
48-degree – Hackney niblick
54-degree – niblick (unknown cleek mark)
Putter – Mills, Ray model

What ball do you play?

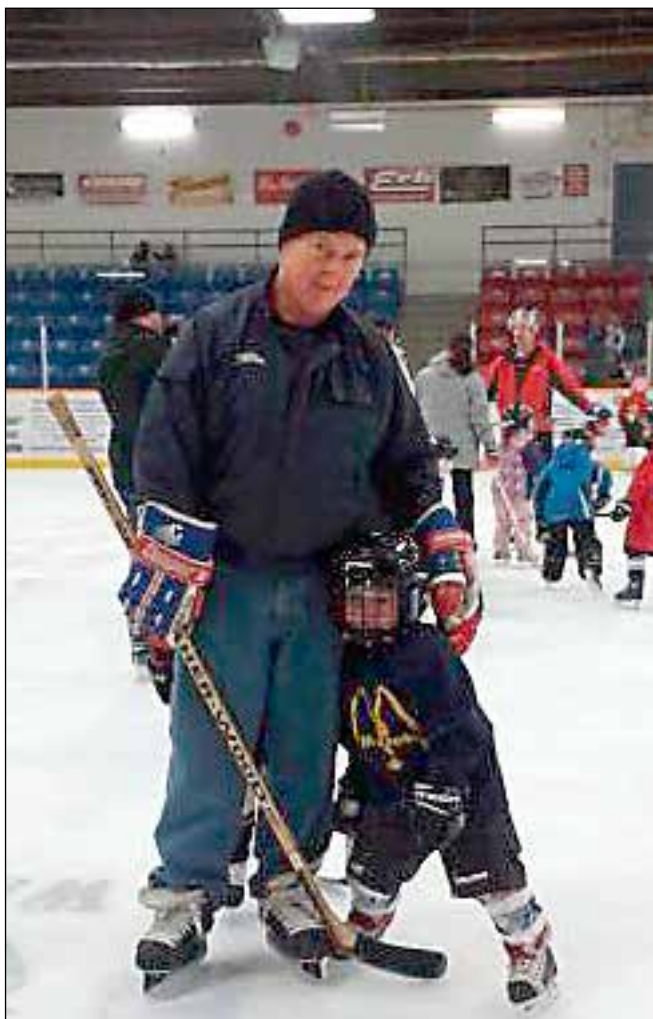
The Precept Laddie.

Favorite course for hickories?

All the courses we play are first-class. Oakhurst is one-of-a-kind. How can you describe it to friends? Mid Pines – every hole is a challenge. Donald Ross was in a good mood when he designed it.

Favorite hickory tournament?

The event at Belvedere where Marty Joy and his members welcome us with open arms is enjoyable to play and it's only four hours from home.



Hugh Cameron poses for a photo with one of his favorite hockey players, grandson, Owen, 5.

Any particular player or aspect of golf history you especially enjoy?

My favorite golfer is Arnold Palmer. At the Skins competition in 1990 at the Weston Golf Course commemorating the 35th anniversary of Arnold's first professional win, my brother and I were watching him on the putting green. He came over and shook our hands and we had a nice chat. On the final hole, following his drive, he waved to us to walk up the fairway with him. Class act. I think they do that on the Senior Tour today.

Best thing about hickory golf?

I thank Mike Just every time I see him for having found the recipe for the shafts I like. I am lucky that Sonny Chappie is less than a half hour from where I live. He takes care of re-shafting, setting lofts and I enjoy our conversations about life. I am fortunate to have met so many good people from all walks of life who share in the pleasure of playing hickory golf. Comparing jiggers, mashies and niblicks is fun and something I didn't know anything about prior to joining the SoHG.

Ideas for promoting hickory golf...

The Society is growing. I see new faces at every tournament and the number of tournaments is increasing yearly. Breck Speed and Mountain Valley Spring Water are to be commended for their sponsorship.

Most recent book on golf that you read?

I have Ben Hogan's "Power Golf," the 1959 Cardinal Edition. It was 25 cents then. It's priceless today.