



The 24th Annual Canadian Open Hickory Championship Summary The Legends GCC - August 7/8/9/10/11, 2023

Once again a wonderful hickory golf week! Great weather all 5 days (no wild fire smoke!) and a wonderfully diverse group of 94 players from Florida, Texas, Washington state, Mexico, Ontario, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and of course Alberta. Thanks to all for traveling here and making this event special! And certainly kudos to Ron Lyons and Edwin Chan for the drive that makes this championship an event not to be missed!

First timers to this event quickly find that the Canadian Open Hickory Championship is much more than just a competition....It's an event where you make new friends, renew old acquaintances, have a "wee nip" of Hawke's Birdie Juice, tell a few tales and oh, yes, play a lot of golf!

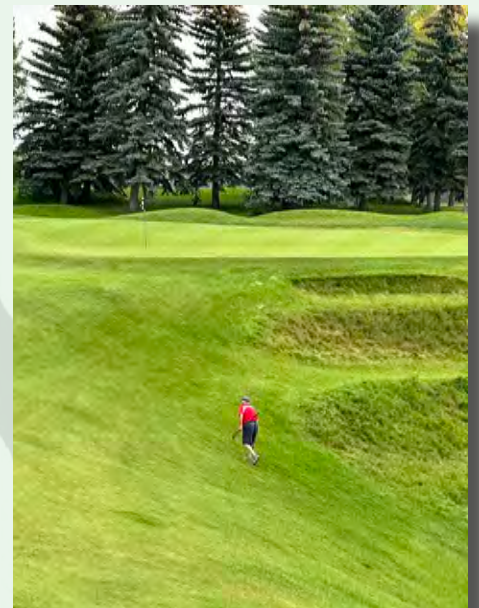


Our thanks to Craig Spicer and his staff for the great conditions of the golf course. Maintaining the immaculate greens and fairways helps to make the Canadian Open Hickory Championship a special event. Thanks Craig! In addition, thanks to Brian and his staff for their help behind the scenes with the tee times, prizes and scramble details.

This year we had two pre-tournament road trips to local golf courses. Each year we choose two different courses on the Monday and Tuesday to get to know new players to the event and brush off some of the rust on the hickory skills.

Monday Aug 7 The pre-tournament road trip to Goose Hummock just north of Edmonton was a great way to start off the week with 40 golfers. Good weather and tough greens were the order of the day - everyone got LOTS of practice putting!

Tuesday Aug 8 The pre-tournament road trip with another 40 golfers was to The Ranch, just west of Edmonton. There was evidence that the putting practice from the day before paid dividends with the traditional loonie wager between Lorne Emery and Bill Southall going Bill's way.



Wednesday Aug 9 featured the popular 4-person scramble this year with 21 teams. This event really marks the beginning of the tournament because you get to play the tournament course, meet new players, pony up some cash and scrape any residual rust off your hickory game. Wednesday was sunny and warm with the team of Ben Plaunt, Lance Gartner, Will Stewart and John Filipan turning in a sparkling 12 under par 60 to take the first place prize. The top 6 teams were:

Ben Plaunt, Lance Gartner, Will Stewart, John Filipan - 60
 Rob Taylor, Jim Fegyverneki, Edwin Chan, Larry Hycha, Chris Horne - 63
 Vern Kyler, Kenn Looten, Fran Zinger, William Southall - 63
 Vaughn Perusse, Gerald Onciul, Bruce McGillvray, Ted Konrad - 63
 Marcel Valade, Craig Hosford, Barrie Stewart, Stephen Wong - 64
 Chris Ream, George Henning, Johnny Bago, Dave Jardin - 64



Following the round, Chris and Camille hosted a BBQ at their house. 75 players, wives, and significant others made their way there for an evening of relaxation and camaraderie - thanks to all that came! Parking was a bit of a premium but we'll fix that for next year!

Thursday Aug 10 By popular demand, we repeated last year's 2-person scramble. Players selected their own partners with the condition that the team minimum handicap was a total of 22. With a record 41 teams, many were rewarded for their good play - the rest just had a great time! And it was a good thing that the wind stayed below Gale force! Top scores included:



Johnny Bago / Willie Ducher - 67
 Jeff Rogers / Vaughn Perusse - 68
 Michael Ream / Bob Maksymic - 69
 Mike Germaine / Josh Lieb - 70
 Jim Fegyverneki / Dave Jardin - 70
 Kelly Taylor / Bill Taylor - 70
 John Wilson / Malcolm Leslie - 71
 Pat Clark / Terry Bader - 71

Friday Aug 11 Championship Friday dawned with sunny skies and little wind. 94 players vied for the top spots in the 27 hole Canadian Open Championship with triple shotguns on the Champions, Old Hickory and Traditions 9s. After the morning Champions shotgun, the Legends hosted a pizza lunch in the Clubhouse and followed with group photos on the putting green.

After 27 holes, the Open Division was won by Ben Plaunt taking the trophy from last years winner, brother Ken Plaunt with a 36, 39, 36 score on the 3 nines. Along with the trophy goes the Canadian Open Hickory Championship flag from the last hole.



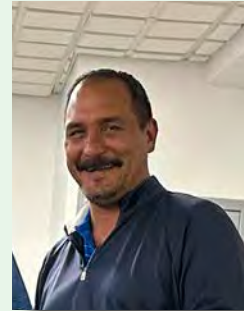


The highly competitive Senior Division featured a first time winner - Faron Hermanson shooting a 37, 39, 39 ...we should have known we were in tough when he showed up with his own golf car! Faron eked out a victory over Rob Taylor by 1 shot and Chris Ream by 2. Rick O'Donnell, Vaughn Perusse and Kenn Looten rounded out the top 6.

The Ladies Division was won by repeat winner Fran Zinger.

The First Nations award went to repeat winner Saskatchewan's Dave Racette. Dave's name along with past First Nations winners will be featured on a plaque with a stunning head dress encased in a glass cabinet featured in the Legends room of the clubhouse.

The Chinese Hickory champion award went to first year young gun, Vince Louge.



Following the final round, Ron and Edwin hosted a BBQ and awards ceremony in the clubhouse. It was a gathering of the hickory players coupled with the annual Legends Honoree ceremony. Each year the Legends honors an Alberta resident that has made significant contributions to golf in Alberta. This years honoree was Garry Meyer. Garry, a life member of the APGA. As a former PGA Golf Professional who holds the distinction of being the youngest PGA head professional in golf history, had the opportunity to compete against Arnold Palmer, Gary Player Isao Aoki and a host of other Professionals His engaging Auctioneering style has found him all over North America raising funds for numerous Golf Charity Classic's and more such as Alice Coopers " Rock & Roll Golf Classic", Craig Simpson's " Never Say Never" Golf Classic , Edmonton Oilers Alumni and "Al Hamilton & Friend's Invitational" just to name a few. Garry's unique ability to capture and engage his audiences have raised millions of dollars for Edmonton Oilers, Edmonton Eskimos, CIBC, Cystic Fibrosis and many more. Garry well deserves his place among the Legends honorees.



So, a great way to finish off a wonderful week! With the 24th Annual event a fond memory, we now turn our attention to the upcoming silver anniversary of the Canadian Open Hickory championship August 12-16, 2024. The push is on to have everyone that has participated over the past 24 years to attend the upcoming Gala 25th anniversary edition...We've already talked to many past players and champions and they are excited to attend! And, as usual, many will come up a few days early for the annual pre-tournament road trip. All are welcome! For more information contact Ron Lyons at antiquegolf@shaw.ca, Brian at the golf course at 780-449-4911 or check the Legends website at www.legendsgolf.ca under the hickory tab. It will be a wonderful time!

Mark it on your calendars ... August 12-16, 2024!

Thanks once again to everyone for your participation in the Canadian Open Hickory Championship! The sign at the first tee quoting the first Legend, Alex Olnyk, "*The winner isn't the one with the lowest score - it's the one who has the most fun!*" really rings true in this event.

Stay safe everyone!

Friday 27 Hole Championship



Some Friday Presentations



Families at the Hickory Championship

One of the cool features of the Canadian Open Hickory Championship is the number of family members that get to play together - memories that they always will remember. This year was no different with parents playing with their kids and grandparents with their grandkids. Not pictured is the McLean family, Ross and son Matthieu and the Stewart family with Grampa Barrie and grandsons Will and Jonah - first timers with the hickories and they had a great time! Any other families out there? My apologies if I missed you! Send me a photo!



Ken Plaunt, Jon Collins and sons
Blake and Rowdy.



Chris Ream,
son Michael
grandson Ethan



The Taylors: Dave, Bill, Rob, Kelly

Bobby Plaunt,
sons Ken and
Ben, grandson
Taren



Photo Gallery

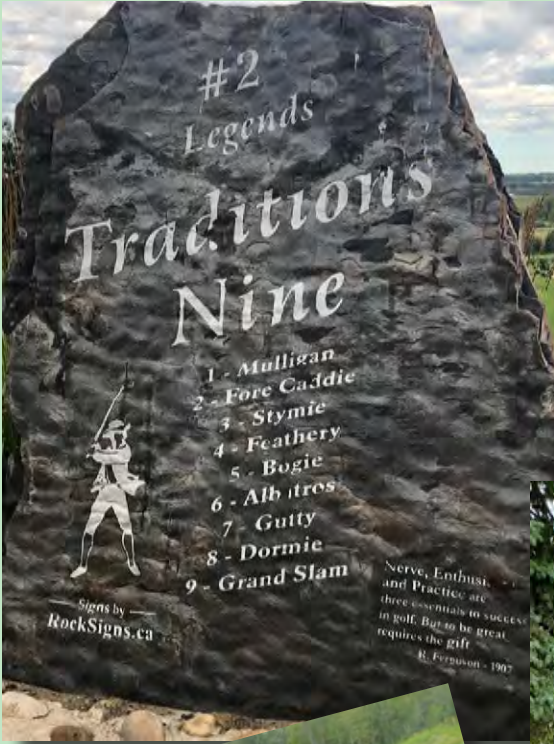


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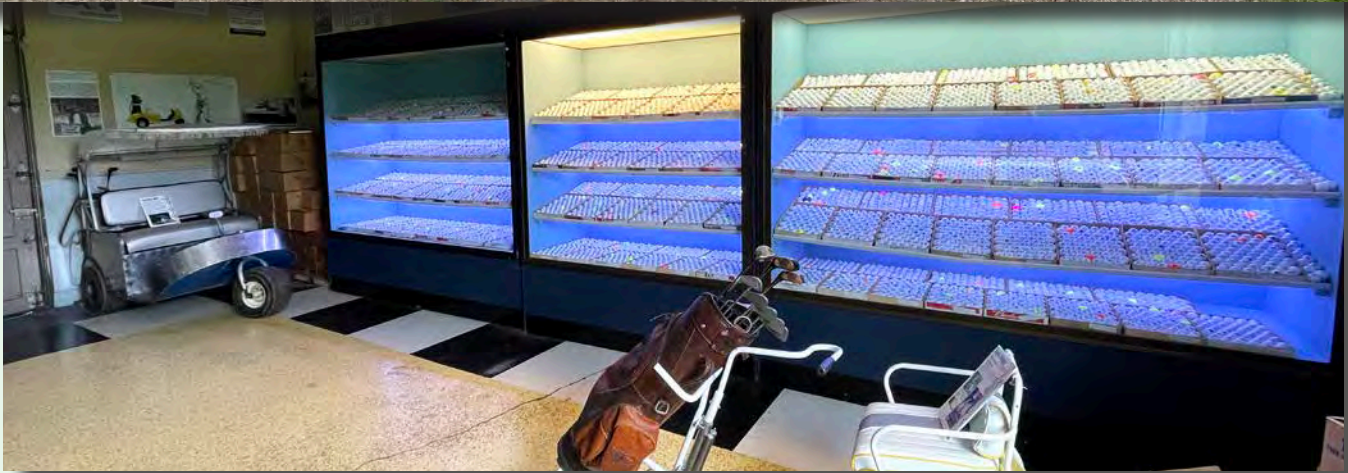
Forever losing your sunglasses? A number of hole Prizes and long drive prizes were donated by Rick O'Donnell with the innovative T-Caps featuring built-in sun glasses that slide up and out of the way when not used. They even have a model designed specifically for those that have to wear glasses. They are available through Rick and also are available in the Legends proshop.



Photo Gallery



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The country club golf ball collection currently displayed in a museum at the legends golf course is a collection of 14,750 different golf balls with country club names from 109 different countries. To the best of our knowledge it is the largest known collection in Canada.

