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Welcome Back

Welcome to the 2009 golf season at Sturgeon Point. Here's hoping you weathered the winter a little better than the course did! Apparently many of the local clubs experienced the same conditions this spring. Our Golf Superintendent, Tony Gascho, assures us that with a spell of warm weather we will be back to wonderful conditions that we have come to expect at the Sturgeon Point Golf Club.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Mary Gascho, our Clubhouse Manager, Tony Gascho, our Golf Superintendent, and the rest of the staff, have a fantastic season and don't forget *to waggle*.



A Note from Tony Gascho

We have been working very hard to get Sturgeon Point Golf Course ready to open after this long winter. As you start the season, it is important to know that we did sustain a considerable amount of winterkill to the course, especially our putting greens. You will notice dead spots of grass on some of the greens. That being said, we are obviously working diligently to bring these putting surfaces back to normal as soon as possible.

What is winterkill?

When the ground experiences a thaw and followed by plunging temperatures, it re-freezes the soil and grass. This prevents air exchange between the atmosphere and the soil results in a depletion of soil oxygen.

This thaw-and-freeze cycles also damages the grass by creating ice crystals which puncture the grass cell walls resulting in dehydration.

Golf course caretakers, attempt to combat this problem by protecting damaged areas and reseeding as soon as possible.

It is just the luck of the draw on how and when the ice and snow melt away. Usually the faster the better; however this year it seemed to be a long process.

We ask for your patience and encouragement for these few weeks of repair and restoration. I will be updating everyone on the process and try to keep you informed as much as I can.

Thanks again and we will see you on the course.

Tony Gascho



New!

Flag Stick Reflectors

The flagstick on each hole at Sturgeon now has a reflector mounted on the top. These reflectors make it possible for any laser range finder to be used very accurately determine the precise distance to the pin. Many golf courses across North America now have a reflector system to assist with determining yardage.

The **Quickshot** is one range finder that can be used in connection with the LaserLink reflectors.

Visit www.laserlinkgolf.com for more details on this product and a list of courses that use the same reflector system.



New Defibrillator in the Clubhouse



A Mikey is a public-access defibrillator - an electronic device that delivers an electric shock to the heart through the chest wall during ventricular fibrillation, in order to restore the heart to its normal rhythm. The act of defibrillation, or shocking, is more successful when it is delivered to the victim of cardiac arrest within the first few critical minutes before emergency services personnel arrive.

Sturgeon Point Golf Course staff have been trained and are able to use the Mikey defibrillator. Thanks to the Mikey Network for the unit and to the Men's League for raising the awareness and the money for on-going maintenance to the unit.

Hundreds of lives are saved each year through public access defibrillation.

Additional information can be found online at: www.mikeynetwork.com



Course Beautification

On-going improvements are once again being made to the course:

- cedars and garden in front of the club house
- benches in the breezeway
- touch ups to tees, gardens, and landscaping

Thanks to by **Christie Broad** and **Janet Oliver** for their efforts!

NOTE: Christie is still accepting course beautification donations.

In the next newsletter....details about the memorial trees.



Important Dates

- Sat. July 11th at 9am - Fun Day
- Wed. July 1st - Match play (posting beginning of June)
- Sat. Aug. 15th - Club Championship*
*prizes/dinner etc to follow that day
- Sat. Sept 5th at 10am - Annual Meeting





New Member Referral Incentive

Existing members who refer new members will be eligible to receive an incentive of five guest tickets and five bags of range balls.



Board of Director Applications

Anyone wishing to run for the Board of Directors must have their nomination papers in to the Board by the end of June.

June Houston has retired!

We thank June for her 15+ years of dedication in the Pro Shop and to the club.

We wish her all the best!

Wine & Cheese Reception – May 2009

New members and die-hard cocktail enthusiasts gathered on the very chilly May long weekend to participate in the annual reception. The bugs certainly did not pose a problem as it was hardly warm enough for humans.



Thanks as always to the dedicated efforts of the volunteers!

Waste Bunker or Sand Trap?

As a result of improved quality of sand to the right of the green on Hole #1 the question has arisen as to the status of that area.

Namely is it a sand trap or a waste bunker?

According to the "Rules of Golf," a bunker is "a hazard consisting of a prepared area of ground, often a hollow, from which turf or soil has been removed and replaced with sand or the like." We often call this area a "sand trap," but those words are not found in the "Rules of Golf."



There is also another kind of bunker sometimes called "waste areas" or "waste bunkers." The rules concerning sand bunkers do not apply to waste bunkers, because they are not considered hazards.

- You *MAY* ground your club in a waste bunker.
- You *MAY* remove loose impediments in a waste bunker.
- You *MAY* take practice swings in a waste bunker, hitting the ground as you do so.

What clues do you have that a sandy area is a waste bunker and not a hazard? The material in a waste area is clearly not "prepared" sand and most importantly, there would be no rake nearby.

What do you think?

Should this be considered a sand trap or waste bunker? Cast your ballot in the Pro Shop to help the Board make the call. The final decision will be made available in a future issue.

Take A Kid TO THE COURSE WEEK

Kids golf free JULY 6-12, 2009

What is Take A Kid To The Course Week?

Developed by the *National Golf Course Owners Association Canada* to encourage families and juniors to take up the game of golf, this cross-Canada campaign is designed to illustrate how easy it is to improve both your score and your relationship with your children by bringing them out to the golf course.

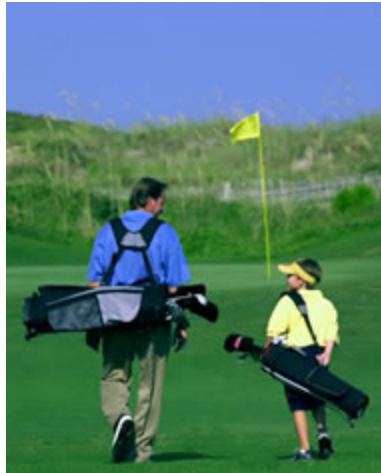
HUNDREDS of courses will offer FREE golf to kids under the age of sixteen who are accompanied by a paying adult during the Take A Kid to the Course Week program taking place **July 6 -12, 2009**.

In addition to the free golf, many courses will offer additional programs such as junior clinics, free range balls and free junior club rentals.

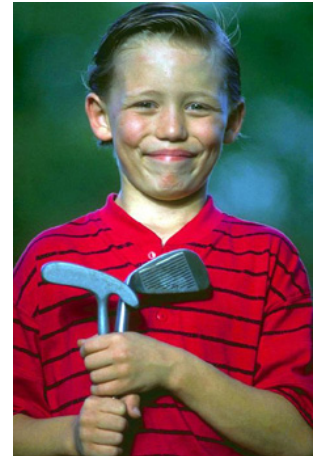
Sturgeon Point Golf Course is once again pleased to be participating in this worthwhile event. Speak to the Pro Shop for further details.

General information about the program can be found online at:

www.kidsgolffree.ca



Note: Junior clinics taking place Thursdays in July!



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New Maintenance Equipment

New riding green and tee mowers are required as well as a walking green and tee mower. The operating budget for the course takes these expenditures into consideration and has been approved.



Future Issues

The Newsletter will be published once a month and is also available electronically.

Send your request or ideas to:

sturgeon.golf@rogers.com