

GOLF

Vol. 21, No. 1

BRUCE GREYSIMCOE

Spring 2025

Success on pro tour

Simcoe County golfer Drew Neshitt turns in top-5 finish on PGA Tour Americas...Pg. 8

Inside

- Junior tours release schedules
- Upgrades at local courses
- Provincial events coming to area

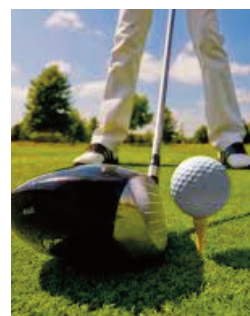


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Upgrades planned for Duntroon

Improved tee decks, green renovation among plans for this season

Major changes and upgrades are happening at Duntroon Highlands Golf Club this season.

Starting this spring, the tee decks on #4, #6, #7, #8 and #9 will be renovated. Additionally, #11, #15, and #16 tee decks will be upgraded during the second half of the season.

In the fall, the #7 green complex will undergo a renovation, enhancing both its playability and beauty. An aggressive overseeding and aeration program will help keep greens and tee decks in good condition.

A new cart path on #7 and upgrades to paths at #1, #2, #4, and #9 will make navigation smoother and more enjoyable. The addition of tar and chip sections and experimental entrance and exit structures will improve functionality. Fresh sand will be added to bunkers, ensuring they remain consistent and challenging for players.

The course will also see improved stormwater management and measures to prevent driveway washouts. A revamped irrigation system, featuring a new pumphouse, upgraded switching systems, and buried hydro and fiber lines, will protect critical infrastructure.

Looking ahead, a secondary electric pump is planned for 2025, solidifying water management capabilities. Practice facilities will receive a boost with a new bunker, and additional hitting decks.

They will also be working with a professional gardening service to enhance the clubhouse gardens and five other key areas starting in May, creating a more inviting atmosphere.

Twenty-five new carts were scheduled to arrive this spring and some new maintenance equipment and course accessories such as ball washers, pins, garbage cans, yardage markers and signage will be added.



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From the Publisher



Welcome to the 2025 season! It promises to be an exciting season with plenty of high-profile events scheduled for the beautiful BruceGreySimcoe region.

These events include four provincial championships, 10 qualifiers for the RBC PGA Scramble and the celebration of 100-year anniversaries at two local clubs - Saugeen and Walkerton.

Adding to the excitement this season are a number of completed and ongoing improvement projects. You'll find stories about these upgrades in the pages of this magazine.

On a personal level, my excitement for the season is way higher than normal. That's because I had to sit out most of the season last year with a back problem. Nothing like being kept away from what you love to make you realize how much the game means to you!

While it's still early in the season I'm happy to report that things are going reasonably well. I'm just trying to keep my swing shorter, slower and smooth enough to avoid any undue stress on my back. And I've decided to move up a tee box to avoid the temptation to over-swing and give myself a shot at hitting greens in regulation with my modified swing.

I hope your season is off to a great start. And I hope you enjoy this latest edition - the 123rd since I began publishing it in 2005.

Steve Harron, Publisher/Editor harronmarketing@gmail.com
harronmarketing@gmail.com

Steve Harron
Publisher/Editor
Golf BruceGreySimcoe is a
publication of Harron Marketing,
200 Beattie Street,
Owen Sound, Ont. N4K 6X3
Telephone: 519-374-5759
harronmarketing@gmail.com
golfbrucegreysimcoe.com



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New GM, pro at Cobble

Jessica Brookshaw takes over as GM and Ben Choiniere is new assistant golf pro

Off-season changes at Cobble Beach Golf Links include the hiring of a new assistant golf professional and the promotion of a long-time employee to the General Manager's position.

Jessica Brookshaw, who joined the staff in 2015, took over as GM on April 15.



Jessica Brookshaw

The resort says since Jessica arrived at Cobble she has demonstrated exceptional leadership, growing from housekeeping to a key leadership role.

"Most recently, she completed the General Managers Program at Cornell University. Jessica's approachable leadership style and dedication to excellence have made her an invaluable part of our team," the resort said in making the announcement.

Taking on the assistant pro position is Ben Choiniere, who joined the PGA of Canada in 2021. He is from Newcastle, Ontario (east of Bowmanville) and previously worked at Newcastle Golf Course, Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge Golf Club and Wildfire Golf Club.

Choiniere says that once he finished with other sports he was able to find that competitive spirit in the game of golf. "That developed a deep passion within to make a career out of being involved in sport and a game that I love," he said. "I have always loved the Grey Bruce area and I could not be more excited to join the team at Cobble Beach."



Ben Choiniere

In other Cobble news, another Junior Invitational is scheduled for this season. It will be held on on Aug. 10. The next day, the Grey Bruce Junior Golf Tour will hold an event there and they are hoping to include a qualifier for the Drive, Chip and Putt finals which are held each year at Augusta National Golf Club.

Junior Golf Camps for ages 8 to 14 will return to Cobble this year. The sessions run from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day and the cost is \$549 per week. The schedule is as follows:
Week 1: June 30-July 3
Week 2: July 7-July 10
Week 3: July 14-17
Week 4: July 21-24
Week 5: July 28-July 31
Week 6: Aug. 4-7
Week 7: Aug. 11-14
You can register online: Just click on the link below.

https://www.cobblebeach.com/Play/Golf_Academy



Schedules for junior golf tours

Junior golf tours in BruceGreySimcoe will once again be holding a series of events this season. The Simcoe County tour kicks off May 25 at Settlers' Ghost in the Horseshoe Valley while the Grey Bruce tour begins July 3 at Sauble Golf & Country Club. Both schedules are listed below.

Simcoe County Junior Golf Tour
May 25 - Settlers' Ghost Golf Club
June 8 - Brooklea Golf & CC
"Simcoe County Championship"
July 6 - Shanty Bay Golf Club
July 30 - National Pines Golf Club
Aug. 13 - Simoro Golf Links
Aug. 17 - The Nest at Friday Harbour
Aug. 31 - Tangle Creek Golf & CC
"Tour Championship Major"

Grey Bruce Junior Golf Tour
July 3 - Sauble Golf and Country Club
July 7 - Saugeen Golf Club
July 15 - Pike Lake Golf Centre
July 22- Legacy Ridge Golf Club
July 28 - Walkerton Golf & Curling Club
Aug. 11 - Cobble Beach Golf Links
Aug. 18 - Ainsdale Golf Course
Aug. 26 - Stone Tree Golf & Fitness (banquet)



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This photo, taken last fall, shows work on the new tee box on Ainsdale's 8th hole.

Ainsdale upgrades

Cart path project nears completion, new tee box built on 8th hole

Course upgrades are continuing this season at Ainsdale Golf Course near Kincardine.

The construction of gravel cart paths has been an ongoing project and they now have completed the entire front 9. Work began on #10 last year and they now have a continuous path from #10 to #13. Holes #14, 15, & 16 are partially complete and #17 & 18 are done.

Another big improvement has been the construction of a new, large, flattened tee box on

the par 3 8th hole.

The work was done by staff with assistance from Kempton's Construction in Ripley.

"Hard work from both Kempton's and our staff proved to be well worth it throughout the process as it provides a much larger teeing ground for more positions to hit from and overall tee and turf health," said Taylor Candler, who owns the course along with her husband Charles.

New head pro at Pike Lake

Orangeville native Mike Corner joins team, Greg Shaw moves to Director of Golf

The owners of Pike Lake Golf Centre are excited about some off-seasons changes that have positioned the club for even more success this season and beyond.

The changes include the hiring of Mike Corner as Head Golf Professional and the appointment of long-time head pro Greg Shaw as Director of Golf.

"With a strong team, including Greg, Mike, and the Pro Shop staff, Pike Lake is well-positioned to deliver a memorable 2025 golf season and beyond," the owners stated in social media posts.

Corner is originally from the Orangeville area and has been passionate about golf since age 12.



Mike Corner

His career has included key roles at leading Ontario private clubs, including Cutten Fields and Carrying Place Golf and Country Club.

"Mike brings a wealth of expertise to golf operations and a strong commitment to delivering exceptional member service," the club stated in announcing his appointment earlier this year.

The club says in this new role he will be a visible and approachable leader, focused on enhancing the experience for both members and public players. With focus on quality service, member engagement and growing the game of golf, he looks forward to building strong relationships within the Pike Lake community.

"I am excited to join the team at Pike Lake and bring my experience and passion for the game to

this great club. I look forward to meeting all the members and guests and can't wait to get started."

Shaw, who has been with Pike Lake since 1997, is thrilled to have Corner on board.

"I am very excited to enter this next chapter of growth at Pike Lake. Having Mike join our outstanding team will further enhance our ability to offer the services our members, campers, and guests have come to expect, while positioning us to take Pike Lake to new heights," he said.

Shaw, also an Orangeville native, had been head pro at the club since 2004. In his new role as the Director of Golf, he will focus on the "overall golf product" at Pike

Lake with exciting new ideas already in the works.

Pike Lake Golf Centre has been in operation since 1961 when Irv and Joan Cowen moved their young family from Toronto and began their business adventure in Minto.

Over the following 64 years, Irv, Joan, George, Herb, Jeanne and Tom, with the help of family members and staff, transformed a modest 9-hole golf course with a small, rustic clubhouse into one of Ontario's largest family-owned resorts.

Today, Pike Lake offers a 27-hole golf course with a full-service practice facility and pro shop, 20+ room motel/rental accommodations, a large welcoming clubhouse restaurant, and a large seasonal campground and year-round adult living community.

Best result yet

Simcoe County golfer finishes 4th and is now ranked 20th on PGA Tour Americas

Drew Nesbitt, who has played out of Braestone Club near Orillia in recent years, recorded his best career result on the PGA Tour Americas earlier this season.

The 30-year-old shot 65-65-68-71 to tie for 4th at the 70th ECP Brazil Open in Rio de Janeiro in early April.

At his next event - the KIA Open in Ecuador from April 24-27 - he shot rounds of 72-69-69 and finished tied for 42nd in the weather-shortened tournament.

He is currently ranked 20th on the tour and has earned \$9,151.

The top 120 players on the PGA TOUR Americas Points List after 15 events are eligible for the Fortinet Cup Championship. The top-10 players on the final Fortinet Cup Standings will earn exempt Korn Ferry Tour membership for the following season.

Nesbitt, whose parents live in the Horseshoe Valley area, previously played on the PGA Tour Latinoamerica but that tour and the PGA Tour Canada have now merged to create the PGA Tour Americas - a pathway tour to feed into the Korn Ferry Tour.

Play started in March 2024 and the inaugural PGA TOUR Americas schedule included 16 events spanning across Latin America, Canada and the United States.

Two continents and eight different countries hosted players competing for the chance to earn their way onto the Korn Ferry Tour, and ultimately onto the PGA TOUR.



Drew Nesbitt at the Braestone Club near Orillia.

Combining PGA TOUR Latinoamérica and PGA TOUR Canada allows for two competitive swings throughout the year, with six events in Latin America from March to May, followed by 10 North American events running from June to September.

Each tournament, aside from the season-ending Fortinet Cup Championship, is a four-day, 72-hole stroke play competition featuring a 36-hole cut after two rounds.

In addition to 10 exempt Korn Ferry Tour cards via the season-long points race, up to five conditional Korn Ferry Tour cards are available to the top two finishers in the Latin America Swing and the top three finishers in the North America Swing, if these players do not finish in the top 10 on the final PGA TOUR Americas Points List.

Since turning pro, Nesbitt has played in the RBC Canadian Open in 2023, 2019 and 2017 and Monday qualified for the Honda Classic PGA Tour event in 2019 where he made the cut. His accomplishments also include shooting 59 on the PGA Tour Latinoamerica in 2018 and claiming victory in the tour's Abertio Mexicano de Golf event in 2019.



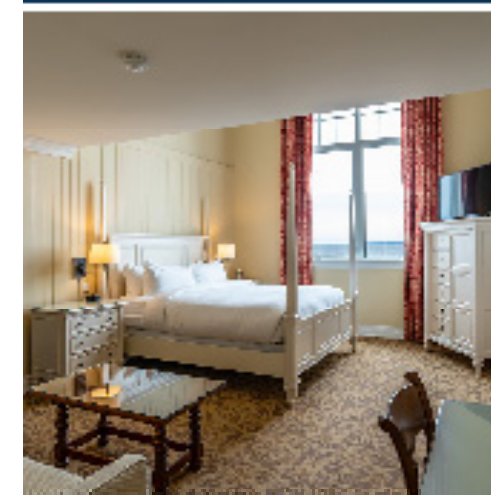
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Phil Hidden joins Stone Tree

New head pro has extensive background in golf, sports and retail management

Phil Hidden is the new Head Professional and Pro Shop Manager at Stone Tree Golf and Fitness Club near Owen Sound.

He has an extensive background in golf, sports and retail management. His most recent position was at Cranberry Golf Club in Collingwood.

His other positions in the industry were as General Manager at Bonaire Golf Club near Coldwater and head pro at Hunters' Glen and Glen Eagle in the Bolton



Phil Hidden

area and Woodington Lake near Tottenham. He has been a member of the PGA of Canada since 1994.

Besides his wealth of experience in tournament and league operations, he has achieved a Golf Operations Specialization badge from the PGA of Canada.

His plans for Stone Tree include growing and developing the club's golf programs.



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Did You Know?

Richard Edmonds, owner of Tangle Creek Golf & Country Club near Barrie, is the new President of the National Golf Course Owners Association Canada. With a long-standing commitment to the industry, Edmonds brings visionary leadership that is expected to further build on the successes of his predecessors and strengthen NGCOA Canada's impact over the next 2 years, the organization said in making the announcement at its annual general meeting in Calgary, Alberta last fall.



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Changes in pro shop at Saugeen

Riley Schaus appointed head pro, Dustin Risdon joins as assistant pro

It promises to be an exciting year at Saugeen Golf Club.

They're not only celebrating their 100th anniversary, but they also have a new head golf professional and assistant pro.

The new head pro is Riley Schaus, who has moved into the role after five years as an assistant pro at the Port Elgin-area club.



Riley Schaus

Known for his dedication and passion, Riley is working toward his PGA of Canada Class A certification, which he'll achieve this spring.

Riley and his wife, Emma, live in Port Elgin and welcomed their first child, a baby boy, earlier this spring.

"I am honoured to take on this role and serve our incredible members during such a special milestone year," he said in a social media post earlier this year. "Saugeen Golf Club has a proud tradition, and I'm committed to enhancing the experience for everyone who visits our course."

General Manager Brad Young is thrilled to have him in the new role.

"Watching Riley's progress and development over the past five seasons has been truly inspiring," Young said. "The relationships he's built with our team, membership, league players, tournament participants, and guests, combined with his strong work ethic and love for the game, make him an outstanding fit for this role and a bright future in the industry. I couldn't be more proud of him."

Joining the club as an Assistant Golf Pro is Dustin Risdon. He has a wealth of experience from a career that includes playing on the Korn Ferry Tour, multiple appearances at the RBC Canadian Open, and three championships on the Mackenzie Tour. He also captured the 2019 PGA of Canada Championship.



Dustin Risdon

Now turning his focus to coaching, Dustin brings 15 years of teaching experience and a passion for helping players of all levels improve their game. He'll be leading this year's Women's Golf Clinics, and is looking forward to meeting our members and contributing to a fantastic season at SGC.



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Four provincial championships in area

This is going to be another big year for competitive golf in BruceGreySimcoe.

Four provincial championships are scheduled to be played at courses in the region.

The Champion of Champions event returns to The Club at Bond Head in South Simcoe on May 14.

This event will be played on the North and South courses at Bond Head and will feature club champions in all divisions – Men's, Senior Men's, Women's, Senior Women's, Junior Boys and Junior Girls.

Next up will be the Ontario Senior Men's Championship at The Golf Club at Lora Bay scheduled from July 21-23 at the Thornbury-area course.

Happening at the same time will be the Ontario Junior Boys and Girls Match Play Championships at Settlers' Ghost Golf Club west of Orillia (pictured here).

In addition to the championships, these qualifiers for provincial events are scheduled for BGS courses:

They are:

May 12 – Cobble Beach Golf Links for the Ontario Men's Mid-Amateur

May 22 – Blue Mountain Golf & Country Club for both the Senior Men's and Men's Match Play championships

June 17 – Tangle Creek Golf & CC for the Junior Boys & Senior Men's championships

Aug. 25 – The Nest at Friday Harbour for Men's and Senior Men's Better Ball Championships

Hit the link for the full schedule:

<https://dsngfigvjb6s.cloudfront.net/app/uploads/2025/02/2025-FULL-GO-CHAMPIONSHIP-SCHEDULE-as-of-Feb-24-2025-1740428651.pdf>

10 clubs holding RBC scramble qualifiers

The RBC PGA Scramble is back for another year and 10 clubs in BruceGreySimcoe will hold qualifiers this season.

The local qualifier schedule is as follows:

June 2 - The Nest at Friday Harbour near Barrie

June 3 - Pike Lake Golf Centre near Mount Forest

June 14 - Settlers' Ghost Golf Club in the Horseshoe Valley area of Simcoe County

June 22 - Borden Golf Club near Angus in Simcoe County

June 29 - Saugeen Golf Club near Port Elgin (shown in background photo)

July 5 - Legacy Ridge Golf Club near Owen Sound

July 8 - Tangle Creek Golf & Country Club near Barrie

July 24 - Monterra Golf Club at Blue Mountain Resort

July 27 - Duntroon Highlands Golf Club south of Collingwood

July 28 - OslerBrook Golf & Country Club near Collingwood

The Regional Qualifier will be held Aug. 11 at The Nest at Friday Harbour and the finals are scheduled for Oct. 4-8 at Cabot Cliffs and Cabot Links on Cape Breton Island. Teams for the finals will feature four amateurs and one pro from each of the qualifying clubs.

Last year, a team representing Saugeen Golf Club made it to the finals. They finished tied for 10th.

	
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Around the Clubs

Meaford Golf Course

Teaching pro Cameron Burechails is back at the course this season and will be offering clinics for women, and also junior lessons and clinics. The course is also bringing back its Sunday Family Day promotion which offers families with junior golfers to play for \$10 each.

South Port

The Port Elgin-area 9-holer has a new reciprocal play arrangement with Maitland Links Golf Club in Wingham - a course purchased during the off-season by South Port co-owner Scott Bowman and a silent partner. The club also announced that course superintendent Scott Maue will be working both at South Port and at Maitland Links this season.

Kincardine

The club is working on building an accessible washroom for its clubhouse. The clubhouse was built in the 1970s and the current bathrooms are in the basement so they haven't been very accessible for older members or members with mobility issues.

Chesley Lake Camp

The club has a new course superintendent - Ben Wilder, who has worked at the course for several years. The club has a unique program where children 12 & under pay their age for 9 holes of golf on the par 3 course.

The Club at Westlinks

The 12-hole club near Port Elgin is starting the season with a renovated pro shop (photo below). The reno involved new countertops, fresh paint and a new plexiglass sign behind the counter. The range ball & regripping room also undertook a remodel and reorganization. The project was completed just before the start of the season.



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Photo Flashback



In the summer of 2019 Legacy Ridge Golf Club co-owner Bert Leeder (right) and Legacy member Ron Glenn, left, had the opportunity to spend some time with Rory McIlroy and five other PGA Tour players. The RBC-sponsored event was held at Mississauga Golf and Country Club during the lead-up to the Canadian Open. Leeder was invited to the event because he worked for RBC. And yes, Rory won the Canadian Open that year, which was held at Hamilton Golf and Country Club. It was his first of two titles at the Canadian Open. Rory completed his Career Grand Slam this year by winning the Masters.

Tee box transformation

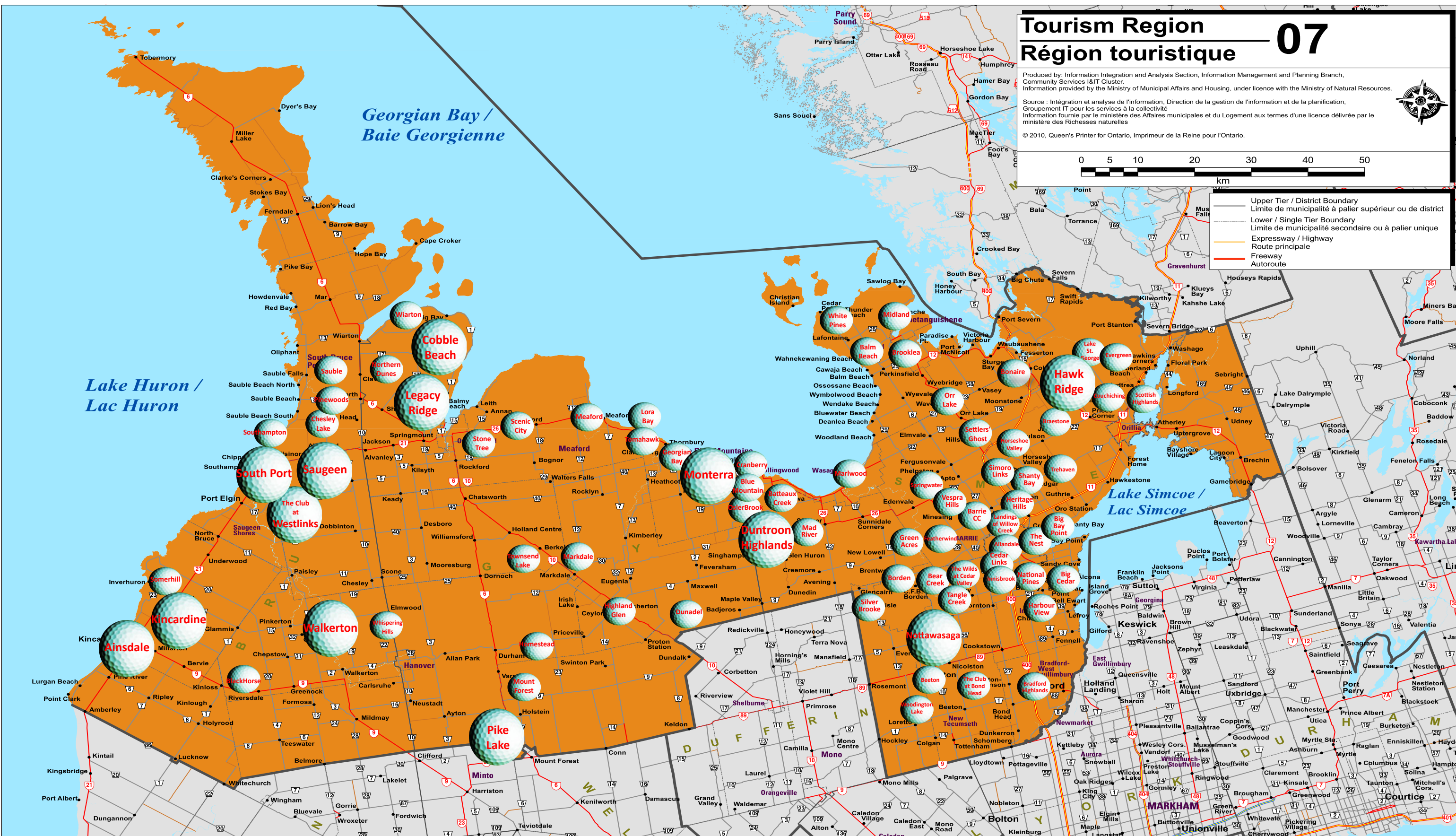


The tee box on the par 4 7th hole at Legacy Ridge Golf Club was substantially enlarged in October. The improvement now gives the Owen Sound-area course many more options for the placement of the silver tee blocks.



Courses of BruceGreySimcoe

Larger golf ball indicates
course is member of GOLF
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Ferns course closes

Owner of Markdale-area course has decided to discontinue public play

Harold Elders, owner of the Ferns Golf Resort near Markdale, announced earlier this spring that the 18-hole course will be permanently closed to the public.

The course opened in 2005 and, after 20 years, Harold, who is 78, has decided to retire from the business.

He will retain 12 of the holes for his own personal use and sell five large parcels of golf course property for housing development. One of the parcels will include holes 1, 2 and 3 and a second one holes 4, 5 & 6.

The course was initially built as 9 holes for Elder's

own use but he decided to expand to 18 holes and open it to the public.

He plans to sell most of the golf course equipment, including about 80 golf carts, chemicals and fertilizers. Harold can be reached at helders@fernsnsgolf.ca



Crime Stoppers

Tourney set for June 5 at Saugeen



Bill McCreary

The 33rd Annual Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce Golf Classic will be held this year on June 5 at Saugeen Golf Club. Former NHLers & Owen Sound alumni Scott Walker & Wayne Primeau will be among the guest celebrities.

They will be joined by retired referee and Hockey Hall of Fame member Bill McCreary, who will be the keynote speaker. NHL ref Kendrick Nicholson returns and he will be joined by several NHL refs and linesmen. This group will be assigned to par 3 holes and will hit with each foursome as they play through. Hallman Motors & Lakeside GM will sponsor Hole-in-Ones along with Tibbs ATM Services sponsoring the \$30,000 Hole-in-One prize. The tourney has raised more than \$615,000.

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The BruceGreySimcoe region was well represented at the 2025 Toronto Golf and Travel Show with a 10-foot by 30-foot booth, a putting contest and a draw for thousands of dollars in free golf. The 3-day show attracted 22,500 people.

Baywest's Hole-in-One Club

The Hole-in-One Club is back for another year. No aces to report at this point in the season but we can expect many more in the months ahead. If you fire one this season or you know someone who has, please send the details to harronmarketing@gmail.com



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