

Essex Golf & Country Club

Celebrating One Hundred Years

Home of the 2002 AT&T Canada Senior Open

Classic golf course scores 100 (years)

BY LINDA DURANCE
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

A golf course is not the kind of thing that strikes one as being portable, yet the Essex Golf & Country Club was relocated no less than three times in its first 20 years.

Many members of the century old Essex Golf Club (as it's commonly called) will tell you it has persevered because of wise management and members' sheer determination that comes from loving the game.

The club was founded in 1902 under the name of Oak Ridge Golf Club, on farmland in the old Town of Sandwich. The nine-hole course spanned 3,400 yards. The region's economy was flourishing then, with Windsor as the headquarters for the number one automobile manufacturer, Ford Motor Company. In 1910, more land was needed for the growing Oak Ridge membership, so 40 acres of land was purchased at the corner of Prince St. and College Ave. and a new nine-hole course was underway. During construction, Oak Ridge members played at the Walkerville Country Club, which was on the land now occupied by Walkerville Collegiate. When the new Prince Rd. course opened in the spring of 1912, Oak Ridge and Walkerville memberships merged and the new club was called The Essex County Golf and Country Club.



The legendary Donald J. Ross

In the mid 1920's Windsor had grown so much, club members felt the country club didn't feel very 'country' anymore and farmland was purchased in the Town of LaSalle. The legendary Donald J. Ross was retained to design and build the 6,500-yard course and construction began in 1928. The name was changed to simply, 'Essex Golf & Country Club' on July 1, 1949.

The clubhouse was modeled after an English Tudor-style country house whose ambiance is still present today. Walter Hagen, Al Watrous and Horton Smith are just a few of the great golfers who played the Essex Golf Club regularly.

At a time when the "gentlemen's club" was at the height of fashion, Essex Golf & Country Club admitted the first lady member, Kate Duncan, the year was 1915.

"This club is always evolving," says general manager, Barry Morgan. "Kate Duncan was the beginning of what has become a full-fledged family club today."

Indeed, women will have approximately 20% of the 36,000 of rounds played on the course this year.

For generations, Essex Golf & Country Club has provided a strong challenge to some of the best players in the world. In 1976, Jerry Pate won the Canadian Open in a competition there, which included Arnold Palmer, Ben Crenshaw, Jack Nicklaus, Tom Kite, Tom Watson and Ray Floyd.

Dick Carr has been a member for more than 60 years and was co-chair of the 1976 tournament along with Howard Wellington and Jim Bartlett.

Many of the same players are returning for this tournament, says Carr. They loved this course and it will be great to have guys like Tom Kite and Ben Crenshaw back.

In 1983, Essex hosted one of the newly formed PGA Tournament Series Events called the TPS Essex International Golf Classic.

In 1998, the world's attention was focused again on Essex during the \$1.2 million Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) duMaurier Classic. Brandi Burton won first place prize. The field included LPGA Hall of Famers Nancy Lopez, Joanne Carner and Beth Daniel.

The golf club's membership undertook a massive renovation project that same year improving the practice range, maintenance buildings, sewer systems, and parking lot and clubhouse facilities.

In 2002, the club will highlight its centennial year by hosting yet another world famous tournament. The \$1.6 million PGA AT&T Canada Senior Open will be held at Essex Golf & Country Club from July 1-7.

"We look forward to hosting this tournament," says Morgan. "It's a wonderful chance to showcase our course to the golf world. We'll be ready."

Congratulations
Essex Golf & Country Club
on Your
100th
Anniversary
SOUTHERN
MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS LIMITED

LOU. E. PANONTIN, R. ENG.

3194 DEVON DRIVE
WINDSOR, ONTARIO
N8X 4L2
Tel: 519-969-1722
Fax: 519-966-0928

P818E900

Best Wishes
ESSEX GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
on your
100th Anniversary



1902 - 2002

ALLEGRA
PRINT & IMAGING

1800 Huron Church Rd.
971-9952

00437824

LEON Z. MCPHERSON, Q.C. (1934-1989)
MAX N. MOUSSEAU Q.C. (1949-1988)
WALTER H. PRINCE Q.C.
ARMANDO F. DELUCA, Q.C., O.ONT.
RICHARD A. DINHAM, B. COMM, LL.B.
THOMAS R. PORTER, B.A., LL.B.
EDWARD J. POSLUFF, B.A.(HON.), LL.B.
RICHARD LEE POLLOCK, B.P.A., LL.B.
CAROLYN A. GRAY, B.A., LL.B.
ILIAS KIKITSIS, LL.B., J.D.
SUSAN E. HIROTA, B.A.(HON.), LL.B.
CHRISTINE JAHNS MALOTT, B.A.(HON.), LL.B.



A Look Back in Pictures

Clockwise from left: The clubhouse of the original Oak Ridge Golf Club; golfer in classic golf attire; Amateur tournament of 1934 and the construction of the present clubhouse.

Photos courtesy of Essex Golf & Country Club



MOUSSEAU DELUCA
MCPHERSON PRINCE LLP
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS
500-251 GOYEAU ST. WINDSOR,
ONTARIO N9A 6V2
PHONE: (519) 258-0615
FAX: (519) 258-6833

Congratulations
to
Essex Golf & Country Club
on the **100th Year**
Anniversary
of the Club

100 YEARS
OF EXCELLENCE
"Congratulations"
Tickets Sold Here For Essex...

AT&T CANADA SENIOR OPEN
DIANE SHOES
and Accessories For Men & Women
Put Yourself In Our Shoes
1329 OTTAWA STREET 254-8638
HOURS: Mon.-Wed. & Sat. 9-6,
Thurs. & Fri. 9-9, Sun. 12-4 00438183

Congratulations
Essex Golf & Country Club
100 years



North American Printing
680 North Service Road, Windsor, ON N9A 6P8
Phone: 966-1970 • Fax: 966-6701
www.napc.ca

MCTAGUE
LAW FIRM LLP
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS
CONGRATULATIONS TO ESSEX GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB ON YOUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY
HELEN M. McTAGUE, Q.C. (1893-1986)
J. DOUGLAS LAWSON, Q.C.
ALEXANDER R. SZALKAI, Q.C.
JERRY B. UDELL
MICHAEL K. COUGLIN
JOHN D. LESLIE
MARILEE MARCOTTE
JEFFREY W. MACKINNON
DENICE M. SHUKER
ROGER A. SKINNER
PETER J. KUKER
GEORGE W. KING
JOSEPHINE STARK
TOM SERAFIMOVSKI
MICHAEL A. WILLS
BRIAN L. CHILLMAN
DAVID M. AMYOT
455 Pelissier Street, Windsor, Ontario N9A 6Z9
Telephone (519) 255-4300
Telefax (519) 255-4384

PentaMark
WORLDWIDE/CANADA
Exclusive, full-service, integrated communications provider to DaimlerChrysler Canada Inc.
1737 Walker Road, Windsor, Ontario, N8Y 4R8
A member of the BBDO Worldwide network.

Wishing you continued success

ESSEX GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
from your friends at

WILLIAMS FOOD EQUIPMENT
(1988) CO. LTD.

The Chef's Store
OUTLET

2150 AMBASSADOR DRIVE
WINDSOR • (519) 969-1919
website @ www.williamsfoodequipment.com
VISIT OUR SHOWROOM
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Congratulations
Essex Golf & Country Club
from your friends at Silver Stitch.
Making You Look Good Is Our Business
Custom embroidery & Screen Printing on • Hats • Jackets • Shirts
When Image is everything Imagine the possibilities.....

SILVER STITCH
CUSTOM EMBROIDERY
9845 Tecumseh Rd. E. 979-5377 Fax 979-5321

Tel: (519) 254-3905
Fax: (519) 254-1064
keith@domcastmetals.com

DOM-CAST METALS

- CAST AND DUCTILE IRON CASTINGS
- FORGINGS • CNC MACHINING
- ASSEMBLIES • COATINGS
- WAREHOUSING

KEITH C. MATLOCK
PRESIDENT
913 TECUMSEH RD. WEST, WINDSOR N8X 2A9

We are proud to support
Essex Golf & Country Club's
AT&T Canada Senior Open
Congratulations on your
100th Anniversary
From your friends at

The New BFI Canada Inc.
Solid Waste Services & Recycling Services
826 Felix Avenue
Phone Al Matchett 519-258-2334 Ext. 240