

Green light for golfing

The great grey game is reinvigorated in Prince George

Golf is going downhill at Prince George's newest course, but duffers should learn to love it in what might be the most exciting local season ever.

Fourteen of 18 fairways slope down at the Aberdeen Glen Golf Course, says director of golf Randy Frank. He agrees that's unusual, but doesn't expect his customers will mind some extra distance on their drives.

The course is "cut through the forest and there's a lot of undulation." The second and 18th tees are elevated, and golfers will have a spectacular view of the clubhouse and 20-stall driving range from the final tee.

Frank expects the back nine of the public course off Northwood Pulp Mill Road in the Hart area to be open in the second half of May. He hopes the front nine - which was seeded later, about the same time as the driving range grass tees - will open about a month later.

If all goes as planned, by July local golfers will have their choice of 99 holes spread over six courses, all but one with 18 holes. Ness Wood Golf Course, which opened quietly last June 1 with nine holes near Ness Lake just northwest of Prince George, hopes to seed the other nine this year.

Prince George Golf and Curling Club

This will be a relatively quiet season at the flagship of local courses, which opened its new driving range last Saturday. Head pro Laurie Pierce, who hopes to be open before next weekend, says the PGGCC will concentrate on maturing its grass for the B.C. Amateur next year. Fourteen new greens are greening nicely.

The Texas Scramble on May 29 to June 1 is the first big tournament. Others include the Prince George Savings Amateur (formerly Men's Simon Fraser) and the Ladies' Simon Fraser.



Whether you're a scratch golfer heading into tournament play or a duffer, Prince George has more options than ever for the grassy game. FREE PRESS FILE PHOTO

Aspen Grove

The popular course on Highway 97 South hopes to open between next Saturday and May 1 after snow melts off the course and driving range. There's an average of eight tournaments a month, including the annual Fire-fighters Burn Fund event in June. Five tee boxes were rebuilt last year and two to four should be overhauled this year. It's a 5,763-yard course from the championship tees.

Pine Valley Golf Centre

The popular par-three layout on Range Road off Highway 16 hopes to open next Saturday. The driving range was plowed and has been open since March 27.

"A ton of tournaments" are scheduled, says general manager Grigg Swayze. The troublesome 10th green has been

rebuilt, with side bunkers and a peninsula at the back of the green offering a new twist.

Swayze says the fate of the course, which is on city-owned land, is being discussed during Official Community Plan deliberations. The course will remain where it is, he's heard unofficially, although the driving range and batting cages might have to move.

Yellowhead Grove

This 18-hole, par-three course overlooks Highway 16 West in the Vanway area just before the Haldi Road turnoff. Nobody at the course was available for comment by press time.

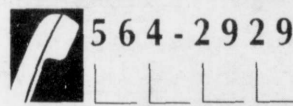
Ness Wood

There are currently two par-five holes, five par-fours and two par-threes. The longest hole is 535 yards. There's no sand, and water is a factor on four holes. Gary Augustine, who owns the course with his wife Linda, hopes to open the first weekend in May once the snow has melted. The tournament schedule is filling quickly, he says, with more than 30 small ones booked so far.

"We're excited because the new courses will create more interest," says Augustine, who feels there are plenty of golfers to support six courses, noting that Kamloops has eight full courses.

Good Call!

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PROVINCIAL WIDE WARRANTS



Crime Stoppers is asking the public's assistance in locating the following male who has outstanding warrants in both Alberta and BC.

As of 10:00 AM the 16th of April, **David George BUCK** (BD: 44-May-11) is wanted on Provincial Wide Warrants in both provinces. **BUCK** is described as a white male 163 cm or 5' 4" and 73 kg or 162 lbs, white/brown hair and blue eyes.

Anyone with information as to where **BUCK** can be located is asked to call Crime Stoppers.

BUCK,
David George
44-May-11
5' 4" or 163 cm
73 kg or 162 lbs
White / Brown Hair
Blue Eyes

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