

British Columbia Golf Member Newsletter

September 2009

Playing Hole 17 at Arbutus Ridge Golf & Country Club

I've played the 17th at Arbutus Ridge several times, and always had difficulty with it. I'm usually playing the white tees, and at 174 yards it's a long way with essentially all carry. The narrow bail out area to the right fronts on a road and leaves little scope for error. So unless you lay up short of the pond, you have to go for it. But at that distance with a 5 or 6 iron, it's tough to get a ball to come down softly to stay on the green, without rolling over into the back bunker or bouncing into the pond. I can't believe that it's the #16 handicap hole.

Lay up? You got to be kidding (but maybe use an old ball?)

Following is what the Arbutus Ridge website has to say.

"This peninsula green is actually very large. The water that surrounds the three sides is imposing. Out-of-bounds to the right should be avoided at all costs. Shorter hitters should consider laying up. The ever-present

This helicopter overview tells players how to play the hole, from Director of Golf Jordan Ray:

http://www.worldwidegolfguide.com/hgg_home/arbutus/pages/arbutus_17.html

Vancouver Island Packages

Special Announcement Offer

The 2010 Telus WORLD Skins Game is coming to Bear Mountain Resort on June 21 & 22, and Golf Vancouver Island is celebrating by providing \$100 Clubhouse gift certificates to anyone booking a minimum 2 night / 2 round golf package for two to Vancouver Island this year!

Golf the Wine Islands...

Fall is the perfect time to travel to Vancouver Island, with the roads a little less crowded, a lovely temperate climate, and the 5th Annual Cowichan Wine and Culinary Festival about to take place on September 19th and 20th. Arbutus Ridge, Duncan Meadows and the Cowichan Golf Club are all located in the Cowichan Valley making for the easy combination of a golf and wine weekend. In fact, Arbutus Ridge is hosting a winemaker's dinner that is a must include! May we also suggest the Oceanfront Grand Resort in Cowichan Bay as a terrific waterfront resort to enjoy for the weekend.

For more information, or to book a Vancouver Island golf tour, call 877-322-1223 or contact sales@bcga.org

Golf British Columbia Fall Golf Specials

For more information on all of the following special fall offers, call 877-322-1223 or email sales@bcga.org

Vancouver Island Golf Trail:

The trail is truly a week of golfing heaven! Spend six nights and seven days exploring one of the most beautiful islands in the world golfing six championship courses on the way.

Choose 2 nights in 3 of the following regions on Vancouver Island:

- Victoria
- The Cowichan Valley
- Parksville and Qualicum Beach
- The North Island

Rounds of golf at **your** choice of six of the following courses:

- Arbutus Ridge Golf & Country Club
- Bear Mountain Golf & Country Club
- Cowichan Golf & Country Club
- Crown Isle Resort & Golf Community
- Duncan Meadows Golf & Country Club
- Fairwinds Golf Club
- Morningstar Championship Golf Club
- Olympic View Golf Club
- Pheasant Glen Golf Resort
- Storey Creek Golf Club

Power carts on all courses

Guaranteed tee times

On-call services of the GVI staff

Regularly from \$1049

Golf British Columbia price: From \$925 pp until Sept 30th

Act quickly and we will throw-in \$100 for food and drink on the Vancouver Island clubhouse deck of your choice!

Victoria Luxury Insanity:

Come visit one of the prettiest cities in North America and play three unforgettable courses, including the Mountain course at Bear Mountain - host of the 2010 Telus Skins Game!

Two nights at the four-diamond Westin Bear Mountain Resort

Rounds of golf at:

- Bear Mountain Golf Club - Mountain Course
- Bear Mountain Golf Club - Valley Course
- Olympic View Golf Club

Shared powercarts

Detailed driving directions to all destinations

Concierge services of the Golf British Columbia office

Regularly \$565 weekdays / \$615 weekends

Golf British Columbia price: \$449 weekdays / \$495 weekends

Act quickly and we will throw-in \$100 for food and drink on the Vancouver Island clubhouse deck of your choice!

Whistler Escape

The destination that put British Columbia on the golfing map, Whistler is still ranked as one of the best golf resort destinations in the world!

Two nights at the four star Delta Whistler Village Suites
Rounds of golf at *YOUR* choice of any three of the following:

- Big Sky Golf & Country Club
- Chateau Whistler Golf Club
- Nicklaus North Golf Club
- Whistler Golf Club

Shared powercars
Detailed driving directions to all destinations
Concierge services of the Golf British Columbia office

Regularly \$685

Golf British Columbia price: \$549 till Sept 20th (\$499 after Sept 20th).

Vancouver Weekend Escape

Vancouver is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in North America and a fantastic choice for a weekend that combines great nightlife, restaurants, and scenery with unforgettable golf.

Two nights in downtown Vancouver at the Best Western Granville
Rounds of golf at the following:

- Furry Creek Golf & Country Club
- Mayfair Lakes Golf Club
- Westwood Plateau Golf Club

Shared powercars
Detailed driving directions to all destinations
Concierge services of the Golf British Columbia office

Regularly \$585

Golf British Columbia price: \$495 till Sept 30th

Kamloops Weekend Escape

The hottest golf destination in Canada. Play the courses in Kamloops once and you will be left with only one question: When can I come back?

Two nights in downtown Kamloops at the Thompson Hotel

Rounds of golf at *YOUR* choice of any three of the following:

- Rivershore Golf Links
- Sun Peaks Golf Course
- Sun Rivers Golf Course
- Talking Rock Resort
- The Dunes at Kamloops
- Tobiano

Shared powercars

Detailed driving directions to all destinations

Concierge services of the Golf British Columbia office

Regularly \$449

Golf British Columbia price: \$399 till Sept 30th

Okanagan Escape

With warm weather, great golf and dozens of wineries the Okanagan continues to reign as one of the top golf destinations in Canada. Spend just one weekend in Kelowna and you will understand why.

Two nights in downtown Kelowna at the Coast Capri Hotel

Rounds of golf at *YOUR* choice of any three of the following:

- Gallagher's Canyon
- Harvest Golf Club
- Okanagan Golf Club - Bear Course
- Okanagan Golf Club - Quail Course
- Predator Ridge Resort

Shared powercars

Detailed driving directions to all destinations

Concierge services of the Golf British Columbia office

Regularly \$609

Golf British Columbia price: \$535 till Sept 30th

ALL PACKAGE PRICES are per person based on double occupancy and subject to applicable taxes.

Okanagan Golf Courses Offer Wine Festival Specials

The Okanagan Golf Club

Okanagan Golf Club 6 Course Wine & Jazz

6 pm, Saturday, October 3, 2009

6 Course Wine Dinner together with The Danny Sameshima Jazz Trio

Our superb 6 course dinner combined with fine Okanagan wines with fabulous cuisine designed and prepared by Executive Chef Dean Hossack.

Treat yourself to an unforgettable dining experience

\$110 per person Taxes & gratuities not included

Call for advanced reservations 250.765-5971.

Red Rooster at The Harvest Dining Room

Thursday, October 8 2009

Celebrate the senses in an unforgettable evening of all things BC.

Great food. Award-winning wine. And of course, breath taking scenery.

On 287 acres of orchard and vineyard, The Harvest Dining Room overlooks Lake Okanagan and provides stunning views of the Okanagan Valley. The perfect backdrop as Executive Chef Heath Cates masterfully combines his Pacific Northwest cuisine with the fresh, lively BC VQA wines of Red Rooster Winery. Join winemaker Karen Gillis for an experience of exquisite local food, great wine...and just a bit of fun!

Time: 6:30 PM to 12:00 AM

Age Range: Adults

Contact: Sarah or Ryan at the Harvest

Phone: 250.862.3177

Event Location: The Harvest Golf Club, 2725 K.L.O. Road, Kelowna, BC

Location Phone: 250.862.3177 - Sarah or Ryan

Price: Adults (+ GST): \$110.00

Predator Ridge Fall Harvest Wine Dinner

Tuesday October 6 –

Enjoy an evening of great Okanagan wines paired with executive chef Jeff O'Neill's spectacular cuisine. Predator Ridge is please to showcase many of the finest wines produced right here in Okanagan wine country. A great event for those trying wines for the first time as well as those who want to expand their wine knowledge.

Stay for the night at the luxurious Predator Ridge Lodge & Spa for \$175 including dinner and one night of luxurious accommodation (price per person based on double occupancy)

Time: 6:00 PM to 12:00 AM

Age Range: Adults

Event Location: The Clubhouse at Predator Ridge

Location Phone: 250-542-3436

Location Website: predatorridge.com

Price: Adults (+ GST): \$125.00

Shadow Mountain Course Review

Shadow Mountain, which opened this July 1, could be the next course in BC to receive the "Best New Course" award in Canada.

Located in Cranbrook, the course joins nearby Bootleg Gap, St Eugene and Trickle Creek as destination courses and could be a course that does for the region what Grey Wolf did for the Columbia Valley or Tobiano for the Kamloops region. While still under construction – off the course – it is in remarkable condition for the July opening. The course was designed by Wayne Carlton and offers spectacular shots, challenging and interesting elevation changes and the mountain scenery the region is well known for. Very little soil had to be moved to create the course, and the natural sand base will provide great growing conditions.

The development will someday host 600 single family homes and 600 multi-family dwellings, adding considerably to the population of Cranbrook. At this point, construction of the residential roads and services are still underway, and the resulting noise and dust is somewhat of a distraction. But not that much of one once you get on the course. There is still an operating gravel pit, but once that is gone in the next year or so, the area will begin to take shape.

The course draws its name from a local native legend. To the east of the development during certain times of the year at sunset, there is an interplay of shadows on nearby Fisher Peak that suggests a bear (to me it looks like its rolling on its back). Bear Mountain was already taken, so Shadow Mountain it was. You'll have to check the photo in the clubhouse for yourself.

Looking at the model of the development, the local ownership group has gone to some lengths (and cost) to separate the course from the residential development. The natural lodge pole pine forest of the region covers the terrain, rising from the banks of the St. Mary River. The property is somewhat terraced up from the river, and this natural terrain helps to create the drama and adventure that I think the course will become known for. It is also challenging, with its 7,405 yards from the back tee (but more playable 6,410 yards from the white tees) and a slope of 126 and rating of 70.2 from the white tees. The bent grass fairways add to the feeling of a quality course.

A couple of holes really stand out, but really the entire course is well designed with no obvious problem holes or blind shots. I'm a big favorite of elevation drops on holes (primarily, I think, because it makes my drives seem longer), because they add to the scenic qualities and offer unique challenges to the average golfer. There are two holes, #15 and 17 which must drop 150'. From this height, the fairways seem narrow, and the green looks a very, very long way away. # 17 also includes a pond which will gather errant tee shots (and adds to the anxiety) with a second/third shot also needing to go over the pond.

Time, and other reviews, will tell how Shadow Mountain stands up to other new courses.

Copper Point - Course Review

On a recent trip to the Columbia Valley, I had the opportunity to play Copper Ridge. Its one of the newer courses among the well established courses of the region – Fairmont, Radium, Eagle Ranch and Grey Wolf. It adds considerably to the range of courses available in the region, taking the Columbia Valley golf consortium to 9 courses and making the region a very complete golf destination.

The two courses at Copper Point, the championship course and the Ridge Course, combine to represent what might be the future of golf courses. The new Ridge course, opened in May 2008, offers golfers an alternative to the usual 6700 yard course taking 4 ½ hours to play. From the back tees, its 5072 yards of par 62 while from the front tees its 3,575 yards. On many of the holes there's over 100 yards between the front and back tees. Unlike many "executive" length courses, designer Gary Browning shortened the course by creating full length holes – up to 450 yards on some par 4's – and replacing the par 5 holes with par 3 holes, of which there are 11. Staying with the overall philosophy, the fairways are generous where they need to be, and bunkers are placed appropriately. Other than playing no par 5's you would not know from looking at the course that you weren't playing a full length, well maintained golf course. You'll still need your driver. The course is scenic, set among rolling hills, so there are elevation changes which make the course interesting, and carts are mandatory. Brian Schaal, the General Manager, told us that the course record is 3 above par, and that the normal round is just over 3 hours. I suspect there would be a lot more golfers participating if they could regularly complete a round in 3 hours.

The Clubhouse at Copper Point is very nice, with a large verandah overlooking the main course sloping down to the west and eventually to the Columbia River. The views of the Rocky Mountains, particularly with the sun setting in the evening are spectacular. My impression of the front 9 was not overly favorable. Although there are lots of trees, the course is a parkland style, with minimal elevation change and several holes relatively close together. It wasn't really what I expected after having played some of the other courses in the region. One positive was the shape and mounding of the greens, with very pronounced movement, that made for interesting putts. At one point one of our group tried a putt that eventually went through a 360 degree circle. The back 9 though, is altogether different. I thought it was very similar to Eagle Ranch, with more elevation change and holes well separate by trees. The terrain was very different from the front 9. Three holes stood out, starting with a dogleg on number 10. The bunkers at the inside corner clearly represent a challenge, but our group decided to go to the inside of the bunkers and deal with the short rough, rather than go the long way around (this isn't in the pro tips). Number 13 is a downhill dogleg which also offers a choice of going over the trees on the inside. If you go the normal route, you'll end up with a very long second shot to a green with one of the most pronounced bowl shapes I've ever seen. Finally, the finishing hole offers a dogleg around a pond which lets you bite off as much as you can, providing you can keep your slice under control.

The Golf Academy at Copper Point is very well laid out and is in good condition.

As mentioned at the outset, Copper Point compliments the other courses in the region very well and could easily serve as a focal point for a golf trip to the region. Even if golfing with a less experienced or skilled golfer, the Ridge Course will keep any golfer happy for more than one round. Try it.