

British Columbia Golf Member Newsletter

October 2009

Bear Mountain Resort Offers its Final Swing Package

Take your final swing for 2009. Enjoy Canada's only 36 holes of Nicklaus Design golf at one low rate. This package includes:

- One night accommodation in a traditional guest room
- One round of golf on the Mountain or Valley Course
- Rates from \$99 per person for stays from Oct 1 to Nov 30, 2009

To take advantage of this great offer, visit westin.com/bearmountain or call 1-866-716-8101 and mention rate plan "FINALSWG"

For more information, or to book a package visit the [Bear Mountain website](#).

Tobiano Update

Tobiano, just west of Kamloops BC, opened to rave reviews in 2007 and was selected at Best New Course in Canada by Golf Digest. Not content to rest on their laurels, the Resort is embarking on new developments to move the Resort forward.

On the golf course, the major change has been the softening of the hazards and waste areas adjacent to a number of fairways. In its first year, Tobiano watered the rough extensively to get the fescue started, and they were certainly successful, but it made the course much more difficult to play if you wandered off the fairways. Miles Mortenson, General Manager, says that they have reduced the density and height of the fescue by reducing watering (and saving some as well). This has made a number of holes easier to play for the high handicapper, as balls can be found, and played from the adjacent areas. It has also made the course look more like the desert course that it is.

The Resort will be building a marina on adjacent Kamloops Lake to increase the number of activities for guests and residents, and has plans underway for a new 200 room hotel on the property.

Sun Destination Golf Packages Coming Soon

The BCGA is currently working with BC and US tour operators and selected sun destinations to offer BCGA members custom golf packages to favourite winter destinations. These will be exclusive to BCGA members and designed to get you to popular (and some less well known) destinations this year.

Check out our "Other Destinations" section for package offers on a regular basis.

The New 18 Holes at Predator Ridge Ready June 2010

A number of golf industry representatives were recently treated to one of the first looks at the new 18 hole course nearing completion at Predator Ridge, in Vernon BC.

The new Doug Carrick design will blend 9 holes of the former Peregrine course with completely new 9 holes constructed on the north side of the property. The course looks playable now and is in very good condition, but is scheduled to open in June 2010.

Although the new course makes use of the Peregrine 9 and golfers will recognize most of the layout, changes have been made to every hole. Number 1, leading south from the clubhouse, has been subtly changed by the addition of several feet of soil that has had the effect of flattening the fairway and making it wider. The fescue has been reduced and will be maintained in a much less dense and shorter manner so that errant balls can be found and played. On several holes, cart paths have been relocated to take them out of play. Most greens have been reshaped to provide lots of movement, but in a more subtle way. The old #9, coming back up to a green set on a high ledge, has had the most serious makeover, with soil added to the fairway to increase its height, while the green has been cut down 10 feet so that the elevation change on the approach shot is not so high. The green itself retains its back to front slope, but is now more subtle.

The number of bunkers has been reduced and the 18 holes will play with only 43 bunkers, about 1/2 the normal number. However, in many places, especially on the new 9, rock outcroppings have been exposed that will come into play, as well as providing great visual relief. The fairways have been seeded with blue grass to help reduce water consumption, while tees and greens use bent grass.

The new 9 starts at #5. It boasts 105 feet of elevation change - down thankfully. #6 requires a 200 yard carry from the back tees, but 5 tee boxes provides relief for high handicappers. This hole is among the most scenic, with distant mountain and lake views. #10 is one of the most striking holes, and is the only one given a name so far- Peyote. Reputedly, the name comes from one of the owners who wondered what Carrick was using when designing the hole. The tee box is very elevated up a rocky cliff, dropping down about 70 feet into a low valley. The 410 yard hole then climbs up hill to the green. The landing area is well guarded by bunkers on either side of the fairway.

#13 takes you back to the Peregrine course (#5), but even here, the tees have been moved back and elevated and the cart path moved.

In many places, the course has the look of a Muskoka course with the rock outcroppings used to define fairways and create hazards. This is unusual in BC designs. However, there is no course in the Muskoka region that has the elevation changes that Predator offers, nor are there the mountain and lake views that take your breath away standing on some of the tee boxes.

The new course, combined with the existing 18, will make Predator Ridge one of the top resorts in the country, and should be in the running for best new course when its eligible in 2011. Get in line.

Book your Arizona, Nevada and California tee times On line.

BC golfers like to travel south in our off-season and California, Nevada and Arizona are among the most popular destinations. Travel south should be busier this year with the great exchange rate and the economy picking up.

The BCGA through its partnership with the golf associations in these states, and working with Golfswitch, an on-line supplier of tee times, has now made it easier to book tee times in these states. Simply go to the "Other destinations" section of our website, and click on "On line bookings". You can then choose which state you'd like to visit. The courses that have tee times available on line are listed on the left side, or you can scroll through the offers that are available. Click on a course to check when you'd like to find a time, or search for the best price for the course.

You'll find the service faster than contacting individual courses in setting up golf trips, and you can be assured of getting times in advance so that you can play your trip and other activities.

The Dunes on the Move

The Dunes in Kamloops BC has a number of new developments in plans that will considerably enhance the course and improve the experience at the course.

A new clubhouse will be under construction this fall and winter, to be built just to the north of the current temporary buildings. It will have great views north over the course and up the Thompson River valley. A new road access into the course has been built from the western side of the property that will separate the property into an 18 hole executive length course and learning centre. This development will be to the southern end of the property where holes 1 - 5 are currently located.

A new design by Les Furber will amalgamate some of the current holes on the north side of the property with new holes being created in some of the areas that have not been used in the current design. The largest of these areas lies between holes 14 and 16 and more use will be made of the land at the northern end of the property. There will be some renovations to the current holes, including #18, that will soften play a bit and sort out a few problem areas.

Housing development is planned for the western edge of the property, with 41 lots for sale. This residential development will join some existing residential development on the south side of the property. Plans are also under discussion for a boutique hotel just south of the clubhouse.

All in all, good news from the owners!