

LOCKER ROOM CHATTER

With Chip McDivot

The golf season is off to a great start, with the nine holes at the Haileybury Golf Club (HGC) pretty much full on a daily basis!

Welcome back members, and it is good to see the new faces on the fairways.

EVENTS

A reminder that Ontario remains under the stay-at-home order, with movement to new phases depending upon vaccination rates and case counts. Both have been moving in a positive direction the past couple of weeks.

Please do your part. Get your vaccine.

With the current emergency order, HGC has restricted access to the clubhouse. No indoor dining means no men's or ladies' nights with a meal. HGC has been offering a men's night golf opportunity for groups that want to play.

Tee it up with your group after 4:30 p.m. with a booked tee-time. Shotgun starts are off



the table for now. No gathering after the round, but a few draws for prizes will be held Friday morning, and winners will be contacted by phone or email.

The Ladies' Classic, which was tentatively scheduled for June 11, has been cancelled for this year because of the pandemic.

MEMBERSHIP

Please settle up your annual fees this week. All fees and dues should be paid up by June 5 at the latest. See the Golf Shop staff for details.

100TH ANNIVERSARY

The first run of the 100th anniversary book has been pretty much sold out.

Drop by the Golf Shop to have a look at it and consider pre-ordering a copy from our second run. Each copy is \$45 tax in.

The unveiling of the 100th Anniversary plaque has been rescheduled to later in the summer, when larger numbers can gather outdoors. Details forthcoming.

GOLF CANADA MEMBERSHIP

HGC is offering reduced prices on Golf Canada memberships, set for \$37.50 plus taxes.

Membership gets you access to the World Handicap System, an app to input your hole scoring in real time, GPS services for HGC plus other Golf Canada member clubs, as well as some insurance on lost or misplaced golf clubs, and insurance on golf carts. The insurance is valid in North America. Spending the winter in Florida? You're covered.

And there is added value for Juniors for their rate of \$27.50 in that Youth on Course participants have a reduced green fee for Juniors who are carded for Golf Canada.

More details available at the Golf Shop.



Golf enthusiasts were quick to take up their clubs when Ontario reopened golf courses on May 22. Pictured here are Vicki Beach and Chris Oslund of Haileybury, they were ready to take their cart out for a game at the Haileybury Golf Club. (Staff photo by Darlene Wroe)

Orchard yielding fruits of growers' labour

Continued from B Front
ern Ontario.

"The varieties of haskap berries we grow have stood up to the winter nicely," said Chartrand.

"Haskaps love this area and they are a hardy fruit. Our climate and soil are perfect for them. The new varieties of berries we have are far superior, producing bigger and better fruit and they taste better," said Chartrand.

"We did lose a few cherry trees but by pruning them back they should sprout up again."

Besides the challenges of a Northern winter, the orchard faces threats from predators such as birds, mice, raccoons, bears, deer and rabbits who all find feasting on the berry trees delightful.

They have installed an electric fence around their property to keep out animals and an ultrasonic bird repellent system. In a couple of weeks they will place kites on poles strategically placed around the orchard to further keep birds from destroying their prized berry crop.

"We have too much invested in this business to lose our crop to predators."

DWARF CHERRIES

The dwarf cherries grow on short, stout bushes with glossy blossoms and dark green leaves and they produce a tangy, sweet fruit yield from July to August.

Cherries have become ubiquitous in their uses in home kitchens and restaurants for their antioxidant properties and high sugar content.

They are being used for juice, wine, beer and even whisky making. The cherries maintain their high flavor content even when cooked at high temperatures.

They can be used in baking pies, cakes and cookies and for making ice cream and even for medicinal purposes to treat things like inflammation.

The couple retired from being owners of the 5th Wheel Training Institute to pursue cherry and haskap berry growing full time.

They have invested heavily in the orchard business as slowing down and retirement had little appeal for them.

"I couldn't see myself going to the mall for coffee. We knew this was a risky business but we felt we were in it for the long haul. There was a huge learning curve to starting our orchard but we are finally seeing results thanks to the support of family and friends," noted Philbin.

"Yvan grew up on a dairy farm and he does things on a large scale and our goal with this orchard is to eventually have a commercial operation. It's the only way to go."

COMPLEX PROJECT

The reasoning behind taking on such a complex and varied project as the creation of Verg-

er du Terroir can be attributed to the hope that someday the couple will be able to turn a profit for all their hard work.

They have processed and sold some of their fruit into jams and jellies, with the help of their daughter-in-law.

They say processing the fruit and growing it are two totally different actions, though each are labour intensive and complicated.

For the first time, Verger du Terroir will have a booth at November's Village Noel event.

A big part of the orchard's success is in the communication end of things to get the word out to people about the fruit growing business.

This is where Philbin's strength's come in as a former educator.

"I have a really good website and Facebook page that I con-

tinue to update about picking times and other things happening at the orchard. We have been successful in acquiring funding through grant applications," she said.

As well as installing tile drainage, a state-of-the-art irrigation system, purchasing new freezers and establishing a large parking area just north of the main orchard, the couple have relied heavily on the help of their sons and their families to maintain the orchard and bring it to where it is today.

Government agencies that have financially assisted the growers are the Innovation Initiatives Ontario North, Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance, NeoNet, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, the Rural Agri-Innovation Network, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural

Affairs and the South Temiskaming Community Futures Development Corporation.

They say it is a constant challenge to keep tweaking the system to iron out all the bugs of orchard growing, but when they saw the cherry blossoms sprout recently, they could barely contain their excitement.

"The fruit trees literally change daily and it is very exciting to see. We set out to do things right and to have a quality product. Our commitment to this has not changed," explained Philbin.

For more information about Verger du Terroir visit www.vergerduterroir.ca or check out their Facebook page for upcoming U-pick times and dates.

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to save money
is like the man who stops the clock
to save time.**

- Thomas Jefferson

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