

# *Westfield Golf & Country Club*

*Newsletter*

*October'17*



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## **President's Message**

By: John Murray

This is the one I've been waiting three years to write, so it better be good. I guess it's a little ironic that there have been 18 newsletters involved in my tenure as President, but that's golf for you. So after seventeen mediocre contributions, it's almost time to get to the 19<sup>th</sup> hole where I belong, but first, some club news.

The summer of the Earles continued with Earle the Elder taking down a very worthy opponent to capture the club championship for the second consecutive year. Congratulations to both Nick and his opposition on that day, Peter McCarthy, for showcasing what our club has to offer for talent. On that front we take a backseat to nobody.

Mentioned briefly in last month's edition, the review of all club cost centers has now gone from the Executive to the Board for further scrutiny. This is a process which we trust will enable us to make a profit from all areas of operation now offered to members. There will be some changes noted in some departments next year, but we hope to effect the modifications with no major discomfort to club members. Hopefully, everyone will realize that change is a must if we hope to continue the high standards that our members have come to expect over the years. Although we are registered as a Non-Profit organization, we now appreciate that we don't have to go out of our way to prove it every year.

As we near the end of our initial lease with the folks from the Grass Roots Grill, negotiations have already started to replace the original agreement with one that recognizes the changes that have taken place since the restaurant came into being. Some changes may be noticeable at a glance, while others will take place behind the scenes, but all will be designed to maximize the experience for both parties and result in an even better experience for both members and the GRG.

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Some of you may have noted that progress in the painting of the club exterior has tapered off somewhat in the recent past. Others may have noted that it has stopped completely. The change in activity is due to the unforeseen departure of our painting contractor. But, fear not, for the task will be completed on budget by Kendall's staff in the near future. Artists can be so temperamental. Now, for some parting thoughts on my time as President of the Westfield Golf and Country Club, a job which will come to a close at the upcoming Annual General Meeting. The most obvious place for me to start is to thank the folks who have helped me the most in the last three years and that begins with the people who have taken time out of their busy schedules to serve on the Board of Directors. During my time on the job, I have operated under the theory that the best way to organize a board is to recruit a diversity of people you can work with and make sure that all of them are smarter than you. That last part wasn't very hard, but there was some work involved in making sure that we had a group of people at the table that had the best interest of the club at heart and could leave their egos in the parking lot to achieve the greater good. To my great surprise, the vast majority of people I asked to be part of this group were more than willing to do their part. Some even sought me out. To these martyrs, I say thank you for all the help and guidance you have given me over the years. I know I wasn't always the easiest guy to deal with, but your patience and guidance always seemed to get us to the right decision.

I got into this because I used to be one of the many who sat on the deck and complained, eventually realizing that it would be much more constructive to get myself on the Board and see what I would do facing the same circumstances. It didn't take long to see that things are a lot different when you are part of the group working from the inside and are forced to come face to face with the issues of running a business with very shallow pockets. I would encourage all my fellow complainers to follow the same path. It was quite an eye opener. From my first day on the job, I got nothing but the very best of support and guidance from our staff at WGCC. To Kendall, Steve, Susan and everyone in the pro shop and back shop who had to answer my stupid questions and pretend the questions weren't all that stupid, thank you for your help. It was always there when I needed it, and I needed it a lot. We are all fortunate to have you. Going forward, I think everyone has to realize what a gem we have in our golf

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course here at Westfield. We also have to realize that in order to maintain the standards we have come to take for granted, we will have to be ready to contribute our share of the finances required to keep these standards. We can not continue to make minimal sacrifices and expect the clubhouse and grounds to magically maintain themselves. If there is one thing I have learned in my four years at the table, this is definitely not how it works. Although the budget is still being prepared, when the dust settles you probably will be asked to contribute a little more to help with the elevated costs of providing you with an excellent venue to compete and socialize. I am convinced that there is no facility in our area that can offer what we do and still manage to keep membership costs so reasonable. Take a minute to reflect on all we offer at WGCC and then try to think of a comparable situation. Can't be done.

In closing, I have to say it's been quite an experience. I've heard from presidents of other clubs who maintain that their term was made intolerable by the constant harassment from members with their own agendas. Not so for me. For that, I would like to say thank you to all Westfield members who realize that we were trying to do our best, no matter what the outcome. The members at our club are the reason many new folks come and definitely the reason the majority stay. Remember, it is your club and you make it what it is. Thank you for making my experience what it was.

One final thought – three years goes by really fast.

## **Course Notes**

By: Kendall Costain

The season is winding down, and I would like to thank all the staff at WGCC for their hard work and dedication during a difficult season. Each member of our team does their job very well, which makes everyone's day a little easier. Thank you very much!

We plan to stay open as long as we can into November, keeping in mind we will still need a few nice days to put the course to bed. (Spraying Tees and Greens, blowing out the irrigation, covering greens)

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Please note that there will be no membership charging at the Grass Roots Grill during the off season, October 31<sup>st</sup>-May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

The Board of Directors has worked hard all season representing the membership and with the off season approaching fast, we will be focusing on 2018 golf season.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to reach out, we can discuss any issues or just talk golf.

## **Ladies Association**

By: Nancy Steele

Wow here we are at the end of another great golf season! This current weather system leaves us with the feeling we are in the middle of the summer!!

The AGM was held on September 25, 2017 followed by a well-attended Wine and Food Tasting event sponsored by the Grass Roots Grill. This style of evening was a first for the ladies closing. The menu, choices of wine pairings, presentations, was well done and a great time was had by all! We will certainly look forward to more events like this and once again a very special thanks to The Grass Roots Grill for such a well-planned evening.

The success of the Ladies Association this year has been greatly due to the team effort of your executive. Your executive will remain the same for 2017/2018 and we look forward to planning for the upcoming golf season. Once again, we encourage all ladies who may have suggestions to enhance your organization to please contact someone on your executive as we are always open for discussion.

The following is your executive for 2017/2018:

President	Nancy Steele
Past President	Cathy Hutchinson
Vice President/Treasurer	Karen Walsh
Secretary	Pat Loughery
Match Chair	Ruth Ross
Niner's Chair	Mary Hogan

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Sundries-Ladies Locker Room     Trudy Comeau Roper & Cindy Donaldson

As we close for this season, I wish all good health and happiness as you continue to enjoy your various activities during the months ahead. I end with a quote from Art Spander

“Golf is a game not just of manners but of morals”

## *From the Match Committee – Ruth Ross, Match Captain*

Happy October Everyone.....The Ladies of Golf had their official closing Fun 9 Hole Scramble, luncheon and prize awards on Wednesday 20 September, and the Annual General Meeting and Wine Tasting to celebrate our season on Monday 25 September. The first event was weather threatened but a good time, and the AGM and the celebrations that followed were a fitting finale to this golfing season. So many thanks to Joanna and Shannon and the staff at the Grass Roots Grill, to Chef Tristan and Guest Chef Jim for planning and executing such an entertaining and delicious event.

While I am thanking people for all their good advice and kind assistance throughout this season, I have to mention our Pro, Steve LeBlanc and his Back Room Boys and Girls. They helped in so many ways every Wednesday, whether it was taking out Closest to the Pin signs, calculating winner scorecards, and providing weather forecasts. Our competitions were well attended, from the Opening Fun Brunch, the Tim Horton's Ladies Open, the Diana Brenan Fun Day, the Scotch Ball, the Mystery Golf Days, the Doubles and Singles Match Play, to the Ladies Club Championship. Finally, I want to give special recognition to the sponsors of these events; their generous support is vital to future play. These sponsors and the corresponding winners are shown below, and I encourage every reader to personally thank these wonderful people when you see them on the course or around the clubhouse.

**Club Championship sponsored by the Likely Family, Winner -- Karen Bird**

**Hit the Sweet Spot sponsored by the Grass Roots Grill every Wednesday**

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**Molson/Harrigan Insurance Stableford Competition Winner -- Donna Holland**

**Match Play Singles sponsored by Heather Shuve Winner -- Donna Holland**

**Match Play Doubles sponsored by Sonja Taylor Winners -- Debbie Ketch/Gay Wittrien**

**Diana Brenan Memorial sponsored by Sylvia McVey Winner -- Donna Holland**

**Most Improved Golfer – Marilyn Evans Memorial Trophy  
Trophy Donated by ECM Publishing by Carol Maber  
Prize Donated by Evans Family Winner -- Sue Quinn**

Match Committee and the Ladies Association, through their former fund raising efforts continue to sponsor the following prizes:

<b>Golf Canada Points</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>-- Ulrike Long</b>
<b>Golf Canada Putts</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>-- Heather Shuve</b>
<b>Ringer Board</b>	<b>Winner 0-15 Handicap</b>	<b>-- Twila Hitchcock</b>
	<b>Winner 16-25 Handicap</b>	<b>-- Donna Holland</b>
	<b>Winner 26-34 Handicap</b>	<b>-- Sue Quinn</b>
		<b>-- Jeannie Bastarache</b>
	<b>Winner 35-44 Handicap</b>	<b>-- Ulrike Long</b>
<b>Chip-Ins</b>	<b>Winner (By Lottery)</b>	<b>-- Rose Theriault</b>
<b>Birdies</b>	<b>Winner (By Lottery)</b>	<b>-- Nancy Steele</b>

That's a wrap for 2017 .....See you on the course as long as the sun is shining, and I look forward to welcoming you back at the Opening Brunch and Fun Scramble in May 2018!

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## **Pro Shop Notes**

By: Stephen LeBlanc

As I write this it is 23 degrees in October and no end of this great weather in sight. The course is as good as it has been all year and we are going to stay open as long as the weather permits.

A couple more holes in one this month. Kevin Carson finished his round with an ace on #18 and Sandy MacDonald got his second hole in one of the season, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> hole this time. Congrats to both players.

The Men's Club Championship final was played on September 10<sup>th</sup> and it was another great battle. Peter McCarthy was up 1 hole after the first 18 over Nick Earle. The lead got to as much as 2 in the second round, but then Nick went on a run and ended up winning the match late in the 2<sup>nd</sup> nine. Congratulations to Nick Earle on defending his title and to all participants in this year's competition.

On a more serious note, I have been noticing more this season than ever that bunkers are not being raked after a golfer enters them to play their ball. Our maintenance staff can only get to them every other day, and we as members should be doing all we can to make sure our course remains playable and enjoyable for all. Please rake your foot prints and leave no trace of your shot in the traps, so that other golfers don't have to play their shots from a hazard lie made even more difficult.

## **Super Seniors**

By: Gary Macfarlane

The end of the golfing season is upon us and the year flew by fast the weather has been good and hopefully will last well into the fall. The seniors Group had a successful closing scramble with a good turnout and a great time had by everyone involved. Joanna and her staff at the GRASS ROOTS GRILL provided a great meal and dessert was greatly enjoyed by everyone.



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The winner of this year's ALEX MACINTOSH MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT is JOHN MCFADDEN .Congratulations to John. We had a great year with the seniors group with our weekly tournaments and scrambles and hope to continue this into next year. I would like to thank my team of WINSTON GOODWIN, HARVEY MILLER, REG GIONET, PHIL REEVES and RENE COULPIER for all their assistance throughout the year with their help we had a good year. I would also like to thank STEVE LEBLANC and the people in the pro shop and WARREN LINGLEY and the people in the back shop for all their help. Lastly I would like to thank SUSAN in the office for her patience in dealing with me. THANKS. This is the last newsletter so I will see you all in the spring.