



ISLAND SPRINGS GOLF RESORT

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2011 NEWSLETTER

Greetings and best wishes for 2011 from Island Springs Golf Resort. Thank you once again for your continued support.

2010

We enjoyed 2010, our 10th anniversary year. We were fortunate to host many events which raised a significant amount of money for various causes.

The men's league continues to be very well attended. We lost two teams last year but were able to replace them.

The seniors' and ladies' leagues seemed to experience a decline in participation, although the two couple's outings were very well received.

We had younger players in 2010. The junior tournament was a great success; the calibre of golf was surprisingly good and the playoff was a real treat for everyone in attendance. We need to examine how to improve or revitalize the activities that we have in place and look forward to your comments concerning this.

We introduced one day memberships and offered a choice of Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. They were sold in July and entitled the person to unlimited golf on the day selected for the entire season.

Last year also presented its share of challenges. We did experience a decline in rounds of golf. This also impacted cart rentals, pro shop sales and food and beverage. We did anticipate a decline and planned accordingly.

Our goal is to hire students in their last two years of high school and hopefully employ them each summer until they graduate from university. We had a large turn over in 2010. It was great to have Terry See return to Island Springs and will always be thankful to Lory Eddy, Melanie Wonnacott,

Carrie Kennedy Uusitalo, Karla Lacasse and Terry Archambeault for not only performing their own duties but also training others. Thank you for your patience, as we regrouped. Upon review of the average food and beverage sales for Monday through Wednesday, the cost of staffing the dining room made it prohibitive. We also eliminated the position of event coordinator and said good bye and thank you to Yvonne Pellarin. We did provide 24 seasonal jobs.

Island Springs has always had friends in high places. During the construction season in the year 2000, Mr. Dan Campbell kept an eye on the progress from the sky. He was kind enough to photograph this and provide us with some spectacular images.

Have you ever wondered about the vantage point that one has while riding with Donald Nattress as he cruises above Island Springs? I have been invited on many occasions to experience this and finally did last fall. It was a cool clear fall day. Donald suggested removing the doors to provide a better opportunity to take photos. After a complete safety check and instruction, we were off. We circled over Gawas Bay and headed for Island Springs. It was fascinating! I had flown a considerable amount in small airplanes for work purposes in the 1980s, but it was nothing like this. You could fly much lower to the tree tops and at a slower speed. We approached from the east and headed directly for the club house. I am not a great photographer and when you add motion and the wind factor when you stick your head out from behind the windshield, it gets more difficult. My theory was simple, take as many shots as possible and hopefully some would be good. We followed the entire course layout. There were times I couldn't believe how good it looked. When a golf course is designed, great detail is provided for shapes of fairways, greens and bunkers. Jerry Shields has always stressed the importance of straight mower lines and stripping. This becomes so much more evident when viewed from above.

Thank you again Dan for the wonderful photos and thank you Donald for an experience that I will never forget. I am posting some of Dan's photos and some of mine on our website if you are interested.

2011

The question I am asked most often is; how is the lack of snow going to affect the golf course? Jerry Shields feels it might be a good thing for us. We apply a chemical each fall to discourage mold from growing on the grass. When you have normal snow cover, there is no frost at the ground level and the moist conditions with no air circulation provide a favourable environment for mold. If you come out and play in the early spring you will notice the brown spots on the turf. With the cold temperatures and lack of snow, we have frost at the ground level and therefore should not have mold. It would be a problem if we had standing water that formed ice on the grass, but that is not an issue with our great drainage.

We have replaced our entire fleet of golf cars to ensure reliable service for the future.

The Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) was implemented last summer. We have examined the effect it would have on our expenses. We did not pay PST on the majority of our expenses, however there are some savings. We have reduced the membership cost slightly to reflect this saving. The HST does add 8% to the tax portion of your membership. It means we will be sending far more money on to Revenue Canada.

One day memberships will be offered again this year for Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. They will be valid for the entire season in 2011 at a cost of \$200.00 plus HST. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday can be purchased for a cost of \$500.00 plus H.S.T.

New memberships in all categories will be accepted.

Green fee accounts will remain as per previous years.

In closing, thank you again for being part of Island Springs. I appreciate Donald Nattress and his persistence in getting me to look at Island Springs from a different point of view. I tend to look at how the place has changed. I spent several years there when it was just forest and old meadows filled with ferns and brush. I am hopefully one year closer to retirement.

Respectfully Submitted;

John & Marlene Gibbs
Island Springs Golf Resort