

22nd Annual Canadian Open Hickory Championship Summary

The Legends GCC - August 11/12/13, 2021

Congratulations to Craig Spicer and his staff for the great conditions of the golf course. Maintaining the immaculate greens and fairways helps to make the Canadian Open Hickory Championship a special event. Thanks Craig! Also thanks again to Gord Dunmore for an excellent job marking the hazards and drop areas on the course.

In addition, more kudos to Craig for being accepted to work with the superintendent at the Ryder Cup this year at Whistling Straits in Kohler, Wisconsin- a great honor and we look forward to hearing the stories on his return!

With the ongoing world wide pandemic we were fortunate to be able to still run a modified Canadian Open Hickory Championship. The 2-days road trip was a casualty of the pandemic and with border issues still in effect, sadly we weren't able to accommodate the many inquiries we had from the US and Europe but we were happy to have a total of 82 (up from 68 last year) participants over the 3-day event with 70 teeing it up for the Friday Championship.

Wednesday Aug 11 featured the popular 4-person scramble this year with 14 teams . This event really marks the beginning of the tournament because you get to play the tournament course, meet new players, pony up some cash and scrape any residual rust off your hickory game. Wednesday was sunny but WINDY! Number 1 Champions was a challenge with any ball on the fairway at a premium. In spite of the high wind, Ron St. John's team turned in a sparkling 63 to take the first place prize.

Ron St. John, Gord Eikeland, John Filipan, Kim Filipan, Don Dzwenko. 63

Steve Boysen, Curtis Kucey, Gino Narduzi, Lori Ehnes. 64

Terry Bader, Kenn Looten, David McCall, Fran Zinger 64

Ben Plaunt, Bruce McGillvray, Taren Plaunt, Doug Keith. 64

Andrew Ram, Craig Hosford, Johnny Bago, Bernie Tetreau. 64

Just missing by one shot

Dennis MacIntyre, Gerald Onciul, Edwin Chan, Ryan Galloway 65

Thursday Aug 12 The annual Ryder Cup competition between Canada and the US for the Casey Cup on the Thursday format was not possible so by popular demand we repeated the 2-person scramble with a team minimum handicap total of 22. With 31 teams, 7 were rewarded for their good play - the rest just had a great time! Top scores included:

Rob Taylor/Dave Taylor 66

Ben Plaunt/Taren Plaunt 67

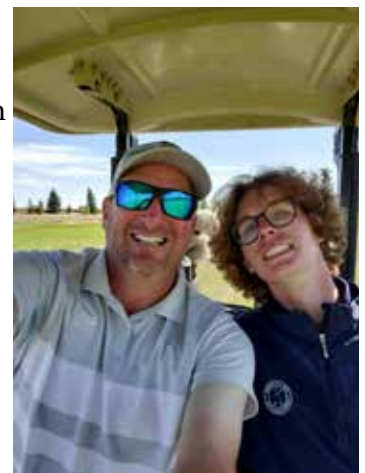
Craig Spicer/Steven Wong 68

Terry Bader/Russ Horton 69

Chris Ream/Johnny Bago 69

Curtis Kucey/Ross McLean 69

Jon Collins/Vern Kyler 69



Friday Aug 13 Championship Friday dawned with sunny skies and little wind. 70 players vied for the top spots in the 18 hole Canadian Open Championship with cross over tee times on the Old Hickory and Champions 9s.



The Open Division was won by Ben Plaunt for the seventh time with a sparkling 72 followed by Terry Bader 78, Marcel Valade 78, Craig Spicer 79, Gino Narduzi 80 and Gord Eikeland 80.

The highly competitive Senior Division featured a close competition with the low score coming from last year's champion Andrew Ram with a one under par 71. He once again was using Gary Moller's clubs and hickory hat!

Rob Taylor 73, Ron St. John 74, Ken Looten 76, Chris Ream 77, Willie Ducher 78 and Ron Maksymic 79 rounded out the top 7.

The Ladies Division was won by repeat winner Fran Looten.

Following the final round, Ron hosted a pulled pork meal in the Museum parking lot. It was an informal get together with lots of room for social distancing and a great way to finish off a wonderful week. Master Chef was Willie Ducher and the bannock for the meal was prepared by Audra Boudreau. Great job!



Hole Prizes and long drive prizes were donated by Rick O'Donnell with the innovative T-Hats featuring built in sun glasses.

And Doug Hawke donated bottles of his Baby-X vodka and gin from his distillery in Sherwood Park. Doug also had a very nice tent area set up featuring his products which proved to be a popular spot!



And thanks to everyone for your participation in the Canadian Open Hickory Championship... The sign at the first tee quoting the first Legend Alex Olnyk "The winner isn't the one with the lowest score – it's the one who has the most fun!" really rings true in this event.

The 2022 Canadian Open Hickory Championship is tentatively scheduled to be held the week of August 8-12. Mark it on your calendars! Many come up a few days early for the annual two day pre-tournament road trip ... sometimes at local golf courses and sometimes we wander further afield. All are welcome! For more information contact Ron Lyons at antiquegolf@shaw.ca, the golf course at 780-449-4911 or check the Legends website at www.legendsgolf.ca under the hickory tab.

Stay safe everyone and thanks again for a great event!

Picture Gallery



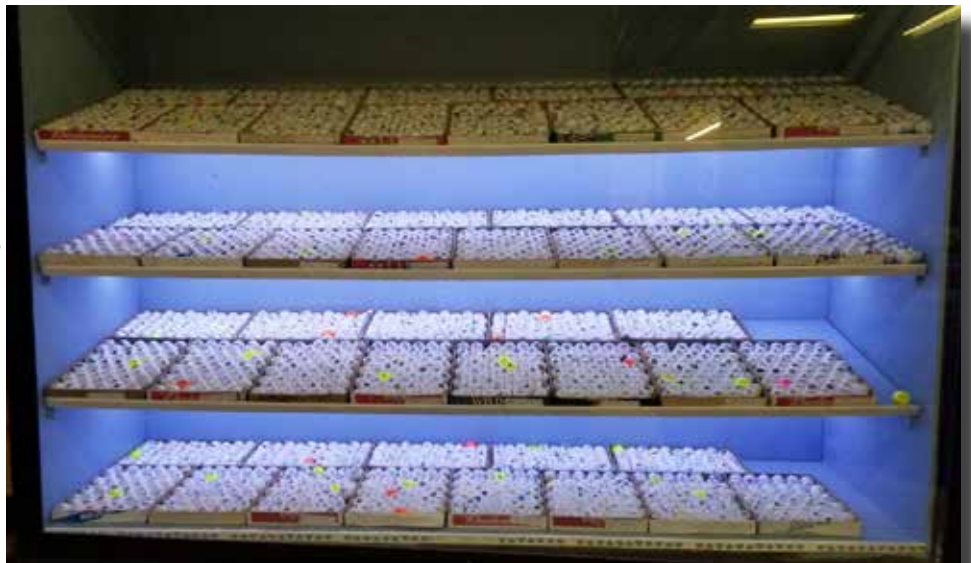
The country club golf ball collection currently displayed in a museum at the legends golf course was a 42 year labor of love by Russ Aney of Wetaskiwin. His story is below.

Russ has been hunting and accumulating golf balls with logos for most of his adult life. He became more serious with it when a young friend began diving golf course ponds in central Alberta. This gave Russ access to search through the balls and he purchased any he wished to add to his collection. Russ also had numerous friends who donated logo balls they had purchased or found.

But the collection really grew after Russ found other golf ball collectors on the Internet in the 2000s. From that point he concentrated on trading with them for balls with logos from golf courses. Most of his trades were with collectors from the United States, also from Canada, Australia, Austria and France.

By 2021 a collection of 14,750 balls has come from 109 different countries. To the best of his knowledge it is the largest known collection in Canada.

Russ is delighted that Ron Lyons has purchased the collection and that the collection will be displayed for golfers of all ages to view and enjoy for many years.





Looks like everyong wanted a piece of the Canadian Open Trophy!





A casualty of hickory golf!

