

# 100



GOLF QUÉBEC  
1920 • 2020



**CENTENNIAL SOUVENIR  
PROGRAMME**  
**GOLF QUÉBEC 1920-2020**

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## Preface - Golf Québec Celebrates its Centennial!

At its Annual General Meeting, the Québec Golf Federation unveiled a new corporate image for the 2020 season, which marks its 100th anniversary.

For this purpose, a casino chip featuring the centennial logo was produced and distributed at targeted events. A collector's item available in limited quantities!



As of its anniversary date of April 5, Golf Québec started publishing a series of articles to commemorate the history of the corporation as well as its builders and highlights.

We collected them for you in this souvenir programme in which you will also discover how 2020 unfolded, a year of celebration, a year that was out of the ordinary.



Undoubtedly, 2020 will be remembered by all. The global pandemic has turned many habits, projects and possibly the lives of professionals, amateurs, and future golfers upside down.

Fortunately, golf also was one of the activities that we were able to enjoy while taking in some fresh air and socializing with physical distancing, of course. That summer may even have contributed to increasing the number of players, which is not bad for the industry!!

In this respect, I invite you to read the reports of our President and Executive Director, which give you a very specific overview of the special situation in 2020.

In my first year of volunteering with the Québec Golf Federation (Golf Québec), in 2019, I was given the mandate to chair the committee that oversaw the festivities surrounding the Federation's centennial. For almost fifteen months, our committee worked diligently on the best way to celebrate our centennial in style. With this in mind, we had planned a programme of activities for you to enjoy throughout most of the year.

The pandemic prevented us from organizing large gatherings, so our plans for the summer were put on hold. It was nevertheless a pleasure for me to collaborate in the distribution of articles highlighting this anniversary. They were very informative, full of

interesting facts and sometimes even amusing anecdotes.

An enormous amount of research work was done by volunteers and employees of Golf Québec. This process allowed us to highlight the great moments of the Federation over the last 100 years and the history of those who built it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our researcher, historian and columnist, Marcel Paul Raymond, for the enormous amount of work he has done for us in directing this part of the project. He has devoted many hours to concocting a series of articles, each one more interesting than the last.

You will have the opportunity to rediscover his work through the pages of this souvenir programme which we hope you will treasure.

Over the 100 years of Golf Québec's history, many Quebecers and Canadians have achieved great feats. However, what I find even more exciting is what's to come. Indeed, we can feel the emergence of several future stars on the provincial, national and, hopefully, international golf scene.

I wish all the best to the industry as well as to Golf Québec, its regional associations and volunteers, and to Golf Canada who celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Together, they effectively govern this beautiful sport in which both pleasure and competition are valued.



**Sonia Houde**  
*Chair of the Centennial Committee*



2020 has already made history with the COVID-19 pandemic that spared no one and no industry. We had to show ingenuity, flexibility and adaptation to reinvent ourselves in this new context. I am particularly proud of what Golf Québec was able to accomplish despite the new living and working conditions.

Here is an overview of what has been achieved during this centennial year.

### ***World Handicap System***

The golf industry took a major international turn in January 2020. The calculation of the handicap index is now standardized and is based on the same factors for course rating and playing conditions around the world.

### ***Strategic Planning***

Our strategic plan for the 2019-2021 cycle remains in progress and a working group is already preparing the next plan for 2022-2025.

### ***A Bright Future***

Despite the short competitive season, we have jumped from 9 to 11 representatives on Team Canada for 2021. They are: Malik Dao (Summerlea), Jean-Philippe Parr (Ki-8-Eb) and Félix Bouchard (Vallée du Richelieu) in the U19 squad. Brigitte Thibault (Rosemère), Sarah-Ève Rhéaume (Royal Québec), Noémie Paré (Victoriaville), Laurent Desmarchais (Vallée du

Richelieu), and Étienne Papineau (Pinegrove) amongst amateurs.

We are proud of Brigitte and Laurent who were named 2020 Canada's Amateur Players of the Year by the Canadian Golf Press Association (CGPA).

In the Young Pro squad, we are proud to see Anne-Catherine Tanguay make her return along with Hugo Bernard (Club Laval-sur-le-Lac) and Joey Savoie (Pinegrove).

### ***The Industry Standing Committee, a Renewed Effort***

The associations that make up the Québec golf industry Standing Committee have worked more closely than ever before to make the golf season possible and safe for everyone. Their efforts did not go unnoticed, and they collectively received the Pierre-Nadon Prize.

### ***Governance***

The Governance Committee has a lot to do to bring Golf Québec into the modern era by revamping its structures, policies, and by-laws. The work they started in 2020 will continue until 2023.

### ***The Power of Volunteering***

Following its century-old tradition, Golf Québec is proud to count on numerous volunteers who are dedicated to the delivery of our programs and services. Their commitment translates into countless small gestures that allow us to present you with top quality tournaments and championships. We thank them wholeheartedly for their invaluable contribution.



Denis Loiselle  
President



Despite the pandemic, our 2020 operations aligned with the objectives of the strategic plan. It worked in our favour as many sportsmen and women turned to golf to keep themselves busy when their usual activities were not possible. Against all expectations, membership remained relatively stable.

### **Diversifying and Increasing our Revenue Resources**

With the help of Patrick Rhéaume, Golf Canada's Regional Director, we have done everything possible to raise awareness on our programs, services, and the benefits of being a member of Golf Québec/Golf Canada.

The hiring of a marketing and sponsorship specialist, Jean Couvrette, made it possible to secure and renew existing partnerships.

Our "My Golf, My Community, and I" fundraising campaign truly illustrated the generosity and caring spirit of the golfing community in supporting the development of junior golf.

In addition to regular grants from the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES), we also used grants from the Government of Canada and Canadian Heritage to address the effects of the pandemic.

### **Communicating and Promoting Golf**

Our 2020 communications mainly served to inform the golf community of the evolution of COVID-19 and its consequences on our golf season. We also promoted our image as a collectively responsible industry with a *Course Opening Protocol* and an *Organization Guide for Golf Competitions*.

### **Reinforce The Implementation of Programs Aligned with the "Introduction" and "Excellence" Pillars of Sport Development**

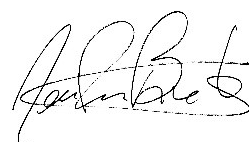
With half a season of provincial competitions, our programs were less profitable from an operational perspective. However, they have paid off handsomely for the advancement of our athletes and our sport.

The discovery and introduction initiatives took place in our Regional Associations with the First Drive Tour and the Junior Regional Tour. The Golf-études program, still present in thirteen structures, allowed high-level athletes to train year-round and aim for excellence.

### **Build Strong Relationships with Industry Partners**

Thanks to technology, our meetings with member clubs could be held via web conference. These virtual meetings have seen record attendance while reducing our travel and accommodation costs.

The Québec industry Standing Committee was also more active than ever with the success we experienced for the 2020 golf season, where the average number of rounds played increased by 19% across the country.



Jean-Pierre Beaulieu  
Executive Director

## **Foreword by the Columnist**



To highlight the centennial of Golf Québec, it is with great pleasure that I agreed to participate in the writing of a series of columns aiming to shed some light on the history of the corporation as well as to highlight its builders and its milestones.

The many hours of research that I had the opportunity to spend in the company of other volunteers, various key individuals and Golf Québec employees made me discover the richness of our past, little treasures of information and countless anecdotes, each more interesting than the last. Having myself contributed to this heritage through my volunteer involvement in certain committees and as President from 2014 to 2016, I was able to measure the extent of the legacy we have left to the industry over the years and to all future generations of golfers.

Before I present this series of 10 articles in the following pages, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the contributions of those who made my job most enjoyable. First of all, two golf history buffs have contributed to some of the columns: Joe McLean, a reporter for Flagstick Golf Magazine and historian for the Ottawa Valley Golf Association (OVGA), and Alain Chaput, a golf enthusiast to whom I wish to publish his own book on the history of golf in Québec one day. I thank them for sharing their knowledge with us.

Furthermore, these columns would not have been made possible without the coordination and patience of my editor and translator: Communications Manager Guylaine Sirois, who is also the dean of the Golf Québec team, in place since 1998.

Thanks also to Meggan Gardner, Golf Canada's Director of Heritage Services, who added her two cents to validate some of the facts we have reported. If you're ever in the Toronto area, be sure to check out the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame and Museum in Oakville located on the fairways of the Glen Abbey Golf Club; it's well worth the trip.

I am very grateful to the Golf Québec Centennial Committee who entrusted me with this mandate, which allowed me to discover a new passion for history in this pandemic year: Sonia Houde, Martin Ducharme, Denis Loiselle, and Jean-Pierre Beaulieu.

Finally, thanks to all the faithful readers who have given me their comments when I had the pleasure of meeting them on the courses during the 2020 season and my apologies if any errors have crept into the texts, I take full responsibility for them.

On this note, enjoy reading!



**Marcel Paul Raymond**

*2014-2016 Golf Québec President*

*Researcher and Columnist of the centennial chronicles*

## **On April 5, 1920, a Golf Association Is Born**

Historians do not agree on the origins of the game of golf, but the sport as we know it today would have appeared in Scotland in the last half of the 15th century.

The province of Québec is without a doubt the cradle of golf in North America. As early as 1788, a Montrealer named Philip Loch applied to be a member of the R&A. Later, an advertisement in the Montreal Herald informed us that some people played golf in Square Victoria on Christmas Day 1826. We also know that the Plains of Abraham hosted the first rounds of the Capitale-Nationale as early as 1854.

On November 4, 1873, a Scottish immigrant gathered seven of his fellow expatriates near the port of Montréal to create the first club in North America, the Montreal Golf Club. The prefix "Royal" was added in 1884 with the permission of Queen Victoria. The annual fee to join the club was set at \$25 with a limit of 25 members.

A few months later, the Québec Golf Club was founded in 1874 by two bankers also from Scotland. They settled on the Cove course in Québec City, which stretched from the Citadel to the Plains of Abraham. Until 1899, the annual membership fee was \$2 for the 20 or so privileged members who were, for the most part, influential businessmen linked to banking, maritime trade and the forestry industry.

In May 1876, the first interclub competition in North America was held in Québec City and featured matches between the Montreal Golf Club and the Québec Golf Club. The host team defeated the Montréal team by 12 holes, in a competition

cumulating the lead of each of the five members on each team.

The first meeting to discuss the formation of a Canadian Golf Association was held at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club on June 6, 1895. The Association, under the chairmanship of the Honourable George A. Drummond of the Royal Montreal Golf Club, had 10 clubs, including those in Montréal, Québec City and Ottawa. It was in June 1896 that the name of the association was changed to the Royal Canadian Golf Association (RCGA) with the approval of Queen Victoria. Today, better known as Golf Canada, the organization is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.



### ***Golf at the Provincial Level for the First Time***

In Québec, a new organization was officially founded in 1920 when the Montréal & District Golf Association amended its constitution to adopt the name Province of Québec Golf Association (PQGA). In doing so, golf clubs outside of the Montréal district were able to take advantage of the governance and golf development services provided by the Association. The Montréal & District Golf Association, which had been in existence for about ten years, was dissolved.

This decision was made at a meeting of interested parties held at the offices of the Montréal Amateur Athletic Association (MAAA) on Peel Street in Montréal on Monday, April 5, 1920. (La Presse, BANQ)

The new association appointed its officers at this meeting in April 1920 and Mr. **Arthur D. Huff** of the Country Club of Montréal was chosen as the first president in history. The other founding clubs represented on this committee of officers were Beaconsfield, Kanawaki, Laval-sur-le-Lac, Outremont, Royal Montreal, and Whitlock.

As a result, a single organization will control the sport of golf in the province of Québec in the future and members of all clubs in the province will be able to participate in the annual championships, which will be held for the first time at the Country Club of Montréal in Saint-Lambert on June 18 for professionals and the following day for amateurs.

### ***A Well-Preserved Legacy 100 Years Later***

On May 11, 1920, the inaugural meeting of the PQGA was held at the Old Colony Club of the Windsor Hotel in Montréal. In the Association's first Annual Report, Secretary-Treasurer W. A. Sutherland of the Country Club of Montréal felt that the Association's twofold objective of uniting the province's golf clubs and organizing tournaments had clearly been achieved.

One hundred years later, we can safely confirm this statement!



**Mr. Arthur D. Huff, President of  
the Country Club**

## The First Provincial Competitions

As we have seen, it is from April 5, 1920, that the Province of Québec Golf Association (PQGA) became the only organization to control the sport of golf in the province. Its double objective was to unite Québec golf clubs so that they could take advantage of the governance and development services provided by the Association and organize tournaments.

In doing so, the annual provincial championships were held for the first time at the Country Club of Montréal in Saint-Lambert, which included the Québec Open and Québec Men's Amateur. The two days of competition on June 18 and 19, 1920, were a success with 164 entries in four distinct categories.

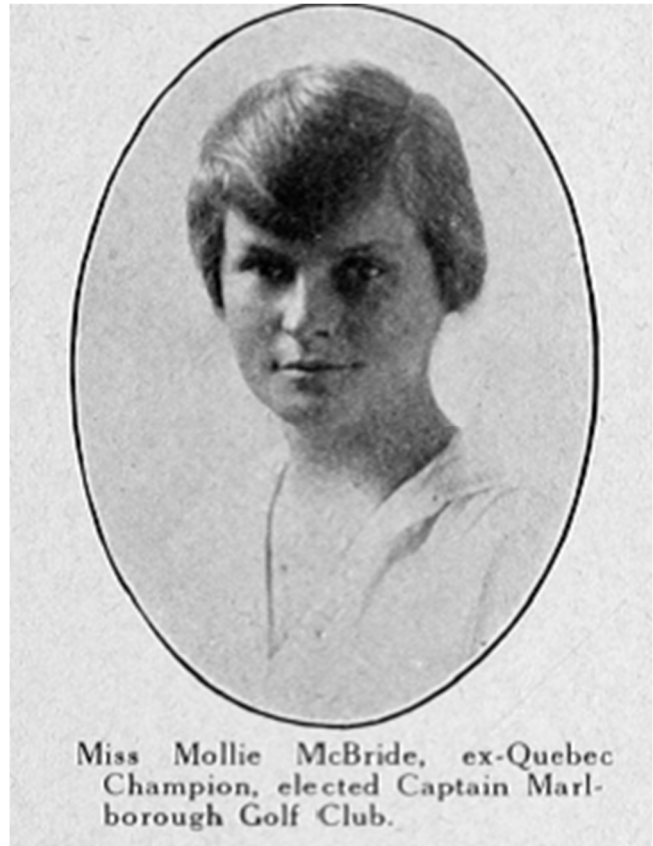
The first day was attended by 12 professionals, 7 assistant professionals and 48 ladies. The Gazette newspaper reported that the course was in excellent condition, ready to welcome the participants for a challenge worthy of major championships. Mother Nature even brought her "typical Scottish" touch to the course with a pleasant breeze, a beautiful brightness, and a sky heavy with clouds which, of course, ended up wetting more than one person at the end of the day.

Among the professionals, the honour went to Arthur Woodward of the host club with rounds of 74 and 76 played in one day. Three players finished within two strokes of the champion and a nine-hole overtime was scheduled to determine the second place, in addition to the 36 regulation holes, all in the same day! Charlie Murray of Royal Montreal prevailed with a score of 37 ahead of Karl Keffer of Royal Ottawa (38) and Albert Murray of Kanawaki (42). Interestingly enough, they are now all inducted into the Québec Golf Hall of Fame!

In the assistants' category, William Mulligan of the Royal Ottawa won by a roaring 18-shot lead

with rounds of 82 and 87. There is no indication that he was related to David Mulligan of the Country Club, to whom some attribute the origin of the famous golf "mulligan".

Ms. Frank Ahearn of the Royal Ottawa won in the woman division, which also contributed to her team's victory in a competition involving nine teams of four players from seven different clubs. Her score of 90 was the best score ever achieved by a woman at the Country Club!



Miss **Molly McBride** caught the attention of the many spectators in attendance by winning the long drive competition with three tee shots of 196, 187, and 188 yards. There was also a chipping and putting competition won by Mrs. Hamilton Irwin of the Royal Montreal with a score of 9. It is amusing to see the evolution of morals in our society as married women of the time were still identified by the name of their husbands.

The next day, Beaconsfield veteran **T. B. Reith** became the province's first amateur champion of this new era with rounds of 80 and 76. This victory was in addition to his 1914 victory when he dominated the City & District of Montréal's championship.

It was the Royal Montreal No. 1 foursome that won the 10-team competition. Note that we are still looking for the scorecards of 14 of the 94 players who teed off that day!

The newspaper coverage was very extensive at the time, and The Gazette of June 21, 1920, gives the hole-by-hole scores of all the players who handed in a card, much to the chagrin of Mr. Brault of Laval, who scored 14 on the 4th hole on his way to a score of 244 for 36 holes.

The youngsters were not to be forgotten as the first Junior Championship was held in 1923. We will have the opportunity to come back to this in a future chronicle.



Mr. T. B. Reith, of Beaconsfield, who in a representative field wins the Quebec Provincial Championship.

## The Evolution of Associations in Over 100 Years

As reported, the first association governing golf in the country, the Canadian Golf Association, was born on June 6, 1895. It quickly became the Royal Canadian Golf Association (RCGA) in June 1896 with the approval of Queen Victoria.

In Québec, the first association covering the whole province was created on April 5, 1920, with the Québec Provincial Golf Association (QPGA) taking the place that was previously occupied by the Montreal & District Golf Association since the pre-war years.

Between 1930 and 1945, with the economic crisis and the Second World War more specifically, the QPGA had several opportunities to demonstrate its resilience. For example, during the War, the Québec Open accepted golfers with a handicap index up to fourteen and the Association temporarily cut annual dues by 50%.

The revival of golf took place in 1946 with a reassuring number of 20 competitions. Growth continued with 35 tournaments in 1950 and this number kept on increasing until it reached over 100 tournaments in the 1970 season, distributed over the seven districts of the Association now known as the Québec Golf Association (QGA) and which was governed by a board of 40 directors.

### *In the Women's Division*

At the beginning, the RCGA was responsible for organizing the women's national championships. The first women's championship was held in 1901 at the Royal



Miss Florence Harvey, ex-Lady  
Golf Champion of  
Canada

Montreal Golf Club and was won by local star Miss Lily Young.

On October 4, 1913, in Montréal, **Florence Harvey** of the Hamilton Golf Club founded the Canadian Ladies' Golf Union (CLGU), a branch of the Ladies' Golf Union of Great Britain. Twelve clubs then joined this new association, which included four branches, including the Québec and Ontario Branch under the leadership of Mrs. J. H. Dunlop of the Royal Montreal Golf Club.

This new association had to wait until well after the end of the 1914-1918 War to hold its first annual meeting on September 23, 1920, in Hamilton. It was then that the first discussions took place on forming a first provincial wing with the CLGU - Québec Branch, which came into operation on April 13, 1921, under the leadership of Montrealer Miss Beverly Robinson. From then on, women's clubs in the province could operate on their own instead of depending on a national committee.

It was in 1923 that the ladies of the Québec Branch took charge of their own championship, with a separate date and site from that of the QPGA. This first event took place at Kanawaki with the victory of Miss **Sybil Kennedy** of Royal Montreal.



In 1936, the National CLGU cut all ties with its head office in Great Britain, and in 1966, its name was changed to the Canadian Ladies' Golf Association (CLGA).

In 1972, a new logo was adopted by the Québec Branch and, in 1992, the new image of the Québec Branch was adopted. It was at that point that the French acronym ACG preceded the English acronym CLGA on the women's association logo.

## The Evolution of Associations in the 21st Century

### Gender reunification in 2005

After 92 years of separation at the national level, the Royal Canadian Golf Association (RCGA) which oversees men's amateur golf and the Canadian Ladies' Golf Association (CLGA) return under the same roof in 2005.

In the same vein, in Québec, a merger committee met many times between November 2004 and February 2005. On March 4, 2005, the members of the Québec Golf Association (QGA) were asked to vote on the proposed amalgamation and on March 7, 2005, the members of the CLGA - Québec Branch did the same. Both votes were unanimously in favour of the creation of a new joint association that would take on the legal name of the Québec Golf Association while

being known to the general public as Golf Québec, thereby simplifying bilingual communications.

To confirm this new alliance, the new association had, for the only time in its history, a double presidency with Mrs. Thérèse Dumontet (Summerlea) and Mr. André Burgoyne (BeauChâteau).



At the same time, a contest was launched in a graphic design school to create a new, more modern, and stylized logo with a touch of colour representing the greens of our courses. This new corporate image remained in effect until 2010.



*2004-05 Amalgamation Committee members  
Diane Dunlop-Hébert, Bob Dion, André Fournier, Marie-Thérèse Torti,  
Suzanne Beauregard, André Burgoyne, Earl S. Cohen*

In April 2010, the RCGA adopted a new national branding and a new name: Golf Canada. Surveys conducted among clubs and golfers showed that the sense of belonging and pride of being a member of Golf Québec/Golf Canada had increased and this trend was at its strongest in Québec and New Brunswick!



The second stage of this national standardization process was implemented in the fall of 2010 when the majority of the 10 provincial amateur golf associations also adopted a new local version of this image to demonstrate that "Together we are shaping golf's future". This is how the current Golf Québec logo was created.

**A Sport Federation for Golf in Québec**

The 1990s were prolific for golf. It was a time when courses sprouted up and tee times were full at most facilities. With this renewed enthusiasm for our sport, the idea was launched to introduce a new Golf-études initiative that would be offered in Québec high schools affiliated to the Sport-études program. However, at that time, in order to obtain the sport federation recognition required by the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES) to join the Sport-études program, the Québec Golf Association (QGA) needed to represent all categories of participants, men and women, amateurs and professionals. This was not the case.

Thus, the first Fédération québécoise de golf (FQG) was founded in 1999, under the presidency of Mr. Jean Trudeau who was the Executive Director of the Association des golfeurs professionnels du Québec and whose teaching professional members had the

necessary certifications to work in the recognized Golf-études structures. In order to meet its status requirements as a Federation, the new organization was governed by a board composed of representatives of the AGP du Québec, QGA, and CLGA - Québec Branch. In May 2002, François Roy is appointed as the first Executive Director of the Federation.



In its Strategic Plan for the 2008-2011 cycle, Golf Québec's mission was to increase the efficiency of its structures and restore harmonious relations with clubs and other industry players. It was within the framework of this objective that, on Wednesday, August 31, 2011, the members of Golf Québec met to vote on the proposed merger between the Québec Golf Association (QGA) and the Fédération québécoise de golf (FQG). The Assembly voted unanimously in favour of this project. As of December 1, 2011, the legal name of Golf Québec became the Québec Golf Federation, as we now know it.

For the first time, it became possible for key players of the golf industry to work together within the same organization. The presence of two representatives from both the Association des terrains de golf du Québec (ATGQ) and the PGA of Québec on the board of directors of the new Québec Golf Federation (Golf Québec) was an undeniable advantage for all. This historic alliance, a first in the country, allowed us to look forward to the remainder of the decade with optimism.

To this day, Golf Québec is proud of its history and takes its role as protector of the game's traditions and integrity very seriously.



## Golf Québec's Century-Old Member Clubs

In 2019, Golf Québec relied on the valuable support of 237 member clubs. While clubs have always been the backbone of the

association, there were obviously fewer pioneers in the beginning.

In this centennial year, Golf Québec is honoured to be supported by 24 century-old golf facilities.

Club	Regional Association	Foundation
Royal Montreal	Montréal	1873
Royal Québec	Québec City	1874
Murray Bay	Québec City	1876
Royal Ottawa	Ottawa	1891
Cornwall	Montréal	1896
Old Lennoxville	Eastern Townships	1897
Senneville/Braeside	Montréal	1898
Cascade	Lower St. Lawrence	1901
Como	Montréal	1902
Rivière-du-Loup	Lower St. Lawrence	1902
Tadoussac	Saguenay	1902
Waterville	Eastern Townships	1903
Beaconsfield	Montréal	1904
Ottawa Hunt	Ottawa	1908
Country Club of Montréal	Montréal	1910
Rivermead	Ottawa	1910
Grand-Mère	Mauricie	1910
Kanawaki	Montréal	1912
Whitlock	Montréal	1912
Hermitage	Eastern Townships	1912
Miner (Granby)	Eastern Townships	1913
Laval-sur-le-Lac	Montréal	1917
Mount Bruno	Montréal	1918
Islesmere	Montréal	1919
Lorette	Québec City	1920

## Alexander Dennistoun (1821 - 1895)

Originally from Dumbartonshire, Scotland, **Alexander Dennistoun** was a member of several prestigious clubs, including St Andrews, Glasgow, Liverpool and Musselburgh, before arriving in Canada. He first settled in Peterborough before moving permanently to Montréal, making his home on McTavish Street. He founded the Montreal Golf Club in 1873, and was its first President and Captain from 1873 to 1881. In 1884, permission was granted by Queen Victoria to use the "Royal" prefix, and the club became The Royal Montreal Golf Club.



(Alexander Dennistoun – [McCord Museum](#))

Despite being a skilled golfer who won many titles, he was better known for his organizational skills, dynamism, and inspiration. He is, without a doubt, the founding father of organized golf in North America. He was elected and inducted into the Québec Golf Hall of Fame in 2020 as a builder.

## The History of Golf Québec Member Clubs

### *The Pioneers*

As discussed in the first article, with its incorporation on November 4, 1873, the Royal Montreal Club claims the honour and merit of being the oldest legally constituted club still in existence, not only in Québec, but in North America. Its first course was a 9-hole course on what was then called **Fletcher's Field** where the Jeanne-Mance Park is now located on the Mount Royal slopes along Park Avenue in Montréal.



*Royal Montreal on Fletcher's Field in 1882*

In 1896, the club moved to a site called Dixie in the Dorval parish where we find today's Ste-Anne's Academy, part of which unfortunately burned down in April 2020. This site had the privilege of hosting the first Canadian Open in 1904 won by John Henry "Jack" Oke of England who was the professional at the Ottawa Golf Club and whose score of 156 over two rounds (+16) earned him the \$60 prize money.

Once again, the pressure of urban development forced the club to move to Île Bizard in 1959 where a 45-hole complex was built as we know it today. The club has been the host of 10 Canadian Open editions, including its last in 2014 that crowned South African Tim Clark with a record of -17. And that is without mentioning the Presidents Cup in

September 2007, which was the scene of the epic duel between Tiger Woods and the lone Canadian Mike Weir. Although the Americans beat the International team, Weir beat Woods on the 18th hole when Woods concede the hole to an eruption of cheers.

The inauguration of the Québec Golf Club by Scottish bankers, today's Royal Québec, followed its Montréal elder by a few months, which according to the most credible theories would have taken place in 1874, becoming the second oldest club in North America. The club's first 14-hole course was built on **Cove Fields on the Plains of Abraham**. In the beginning, cows from a local farmer were used to cut the grass. In the 1880s, nothing stopped progress as a horse-drawn mechanical mower was used to perform this task.

was officially inaugurated at its present location in June of 1925.

On April 6, 1920, at the founding of the Province of Québec Golf Association (PQGA), representatives of the seven founding clubs were present: Royal Montreal, Outremont, Beaconsfield, Country Club of Montréal, Kanawaki, Whitlock, and Laval-sur-le-Lac.

**The Elders**

At its inception, the new association invited other clubs to join such as Québec, Royal Ottawa, Lennoxville, Grand-Mère, Rivermead, Granby, and Mount Bruno. Soon after, it was Senneville, Islesmere and Summerlea's turn to join the group which had 17 member clubs in 1922.



*Cove Fields on the Plains of Abraham*

Although it was only incorporated in 1894 and joined the QGPA in the 1930s, the Murray Bay Golf Club, in the beautiful Charlevoix region, welcomed its first golfers in 1876. It proclaims itself the oldest in North

In the course of its history, the Québec Golf Club will change location twice. On September 1, 1916, it inaugurated its course on the Kent House property, near the Montmorency Falls. After a few years of operation, club members wanted more space. As a result, the club's management purchased farmland in the Boischatel area to build new facilities. The club

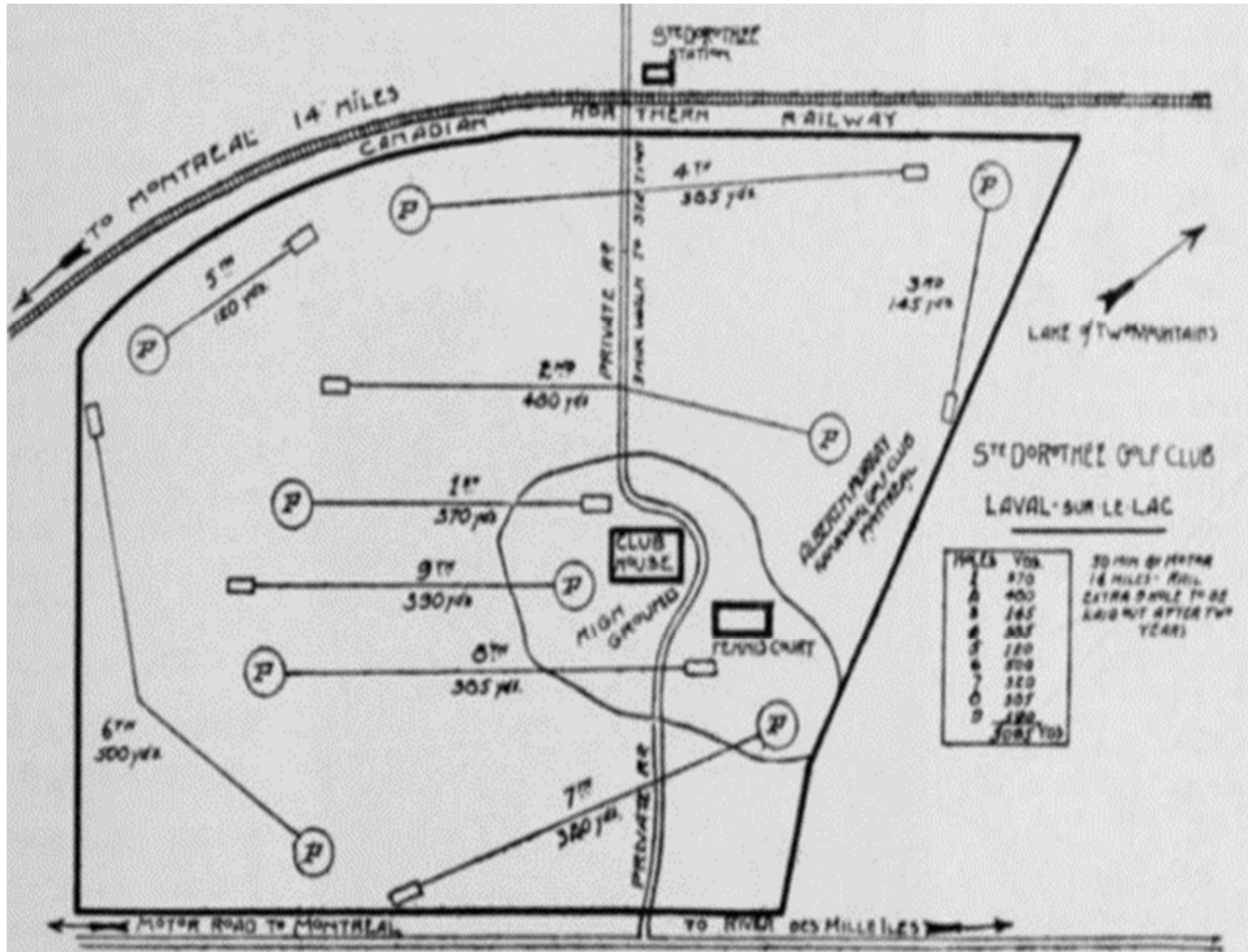
America that is still in the same place with 18 holes.

Interestingly enough, from 1914 to 1925, the club was presided over by William Howard Taft, former American President. In fact, Taft served as President of the club much longer than he did as President of the United States, serving only one four-year term from 1909 to 1913.

Another pioneer, the Orléans Golf Club in Ste-Pétronille on Île d'Orléans, joined the ranks of the PQGA in 1924 and was incorporated in 1939, but history tells us that, as early as 1868, three holes of golf were laid out for the pleasure of the Dunn family, which owned a private estate where 9 holes had existed since about 1909.

### The Departed

Is it possible to imagine finding more than twenty golf courses on the island of Montréal as it is nowadays? It's a bit unbelievable with the unavoidable urban development, but that's what we would have had if all the great departed courses were still there!



Club Laval-sur-le-Lac in 1917

It was in 1917 that the first francophone club was founded in **Laval-sur-le-Lac** with the official opening of the first 9 holes on October 20, under the presidency of the "energetic" Mr. Raoul G. de Lorimier, as described in the November 1917 edition of the Canadian Golfer magazine.

The Westmount club existed from 1900 to 1919 on what is now Summit Wood on the south flank of Mount Royal. Probably irritated by the Westmount Club's decision not to open on Sundays, some members turned to the Outremont Golf Club in 1902, on the site where Pratt and Joyce parks are located today. In 1910, members, fearing urban expansion pressures, began looking for off-island land to create the Kanawaki Golf Club, which opened

its first 15 holes in the summer of 1913. It was in 1922 that the Outremont club closed its doors permanently and its members moved to Kanawaki.

Among the other great departed is the Marlborough Club in Cartierville, near Gouin Boulevard and Belmont Park which, when it opened in 1924, had a regular 18-hole course and a shorter 9-hole course for ladies and beginners. The course gave way to real estate development in 1967.

Many baby boomers remember the **Montréal Municipal Golf Club** (1923-1975) on Sherbrooke Street, where golfers lined up in the early hours of the night behind the first tee of the Viau and Maisonneuve courses, the latter having been the site of Jocelyne Bourassa's historic victory in 1973 at the LPGA La Canadienne Classic.

To complete the list of courses that no longer exist on the island of Montréal, let us mention Mount Royal (1931-1958), Rosemount (1921-1965), Maple in Anjou (1947-1965),

Hampstead (1923-1968), LaSalle (1935-1971), Beaufort/Fresh Meadows in Beaconsfield (1927-1986), Grovehill in Lachine (1935-1987), Nun's Island (1968-1987), the Challenger in Ville St-Laurent (2002-2011), and Dorval Municipal (1924-2015).

Outside of Montréal, we have also witnessed the demise of several golf courses, including BeauChâteau (1957-2005), Deux-Montagnes (1985-2013), Mascouche (1959-2013), La Providence in St-Hyacinthe (1964-2014), Brossard (closed in 2015), Laprairie (1964-2016), Le Boisé in Lachenaie (1988-2016), Chambly (1927-2017), St-André Est (1923-2017), Inverness in Lac-Brome (1990-2018), and Candiac (1958-2019).

Let us remember all these great departed golf clubs and express our appreciation to all those that still allow us to practice our favourite sport.

*Special collaboration by Alain Chaput*



*Photo from the City of Montréal archives:  
Golfers playing a round on the municipal golf course around 1930.*

## The Men's Triple Crown Still Not Conquered

At the height of Golf Québec's competitive season, we presented to you the history of the three tournaments that make up the men's Triple Crown: the Men's Provincial Amateur Championship, the Duke of Kent, and the Alexander of Tunis.



*Graham Cooke*  
(1946 -)

Strangely enough, since the introduction of the Triple Crown in 1950 with the inception of the Tunis, no player has ever won all three tournaments in the same year. However, nine of them have won all three trophies in their careers. The most prolific Triple Crown winners include Graham Cooke (Summerlea; 13), Robbie Jackson (Royal Montreal; 7), Lee Curry (Rideau View; 6), Pierre Archambault (Laval-sur-le-Lac/Kanawaki; 5), Steve Davies

(Royal Montreal; 5) and Yves Tremblay (Sorel-Tracy; 5).

### *The Amateur Championship*

As reported in a previous column, the first province-wide amateur championship was held on June 19, 1920, at the Country Club of Montréal and was won by T. B. Reith of Beaconsfield with rounds of 80 and 76.

Since then, three players have won the event four times: Graham Cooke, Steve Davies and Tom Riddell (Beaconsfield), the latter during the period when the championship was contested as a match play tournament between 1936 and 1965. It should be noted, however, that the event had to be cancelled between 1941 and 1945 due to the Second World War.

It was the Royal Montreal Golf Club that had the honour of hosting the tournament most often with nine presentations. It was also the club with the most members winning the tournament, 16 times.



*Christopher Vandette*

In the 100th edition of the event in 2017, we also witnessed the victory of the youngest champion in history as Summerlea's **Christopher Vandette** took the title at -7 after four days of intense competition. He was only 15 years old at the time.

In 2020, due to the pandemic, the event exceptionally took place over two rounds, as it did between 1920 and 1935 and in 2007 (rain). The young Malik Dao (Summerlea), at only 16 years of age, took the opportunity to set the two-round tournament record with scores of 70 and 67 for a combined -7 in Lachute. In 2019, Julien Sale (Rivermead) broke the record for four rounds with a cumulative score of 264 (-24) on the Beauceville course.

### ***The Duke of Kent Tournament***

On June 23, 1934, Kent Golf Links and its professional Jules Huot held the first major invitational tournament in the Québec City area under the umbrella of the Québec Provincial Golf Association. The course was adjacent to Montmorency Falls and a hotel named Kent House in honour of the Duke of Kent Edward August, the father of Queen Victoria and fourth son of King George III. The Duke of Kent had stayed there between 1791 and 1794 when he commanded British troops in the area.

Participants in the tournament could opt for boat transportation between Montréal and Québec City with dinner on board on Friday evening and breakfast on Saturday morning, followed by bus transportation to the course for 36 holes of golf followed by dinner at Kent House. Another round on Sunday morning was held before returning to Montréal on Monday morning, all for a 15-dollar package and a busy weekend. This first edition was won by **Gordon B. Taylor** of the Kanawaki Golf Club with rounds of 73 and 78.

It was not until March 8, 1935, that the Duke of Kent Trophy was presented by the newly appointed Duke, Prince George, the fourth son of King George V and Queen Mary. On Saturday, June 22, 1935, Gordon B. Taylor repeated his feat of the previous year by raising the new trophy with a cumulative score of 159 on a rainy day that still attracted 100 players, 60% of whom had a handicap of less than 15. In 1942, the Trophy ended up at the Royal

Québec Golf Club, its permanent home ever since.



*Gordon B. Taylor*

Graham Cooke has set a mark that will be hard to beat by winning the precious Duke of Kent Trophy five times. No one else has come close to that record, except André Gagné, a member of the host club, with three titles to his credit, the last one in 1979, and Mickey Batten (BeauChâteau).

The Duke of Kent's lowest score is 134 (70-64) strokes over two rounds and was achieved by **Mathieu Perron** of Club Laval-sur-le-Lac in 2013 when he finished his last dream round with a 7-under par for the last six holes.



*Mathieu Perron*

In honour of André Gagné, a member of the Royal Québec Golf Club who participated in the event 55 consecutive times in his amateur

career and was inducted into the Québec Golf Hall of Fame in 2016, the André Gagné Trophy is awarded to the best player coming from the Québec City area in the Duke of Kent Tournament.

***The Alexander of Tunis Tournament***

An additional provincial championship was scheduled in 1950 by the Province of Québec Golf Association to complement the existing Provincial Amateur Championship and the Duke of Kent Tournament.

Of specific importance to the Ottawa District of the PQGA, this championship was scheduled to be held in the Ottawa District and to be played at the Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club, the Rivermead Golf Club and the Royal Ottawa Golf Club on a rotation basis.

In 1950, the Governor General of Canada, Lord Alexander of Tunis, responded to a petition from Stuart Wotherspoon, President of the Royal Ottawa Golf Club, and graciously agreed to become patron of this amateur tournament in order to promote the game of golf in Ottawa. In the intervening years, many prominent amateurs from the local area and throughout the province of Québec have participated in the event.

The first Alexander of Tunis Tournament was held at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club on Saturday, August 3, 1950. Bob Hall of the Summerlea Golf and Country Club was the initial champion of the Tunis with his one day, two-round total score of 147. Holley Greaves of the Ottawa Hunt & Golf Club finished in second place three strokes back of the champion.

The Alexander of Tunis Tournament more commonly referred to as the "Tunis" continues to this day with the only change being to the number of OVGA Clubs hosting the Tunis in the

rotation. The Camelot Golf & Country Club joined the rotation in 2013 and Rideau View hosted in 2014.

Multiple winners of the event include local talents Mike Brown (Chaudière; 3), Lee Curry (Rideau View; 3), Glen Seely (Rivermead; 3), Bob Stimpson (Chaudière/Ottawa Hunt; 3), Don Cordukes (Ottawa Hunt; 2), Bill Holzman (Rideau View/Rivermead; 2) and Chris McCuaig (Ottawa Hunt; 2).

The record of four wins is shared by renown golf architect who was inducted in the Québec Golf Hall of Fame in 2008, Graham Cooke (Summerlea), and Robbie Jackson (Royal Montreal) who was dominating Québec amateur golf in the 1970s and won the event four times in a row from 1973 to 1976.

Rivermead's phenom **Julien Sale** is seriously working on this streak having won the last two editions while setting the tournament record of 133 with rounds of 66 and 67 at Rideau View in 2019.



*Julien Sale*

Strangely, because of the sanitary situation prevailing, 2020 will be the first time in their history that the Tunis and the Duke of Kent will be competed over 18 holes only.

## The History of the Ottawa Regional Association

As the representative of Golf Québec and Golf Ontario in the Ottawa Valley, the OVGA's purpose is to advance amateur sport and recreational activities through the playing of the game of golf, including the standards of play and competition.

### *Golf in the Ottawa Area Prior to 1920*

Friendly golf matches between golf clubs were the order of the day in the Ottawa area prior to 1920 and they would continue for many years thereafter. Apart from playing matches in the area and along the St. Lawrence Seaway, Ottawa golf clubs would also travel to Québec golf courses for friendly home and home matches.



*Royal Ottawa*

Golf clubs still in existence today and hosting friendly matches during the time period of the late 1800s through 1920 included Perth Links O'Tay (1890), **Ottawa** (1891) (Royal status in 1912), Cornwall (1896), Napanee (1897), Port Hope (1898), Picton (1906), **Rivermead** (1910), Brockville (1914), Mississippi (1915), Cataraqui (1917), Ottawa Hunt and Motor Club (1919) and Belleville (1920).

### *Early Historical Golf Dates*

The Ottawa Valley region has been the scene of many events that have shaped the history of golf in Canada. They include:

- The Canadian Golf Association was formed in 1895 and received its Royal designation in 1896 by Queen Victoria through the Governor General of Canada, Lord Aberdeen;
- In 1895, the first Amateur Championship for Canada at the Ottawa Golf Club, won by **Mr. Thomas H. Harley** from the Kingston Golf Club;



*Thomas H. Harley*

- Formation of the Canadian Professional Golf Association at the Ottawa Golf Club in 1911;
- Canadian Open - 1906 & 1911 at Ottawa GC, 1920 at Rivermead;
- Canadian Amateur (Men) - 1895, 1899, 1908 & 1911 at Ottawa GC & 1914 at Royal Ottawa GC;
- Canadian Amateur (Women) - 1907 & 1911 at Ottawa GC and 1921 at Rivermead;
- Canadian Professional Golfers' Association - 1920 at Royal Ottawa;
- Rivermead and Royal Ottawa golf clubs were the first Ottawa area golf clubs to join the newly created Province of Québec Golf Association (PQGA) in 1920.

### **Golf Events in the Ottawa Valley Since 1920**

In the early days, Ottawa area member clubs hosted field days and occasionally provincial championships for men and women administered by local officials under the guidance of the Province of Québec Golf Association (PQGA) officials. This practice for provincial events continues today.

OVGA records indicate the astounding number of local events and championships run by local officials dating back to the Men's City & District Championship in 1921 and the Women's City & District Championship in 1922.

#### **Men**

The Ottawa District ran its own events under the PQGA from 1920 to 1968; the Québec Golf Association (QGA) from 1969 to 2011 and now the Québec Golf Federation (Golf Québec) since December 2011.

The men were able to form the Ottawa District Golf Association (ODGA) in 1948 to run local events, which were played at the Ottawa Hunt, Rivermead, and Royal Ottawa Golf Clubs until 1974 when some events were held at Chaudiere, Outaouais, and Rideau View.

Some PQGA and QGA field days were run in the Ottawa area up until 1981 when the autonomous Ottawa Valley Golf Association (OVGA) was formed by the amalgamation of

the QGA District and the ODGA. At the time of this amalgamation, the OVGA was made up of 36 member golf clubs, eleven of which were located in Québec and the remaining 25 in Ontario.



The OVGA continues to operate today as a regional association of Golf Québec and Golf Ontario with over 65 member clubs.

#### **Women**

In 1922, a group of enthusiastic women golfers in and around Ottawa formed the Ottawa City and District Golf Association, with six founding member clubs consisting of the Brockville GC, Catarauqui GC, Links O'Tay GC, the Ottawa Hunt and Motor Club, Rivermead GC and Royal Ottawa GC.

The Ottawa City and District Golf Association and the PQGA District Tournament Committee amalgamated in 1939 to become the Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Ladies' Golf Union under the Québec Branch. In 1966, the Canadian Ladies' Golf Union changed its name to the Canadian Ladies' Golf Association.

Following the lead of Golf Canada and Golf Québec, and after numerous meetings, the RCGA Ottawa District Women's Division amalgamated with the OVGA at Rideau View Golf Club on October 16, 2008. The new organization would operate under the Ottawa Valley Golf Association name.



## The Great Ladies in the History of Golf Québec

Despite what some people might say, the acronym GOLF is far from meaning "Gentlemen Only, Ladies Forbidden".

Indeed, golf was one of the first sports to attract women's participation, leading to the first British Women's Amateur Championship in 1893. In Québec, women's competitions can be traced as far back as 1901 when local star Lilius Young won the first Canadian Amateur Championship held at the Royal Montreal Golf Club.

Going back even further, it was Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots between 1542 and 1567, who is known as the first female golfer in history, during her otherwise tumultuous life. Her clubs were carried by students whom she called her "cadets", given her French upbringing. Soon the word was distorted to "caddie".

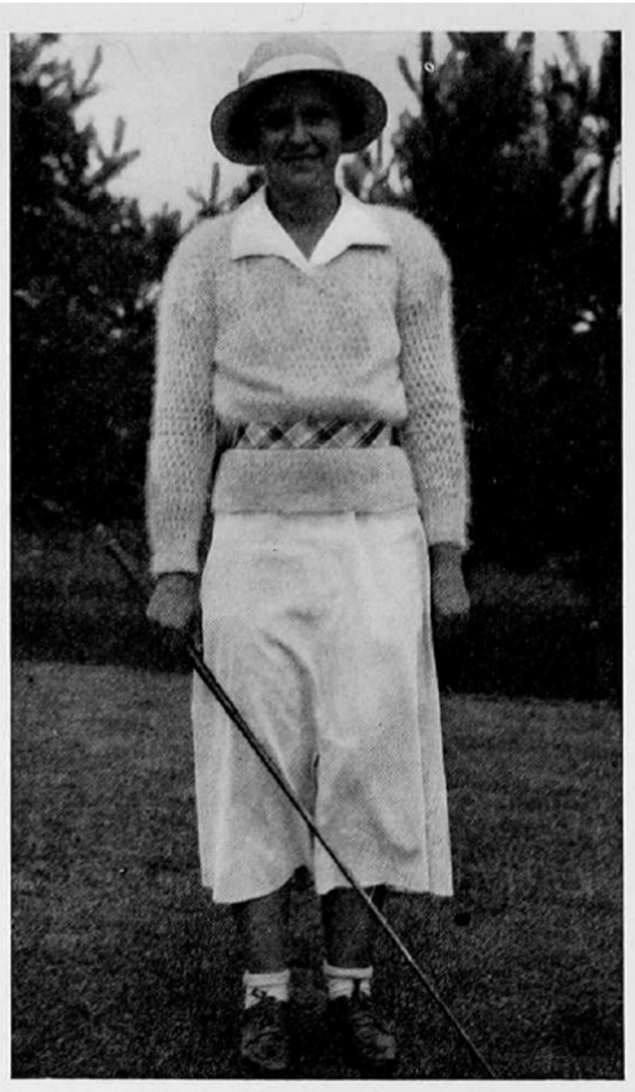
### *The Hundred-Year-Old Québec Women's Amateur Championship*

With its first edition held in 1920 at the Country Club of Montréal and won by Mrs. Frank Ahearn of the Royal Ottawa, the Provincial Amateur Championship remains the oldest women's tournament still in existence in Québec.

Three female golfers who developed their talent at Whitlock have dominated the championship for the past 100 years. First, Mary Ann Hayward and Judy Darling-Evans share the record of six wins, while Mary Pike has lifted the precious trophy five times.

Mrs. **Joseph A. Dagenais** of the Club Laval-sur-le-Lac had the great honour of becoming, in 1929, the first French-speaking winner of the event. She also showed her longevity by

winning the championship three more times, the last time in 1953.



*Mrs. Joseph A Dagenais*

Two other champions raised the trophy four times: Whitlock's Dora Virtue (now Mrs. A. B. Darling) and Shawinigan's pride and joy Jocelyne Bourassa, the latter before graduating on the LPGA.

Also en route to the LPGA, Maude-Aimée LeBlanc (Le Mirage) and Anne-Catherine Tanguay (Royal Québec) also dominated the event for three consecutive years. In 2008, Maude-Aimée set the championship record

with a combined score of 209 (-7) at the Camelot Golf and Country Club.

Summerlea's Michèle Guilbault also achieved a hat trick between 1977 and 1979 as did Louise Larochelle (Cap-Rouge/Country Club) between 1974 and 1996.

***In the Senior and Mid-Amateur Divisions***

The Provincial Senior Championship, which has been in existence since 1969, was owned by Monique Langlais of Royal Québec, who won the title nine times over a period of fifteen years between 1980 and 1994. Dulcie Lyle of Kanawaki dominated between 1970 and 1974 with five consecutive victories.

Mireille Beauregard (Summerlea), Andrée O'Doherty (Shawbridge) and Marie-Thérèse Torti (Vallée du Richelieu) also achieved the hat trick.



*Mary Ann Hayward*

In the mid-amateur category, the competition has only been in existence since 2004 and has been dominated by **Mary Ann Hayward** (Whitlock) six times on her way to the Québec Golf Hall of Fame, and by Marie-Thérèse Torti who won the competition four times.

***Marie-Thérèse Torti's Unrivaled Record***

It will take a while before anyone can match **Marie-Thérèse Torti's** record with an impressive total of 25 victories in provincial events and her career is far from being over. What is even more remarkable is that, at one point or another in her far from finished golf career, she has etched her name on every trophy that still exists to date.



*Marie-Thérèse Torti*

First of all, in the Jocelyne Bourassa Series: both the amateur (1) and senior (3) divisions of the Women's Provincial Championship, the Debbie Savoy Morel Senior Cup (4), and both the amateur (1) and senior (2) categories of the Players' Cup. In addition, she won the Mid-Amateur Championship (4), both the amateur (3) and senior (2) divisions of the Match Play Championship as well as the Suzanne-Beauregard Commemorative Tournament (6).

Marie-Thérèse Torti has also represented the province of Québec thirteen (13) times with the amateur team and seven (7) times with the senior team, in addition to taking part in countless Canadian (2010 Mid-Amateur and Mid-Masters Champion) and American championships with all the success she is known for. She can proudly say that she played in the inaugural US Senior Women's Open in 2018 with her childhood idols from the LPGA Professional Tour.

### In Canadian Championships

Many Québec female players have distinguished themselves on the national scene. Among them, let's start with the great Jocelyne Bourassa who won the Canadian Amateur Championship in 1965 when she was still a junior and again in 1971 before joining the LPGA Tour and brilliantly winning the La Canadienne tournament at the Montréal Municipal Golf Club in 1973, which to this day is still the only Québec victory on a major tour.

Prior to her career on the LPGA, Lisa Meldrum (Royal Montreal) was the most productive with a Provincial Junior Championship in 2000 followed by a hat-trick in the amateur category between 2001 and 2003. Likewise, Marie-Josée Rouleau (Country Club of Montreal) was the only Canadian golfer to win the Canadian Championship at the junior (1987), amateur (1992) and professional (2006) levels.

The Québec golf community was very proud in 1971 when its representatives won a hat-trick in the Canadian championships with Louise Larochelle (junior), Jocelyne Bourassa (amateur) and Dulcie Lyle (senior).

Whitlock's Judy Darling, inducted into the Québec Golf Hall of Fame in 1998, dominated the Canadian Junior Championship in 1957, as well as the Canadian Amateur Championship in 1960 and 1961, matching her mother **Dora's** (née Virtue) achievement of 1936.



*Marjorie Annable and Dora Virtue*

### A Dream Foursome in the Hall Of Fame

In 2017, **Debbie Savoy Morel** completed the dream foursome of great ladies inducted into the Québec Golf Hall of Fame, joining **Jocelyne Bourassa** (1996), Judy Darling-Evans (1998) and Mary Ann Hayward (2011), some of whose accomplishments have been recounted above.



*Jocelyne Bourassa, Marie-Thérèse Torti, and Debbie Savoy Morel*

After a prolific career that has taken her around the globe, Debbie was the first woman in Canada to hold a Head Professional position at a 36-hole club when she accepted the role at Le Mirage. Named 13 times in Canada's "top 10" women golfers, Debbie was a member of the Canadian team for seven years and a member of the Team Québec 14 times before devoting herself full-time to her members at Le Mirage. This past January, she was honoured by the PGA of Canada as the 2019 PGA Professional of the Year.

As one can appreciate, the first century of Golf Québec has been very fertile in great performances of all kinds on the part of our women golfers.

## Junior Golf: Almost 100 Years of Achievements

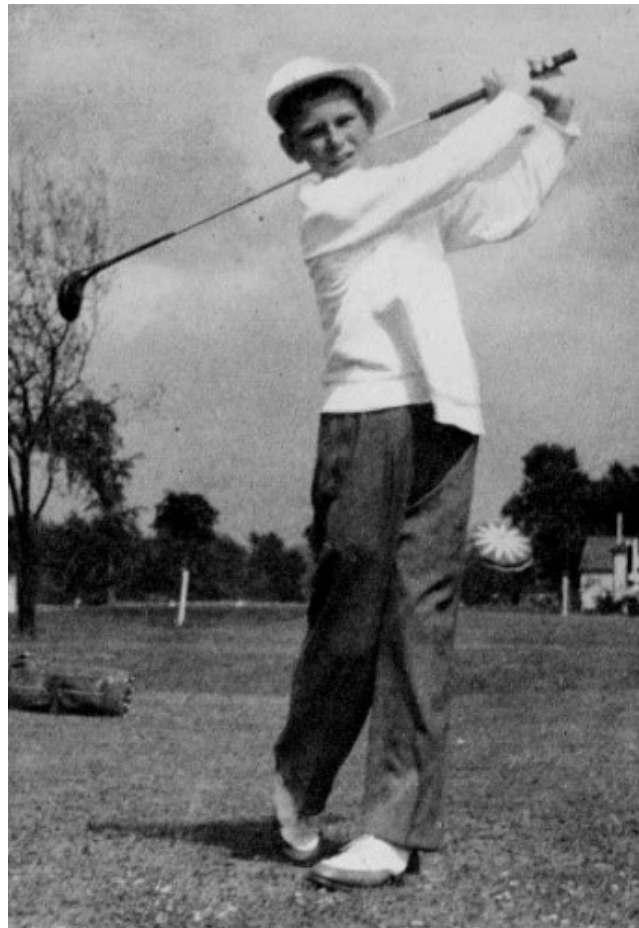
Although the first provincial championships were held in 1920, when the Province of Québec Golf Association was founded, there was no mention of a junior championship on the program. It was not easy for young people at that time to play this sport, which was only available at private clubs.

It wasn't until 1923 that the juniors had their first provincial championship, where 51 young people aged 17 and under met at the Country Club in Saint-Lambert on September 4. Charles A. White of the St. Francis Club in Sherbrooke was the first champion with a round of 83, one stroke ahead of J.P. St-Germain of Laval-sur-le-Lac.

The championship survived another year in 1924 when the newly founded Summerlea club, which had opened the previous year in Lachine, was the stage for the victory of Ivan F. Tyler of the Country Club, who handed out a 92 scorecard.

The November 1924 edition of the Canadian Golfer magazine, however, tells us that the Royal and Ancient Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, did not encourage competition among the young. This association, whose opinion is still respected throughout the world

and also in Québec, felt that until they reach adulthood, boys should only compete in school sports such as soccer and cricket that promote teamwork before individual success. For a 17-year-old, winning a golf championship was considered sheer aberration. With such a threat, the next individual provincial junior championship was not held until 1932 and, in the meantime, only junior team competitions were accepted.



*Michael Darling*

The incredible record of 4 victories belongs to **Michael Darling**, another member of the Whitlock Darling dynasty, who won his first championship in 1943 at the age of 14. The only other young golfer to come close to this record is Mathieu Rivard (Royal Bromont) with three consecutive victories between 2006 and 2008.

### ***Girls Hit the Course in 1928***

On the girls' division, the first provincial championship was held on August 27 and 28, 1928 in Senneville when 10 girls took up the challenge which was won by Lorraine Howe of Whitlock.

Several girls hold the record of three victories: Nora Hankin (Rosemère; 1931-33), Audrey MacIntosh (Whitlock; 1934-36), Judy Darling (Whitlock; 1953-57), Mary Darling (Whitlock; 1958-1961), Jocelyne Bourassa (Ki-8-Eb; 1963-65), Isabelle Blais (Vallée du Richelieu; 1994-96), Lisa Meldrum (Royal Montreal; 1997-99) and Céleste Dao (Summerlea; 2015-18).

Three of them also won the Canadian Junior Girls Championships: Judy Darling (1957), Lisa Meldrum (2000) and **Céleste Dao** (2018).

**Canadian Championships: Bélanger and Vandette in a Class of Their Own**

In recent years, two Quebecers have managed to win the Canadian Junior title while they were still in their juvenile years (16 years old or younger). Christopher Vandette (Summerlea) accomplished the feat in 2018 as did Charles-Éric Bélanger (Royal Québec) in 2015 on the fairways of the Summerlea Golf and Country Club. Before them, André Nols (1976), Robbie Jackson (1972 and 1973), Dale Tallon (1969), Grant Dearnaley (1954) and Bob Hall (1949) were the only Quebecers to have their names on the Silver Cup awarded to the best junior players in the country. Tallon, who played his junior golf in Noranda, was the second choice in the 1970 National Hockey League draft when he was selected by the Vancouver Canucks.

**In the Big League**

In 2017, at age 15, Christopher Vandette became the youngest ever to win the Provincial Men's Amateur Championship against seasoned players at the Eagle Creek Golf Club in the Ottawa area. In recent years, several juniors have also put their names on the amateur championship trophy, including Julien Goulet (Le Mirage; 2008), Alexis Gemme-Piacente (Le Mirage; 2010), Hugo Bernard (Vallée du Richelieu; 2013), Étienne Papineau (Pinegrove; 2015) and **Malik Dao** (Summerlea; 2020). Malik followed in the footsteps of his sister Céleste who also won the

Provincial Women's Amateur Championship in 2017 when she was a junior.

As for our own golf legend, Jocelyne Bourassa, she won the Canadian Women's Amateur Championship when she was still a junior, in 1965, as Brooke Henderson (Smiths Falls) did in 2013 in Beloeil when she was only 15 years old.

The Spring Open held in Beaconsfield in 2005 also saw a junior defeat all the amateur and professional competitors when Hugo Chamberland-Lauzon (Le Blainvillier) handed out a record card of 63 at only 17 years old.

*Céleste et Malik Dao*





On August 25 and 26, 2018, during the Graham Cooke Junior Invitational, **Laurent Desmarchais** (Vallée du Richelieu) set a series of records with a first round of 62 on the picturesque Château-Bromont course, the best score for a junior in the history of Golf Québec. The next day, he had to “settle” for a round of 63 for a combined 125, 19 shots under par, a record that is not about to be broken.

More recently, in 2020, Laurent has once again made a name for himself. At only 19 years of age, the young amateur golfer accomplished an extraordinary feat at TPC Toronto by winning the fourth and final stop of the Canada Life Series, a tournament organized by the Mackenzie Tour - PGA TOUR Canada, which brought together the nation's top professional and amateur players.

### **Provincial Teams Are on Fire!**

With all these talented players, it's no surprise that our junior teams have collected so many titles over the past 10 years, starting with the Williamson Cup in 2014 where our team captured the victory for the first time in the history of the international competition dating back to 1964 when Club Laval-sur-le-Lac hosted the event.

At the 2017 Canada Games in Winnipeg, our youth won gold for both our women's and men's teams and at the individual level with Céleste Dao and Christopher Vandette. In 2018, the Québec girls also took the inter-provincial competition at the Canadian Championship, an accomplishment that the boys repeated in 2019.



### **Canada Games – Winnipeg 2017**

- *Boys: Antoine Roy, Christopher Vandette, Louis-Alexandre Jobin-Colgan*
- *Girls: Sarah-Ève Rhéaume, Céleste Dao, Brigitte Thibault*

With more than 700 schools in the Golf in the Schools program and the Golf-études program that is offered in more than 20 high schools and colleges, the next generation of golfers will be in the limelight for years to come.

## Immortals and Builders - Part 1

What better way to relive Golf Québec's centennial than to take a virtual guided tour of its Hall of Fame and also to honour the builders and volunteers who have shaped the organization.

The Québec Golf Hall of Fame, inaugurated in 1996, was founded by three past presidents of the Québec Golf Association (QGA): Larry Boyle, Maurice Dagenais, and Roger Legault. They wanted to pay tribute to Québec players and builders who have distinguished themselves on the provincial, national or international stage.



*Gordon B. Taylor*

On the women's side, four great ladies have entered the Hall of Fame before 2020 – Jocelyne Bourassa (1996), Judy Darling-Evans (1998), Mary Ann Hayward (2011), and Debbie Savoy Morel (2017).

### ***True Amateurs for Life***

The Québec Golf Hall of Fame has 33 members if you count the three inductees of 2020. Of this number, four have earned their place thanks to a busy amateur career.

**Gordon Baxter Taylor (1909 – 1999)**, an accomplished athlete, dominated the amateur scene in the 1930s when he won the Canadian Championship in 1932 and the Québec Championship in 1934. He later served as president of Golf Québec in 1949 and Golf Canada in 1959 before winning the Québec Senior Championship in 1968.

All three were born in the mid-1940s, Pierre Archambault (1944 - ), André Gagné (1944 - ), and Graham Cooke (1946 - ) dominated the competitive stage between the 1960s and today.

Archambault has won eight provincial tournaments and one Canadian Championship, and has been part of a Québec team 13 times.

As for André Gagné, he claims 13 provincial titles and a victory at the Canadian Senior Championship; he also sat on the Board of Directors of Golf Québec from 1998 to 2008.

However, Graham Cooke is unquestionably the most successful amateur golfer in Québec's history, with more than 30 provincial championships and 10 Canadian championships to his credit. In addition, he has left his trademark on several championship courses for which he is the architect.

**Professional Golfers**

Three of the professionals who were inducted into the Hall were already active when Golf Québec was founded in 1920. They are: Albert Henri Murray (1887 - 1974), Charles Richard Murray (1882 - 1939), and Karl Kaspar Keffer (1882 - 1955). In fact, all three of them participated in the very first provincial association tournament held on June 18, 1920, at the Country Club and tied for second place after the event's 36 holes. Between them, they combined six titles at the Canadian Open, 12 at the Québec Open, and they designed more than 45 courses.

The next generation was marked by longevity and loyalty for the head professionals to their respective clubs: Jules Huot (1908 - 1999), 25 years at the Club Laval-sur-le-Lac and 3 Québec Open titles; Bill Kerr Sr. (1911 - 1997), in Beaconsfield for 28 years; Stanley Horne (1912 - 1995), 29 years in Islesmere and 8 Québec Open victories; Damien Gauthier (1913 - 1999), 32 years with the Municipal de Montréal, and Pat Fletcher (1916 - 1985), 20 years with the Royal Montreal and two-time Québec Open champion. Fletcher remains the last Canadian to claim the Canadian Open trophy in 1954.

Exceptionally, the Hall of Fame welcomed a family in 1996, the eight Huot brothers, of which Jules is the most famous, all of whom have been very involved in the golf industry in the Québec City area.

Jack Bissegger (1932-2009) won his share of tournaments in the province, including the Québec Open in 1963 and four victories at the Spring Open, but it was as the very first professional from La Vallée du Richelieu in 1965 that he was recognized, a position he held for over 20 years.

**Adrien Bigras (1938 - )** was certainly Québec's most prolific professional with more than 110 victories. Among his many accomplishments are his six wins at the Spring Open and his victory at the Québec Open in 1965. His participation in the 1962 U.S. Open in Oakmont, where he recorded the lowest qualifying score, outscoring more than 2,000 competitors, should not be overlooked. To this day, he remains the last Quebecer to hold a regular card on the PGA Tour, having competed in 20 tournaments on American soil in 1964-65.



A true globetrotter of golf, **Daniel Talbot (1953 - )** enjoyed a long and prosperous career that led him to compete all over the world. From a young age, he was crowned twice at the Provincial Junior Championship, first in the juvenile category in 1968 and then in the junior category in 1971. He also won the Duke of Kent in 1972 as an amateur and the Spring Open twice in the professional category. On the PGA of Québec's Tour, he has more than 50 victories to his credit.



## Immortals and Builders - Part 2

In the first part of this chronicle, we told you about these legends of amateur and professional golf. We now invite you to discover our builders and the volunteers who have shaped the Québec Golf Federation.

### *The Builders*

At the builder level, the Hall of Fame has welcomed a club designer, an administrator and referee, a reporter, and a general manager.

In 2017, the Hall of Fame welcomed its member who is probably the most famous worldwide. Indeed, who hasn't already had one of the famous Vokey wedges in their bag, the work of **Robert "Bob" Vokey** (1939 -)?

Born in Montréal, Bob Vokey grew up in Verdun before going to California to practice his art. One of the world's most renowned wedge designers, he has equipped many champions including Seve Ballesteros, Phil Mickelson, Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy and Mike Weir, to name just a few.

Still an active volunteer with golf associations, Me Jacques Nols (1945 - ) is a true world leader in terms of golf rules. He was a referee in 19 Canadian Opens, the Masters, the American and British Opens, the World Amateur Championship, the 2007 Presidents Cup and many other amateur championships in Canada. In addition to his extensive officiating record, he also served as President of the AGQ in 1986 and of the Royal Canadian Golf Association (now Golf Canada) in 1995.

Although he started his golf career successfully by representing Québec in the prestigious junior competition for the Williamson Cup played in 1970 at the



*Bob Vokey*

Aronimink Golf Club in Philadelphia, and by being Jocelyne Bourassa's caddie during her historic victory in Montréal in 1973, it is as a sports columnist that **Mario Brisebois** (1953 - ) has continued to leave his mark on the world of golf in the Mauricie area, Québec and Canada for more than 45 years.

In his career as a reporter, Mario devoted himself more particularly to golf, tennis and skiing and he always made a point of taking an interest in all aspects of the sports he covered, with respect and professionalism. Mario has always been committed to supporting the next generation of Québec athletes, and many of them have benefited from his exceptional coverage throughout their athletic development.



*Christopher Howard Gribbin*

**Christopher Howard Gribbin (1921 – 2012)** was hired as the first Executive Director of the QGA in 1966. An excellent director with a charming personality, Mr. Gribbin's contribution to the development and promotion of golf in the Québec community remains unparalleled with the implementation of numerous initiatives, particularly in the areas of bilingualism, juniors, rules, tournaments, marketing and administration.

Following his retirement in 1989, he was succeeded by his son Phil. Then came Bob Dion in the early 2000s before the current Executive Director, Jean-Pierre Beaulieu, who has been in the position since 2007. With only four general managers in over 50 years, the association has demonstrated stability, which has allowed it to develop to the point where it was elected *Québec Sports Federation of the Year* in 2014.



*Group photo (from left to right) - At the induction of Mario Brisebois (centre) in 2018, the attending past presidents of Golf Québec paid tribute to him:*

*Roger Legault (Venise, 1990), Jean-Claude Gagné (Venise, 2000), Skip Dion (Milby, 1998), André Burgoyne (BeauChâteau, 2005), Diane Dunlop-Hébert (Mount Bruno, 2007-08), Robert Bissonnette (Rivermead, 2017-2018), Marcel Paul Raymond (Le Blainvillier, 2014-16), and Charlie Beaulieu (Le Mirage, 2007-11).*

## Over 250 Volunteers in Québec

The success of sports organizations generally relies on the commitment and dedication of its volunteers, and golf is no exception with more than 250 volunteers working in the eight regional associations covering all of Québec and part of eastern Ontario in the Ottawa Valley region.

Since 1920, provincial association presidents have generally served annual terms. However, a few have served for three or more years. They are J.H. Wilson (1963-65), Monique Sofia (Beloeil, 1993-95), Jean Trudeau (Federation, 1999-2001), Suzanne Beaugard (Federation, 2001-06), Charlie Beaulieu (Le Mirage, 2007-11), Marc Tremblay (Beaconsfield, 2011-13) and Marcel Paul Raymond (Le Blainvillier, 2014-16).



*Raymonde Michaud and Jack Nicklaus in 1985*

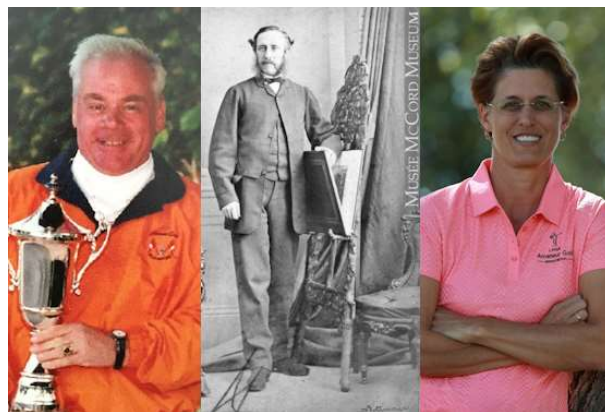
With time, in order to honour the contribution of invaluable volunteers, both Golf Québec and Golf Canada introduced the Volunteer of the Year Award. At the Canadian level, among the recipients of the past few years, are Québec's own Sylvain Tremblay (Saguenay/Lac St-Jean/Chibougamau/Côte-Nord, 2010), Diane Barabé (Eastern Townships, 2014) and **Raymonde Michaud** (Lower St. Lawrence, 2018).

## The 2020 Centennial Celebration

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Marc Tremblay, the Québec Golf Hall of Fame Committee has announced the induction of two builders and one professional for the year 2020.

On the professional side, the committee selected **Doran "Duke" Doucet** (1947 - ). Originally from Windsor, Québec, the man affectionately known as Duke has been a prominent figure in the history of Québec golf for over 50 years, winning over 35 professional tournaments including the Québec Open and three Spring Opens. He also had a long career as a professional at Summerlea Golf and Country Club from 1976 to 2011.

In this centennial year, it was fitting to honour the man who literally presided over the first steps of golf in Canada, the Scotsman **Alexander Dennistoun (1821-1895)**, who founded the first club in North America, the Montreal Golf Club in 1873.



On the women's side, in addition to having a prolific competitive career between 1978 and 2002, **Mary-Lee Cobick** (1970 - ) entered the Hall of Fame in the builder category. She had a remarkable influence as a teacher, owner manager and leader of the junior golf foundation at the Oiselet d'Amos Golf Club and in Florida. In 2018, she was recognized as LPGA National Professional of the Year and received the LPGA's Top 50 Teacher award.



## GOLF QUÉBEC'S PRESIDENTS THROUGHOUT HISTORY

### Golf Québec (Québec Golf Federation) (est. Dec. 2011)

2019-20.....Denis Loiselle, St-Anicet  
2017-18.....Robert Bissonnette,  
Rivermead  
2014-16.....Marcel Paul Raymond, Le  
Blainvillier  
2012-13.....Marc Tremblay,  
Beaconsfield

### Golf Québec (Québec Golf Association) (est. 2005)

2011.....Marc Tremblay,  
Beaconsfield  
2010.....Marc de Bellefeuille,  
Whitlock  
2009.....Diane Drury, Royal Montreal  
2007-08.....Diane Dunlop-Hébert, Mount  
Bruno  
2006.....John J. Hussar, Ottawa Hunt  
2005.....Thérèse Dumontet,  
Summerlea & André  
Burgoyne, BeauChâteau

### Fédération québécoise de golf (est. 1999)

2007-2011.Charlie Beaulieu, Le Mirage  
2006-2007.Pierre Charron, Centre de  
golf de Lanaudière  
2001-2006.Suzanne Beauregard,  
CLGA – Québec Branch  
1999-2001.Jean Trudeau, Québec PGA

### CLGA – Québec Branch (1921-2004)

2004.....Thérèse Dumontet,  
Summerlea  
2002-03.....Diane Mac Kay, Nominique  
2000-01.....Ghislaine Laberge, C.C. de  
Montréal  
1998-99.....Johanne Thibodeau,  
Summerlea  
1996-97.....Mary Ross, Mount Bruno  
1993-95.....Monique Sofia, Beloeil  
1992.....Cécile Labrecque  
1990-91.....Mary Drummie  
1989.....Madeleine Gratton, C.C. de  
Montréal  
1987-88.....not documented  
1986.....Jacqueline Duranceau,  
Laval-sur-le-Lac  
1984-85.....Joy Brown, Cowansville  
1982-83.....Priscilla Kredl, Royal  
Montreal  
1980-81.....Gilberte Moreman, Kanawaki  
1978-79.....Evelyn Wiseman, Hillsdale  
1976-77.....Nancy Walker, Kanawaki  
1974-75.....Suzanne Horne, Nuns' Island  
1972-73.....Hilda McMartin  
1970-71.....Shirley Berenbaum, Hillsdale

1968-69 ....Mrs. H.L. Mussells,  
Kanawaki  
1966-67 ....Mrs. Ian W. Adair  
1963-65 ....Mrs. J. H. Wilson  
1961-62 ....Mrs. W. E. Bickley  
1960.....Mrs. C. A. Prochey  
1958-59 ....Mrs. J. H. Shipley, Whitlock  
1956-57 ....Mrs. R. A. Taylor  
1954-55 ....Mrs. G. V. Whitehead  
1952-53 ....Mrs. G. Pemberton Smith  
1951.....Mrs. G. S. Currie  
1948-21 ....not documented

### Québec Golf Association (1920-2004)

2004.....André Fournier, Sorel-Tracy  
2003.....Michel Fortin, Le Mémorial  
2002.....Kenneth Wolfe, Elm Ridge  
2001.....Michel St-Laurent, Beloeil  
2000.....Jean-Claude Gagné, Venise  
1999.....Ron Pearl, Pinegrove  
1998.....Skip Dion, Milby  
1997.....John Limeburner, Whitlock  
1996.....Armand Lamontagne,  
Whitlock  
1995.....Gaétan Sévigny, Victoriaville  
1994.....Maurice Dagenais, Laval-sur-  
le-Lac  
1993.....Elliot Godel, Elm Ridge  
1992.....James Grant, Royal  
Montreal  
1991.....Jacques Bélec, Summerlea  
1990.....Roger Legault, Venise  
1989.....Larry Boyle, Kanawaki  
1988.....Roger Archambault, Beloeil  
1987.....Frank DiBiase, Vallée du  
Richelieu  
1986.....Jacques Nols, Kanawaki  
1985.....Roger Plante, Sorel-Tracy  
1984.....Tom Hunter, Whitlock  
1982-83 ...Claude Langlois, Beauce  
1980-81 ...Harold Brownstein, Elm  
Ridge  
1978-79 ...Claude Beauregard, Laval-  
sur-le-Lac  
1976-77 ...Gerry Durocher, Rivermead  
1975.....Gaston Vanasse,  
BeauChâteau  
1974.....Alec R. Tinker, Summerlea  
1973.....J. Dave Weinstein, Pinegrove  
1972.....Michael deHaerne,  
Islesmere  
1971.....Jean Robitaille, Cap-Rouge  
1970.....Robert M. Everson,  
Kanawaki  
1969.....Jack H. Wilson, Whitlock  
1968.....H. Gordie MacNeil, Royal  
Montreal  
1967.....Dave H. Shea, Vallée du  
Richelieu  
1966.....Marcel Pinsonneault, Laval-  
sur-le-Lac  
1965.....Cecil Vineberg, Hillsdale  
1964.....Frank J. Shaughnessy Jr.,  
Summerlea  
1963.....L. S. Reycraft, Royal  
Montreal

1962 ..... Guy Rolland, Laval-sur-le-Lac  
1961 ..... Abe Caplan, Elm Ridge  
1960 ..... Ray Getliffe, Marlborough  
1959 ..... T. Gordon McAthey,  
Kanawaki  
1958 ..... Jack H. Shipley, Whitlock  
1957 ..... P. Steve MacNutt, Royal  
Montreal  
1956 ..... E. Duncan Millican,  
Summerlea  
1955 ..... Robert Lyle, Kanawaki  
1954 ..... Albert Rolland, Laval-sur-le-  
Lac  
1953 ..... Sid Turner, Hampstead  
1952 ..... Harold G. Clarke, Summerlea  
1951 ..... James P. Anglin, Royal  
Montreal  
1950 ..... Leslie H. T. Clegg, Whitlock  
1949 ..... Gordon B. Taylor, Kanawaki  
1948 ..... Hugh B. Jaques,  
Beaconsfield  
1947 ..... J. A. Blondeau, Laval-sur-le-  
Lac  
1946 ..... J. Watson Yuile, Royal  
Montreal  
1945 ..... J. Gerald Fitzpatrick,  
Kanawaki  
1944 ..... Rollie G. Holbrook,  
Summerlea  
1943 ..... Jack A. Fuller, Royal  
Montreal  
1942 ..... William F. Macklaier,  
Rosemère  
1941 ..... John H. Davey, Marlborough  
1940 ..... J.D. Charles Cowie,  
Kanawaki  
1939 ..... Herb B. MacLean, Senneville  
1938 ..... M. R. Ferguson,  
Beaconsfield  
1937 ..... Richard J. Dawes, Royal  
Montreal  
1936 ..... J. Ernest Savard, Laval-sur-  
le-Lac  
1935 ..... Dr. A. S. Lamb, Senneville  
1934 ..... Louis W. Barker, Kanawaki  
1932-33 ... Harry W. Maxson, Country  
Club  
1930-31 ... Georges H. Forster,  
Beaconsfield  
1929 ..... Norman M. Scott, Royal  
Montreal  
1928 ..... Trevor O. Lyall, Senneville  
1926-27 ... Alfred C. Collyer, Royal  
Montreal  
1925 ..... Joseph A. Mercier, Laval-  
sur-le-Lac  
1924 ..... W. Garth Thompson,  
Kanawaki  
1923 ..... Geoffrey H. Turpin, Royal  
Montreal  
1922 ..... W. W. Walker, Beaconsfield  
1921 ..... J. L. McCulloch,  
Beaconsfield  
1920 ..... A. D. Huff, Country Club