

2024 Fall Newsletter

From the General Manager, Jeremy Rivando



What a year we've had! It was my first one with you as General Manager and I want to extend a sincere thank you to Team Pippy for their support and hard work throughout the year, and thank you to our customers and guests that support us throughout the golf season.

It's been a real pleasure and privilege to become a part of the great team of staff and Board members that we have in place. I am looking forward to the coming years as we tirelessly work to improve all aspects of our operation so that we can see PPGC reach its full potential to be a source of pride for golfers, the community and our staff. We are also excited about our commitment to taking on some major projects for the facility starting with our practice range that will be built next summer.

In addition to that, we are all excited to be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Captain's Hill next summer and we will be planning multiple celebratory events to honor this milestone with a few gatherings and plans to have as much fun as you can have on a golf course. Stay tuned next spring for more details.

This Newsletter gives us an opportunity to highlight our season and to announce some of the improvements to the facility that are in planning stages or under consideration, please read on.

From the Superintendent, Josh Foster



I'd like to take this opportunity to thank each and every golfer that had a chance to play at Pippy Park Golf Club this year for respecting the various cart rules we often needed to keep the courses from being damaged when it was far too wet to have golf carts on them, and for avoiding the wet areas that never seemed to want to dry up. Once this season's play is completed on November 3rd we will begin our work to improve drainage in many of these areas, as well as a variety of other projects.

As a number of you have seen, we've begun grubbing, lifting, and removing trees in multiple locations on Admiral's Green. The intention behind this project is to improve playability and safety of the golf course without taking away from the essence of the property. To achieve this, we will only remove what is necessary and remediate these areas, however appropriate. The 17th hole is a perfect example, with a longer shot into an elevated green, often into the wind, the wooded area immediately short left of the green can be punishing and unfair. The brush and tree removal has been started and ultimately this area will be capped with topsoil, shaped, and then seeded.

Finally, I would like to ask for some help. I would like everyone to take the time to thank all of our staff and volunteers at Pippy Park Golf Club the next chance they get. They are the heart and soul of The Hill. Without them and their years of hard work and dedication, absolutely none of this would be possible. It's a joy for me every morning to get to work alongside everyone and I hope you'll share it with them as well, please pass it along! Thank you all for the incredible season.

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From the Chair, Rick Gill



Three years ago your new volunteer Board of Directors set 3 major goals in addition to identifying a long list of items requiring fixing. We are pleased to report that we are well on the way to achieving those goals.

The first was to introduce new standards for course maintenance, playability and golfer satisfaction. Most importantly was to achieve a profitable and sustainable golf operation that could offer an affordable and enjoyable golfing experience to the general public.

Essential to achieving the above was a goal to increase and sustain the number of golfers playing both Admirals Green and Captains Hill.

The results are in.

The improvements have been significant as seen in golfer satisfaction and increased play. Our tee sheets on both courses are often full. We can safely say we are now a profitable and sustainable business. We have benefitted significantly from the increase in demand that has come from the closure of a course in the St. John's market.

And we were ready. More qualified staff; new and fully maintained carts; online booking; new GM and Grounds Superintendent are in place. And there's more to come.

The future looks very bright for you, the patrons of Pippy Park Golf. Come back and see us again next year. And bring a kid to play with you, this year 800 kids played free on Captains Hill. We're very proud of that one!

Highlights of 2024:

Positive Feedback

- It's been refreshing to hear so many kind and considerate comments about the facility this year
- We're working diligently to enhance the experience for all guests that visit our property
- We certainly hope to continue to have a positive impact on those who support us
- We encourage the community to continue to "let us know" about emerging concerns and suggestions for improvement

Increase in Play

- We believe we have set rounds played records on both golf courses in 2024
- Our official records do not go back far enough to confirm this but from all accounts it appears to have been our busiest year yet

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Highlights of 2024: Cont.

New Management Team & Larger Workforce

- Our commitment to the property has also required us to increase the size of our team as we take on new projects. This has allowed us to push up the timeline on some of the agenda items
- We have also seen the benefit in having our new General Manager and PGA Professional, Jeremy Rivando join the team this year as he works to bring the Board's vision for PPGC to life

Course Improvements

- The turf team will continue to tackle drainage projects, the widening of hole corridors for course playability, grubbing in play areas that can be a nuisance, tee box leveling and strategically building new tee boxes where required
- We will also work on day to day improvements in the treatment of the golf course to ensure we raise the expected standards

New Equipment & Carts

- One reason for some of the course improvements can be traced to this past spring when we upgraded some of the machinery used on the golf course
- New Equipment Included
- Toro Sprayer - Fairway Mower - Greens Roller - Gator Utility Vehicle - Golf Cart Shuttle - Golf Carts - Plus the rental of heavy machinery as required

League Play

- We had a very successful year with our Senior, Ladies and Men's League with all at capacity
- The momentum from the growth we have seen recently continues and that is due to the efforts of previous volunteers who dedicated many hours to helping grow the Leagues
- Volunteers still run the Leagues and they are a huge part of what we can accomplish moving forward, and we are very fortunate to have so many golfers dedicated to the success of our facility and our Leagues.

Junior Golf

- We were very happy to see our Junior Package Holders increase to 36 this season and we expect that number will continue to increase in the years to come
- We embrace junior golf as an important element of our future success and we will expand our focus on what we can offer juniors that are Pippy regulars along with new juniors that are introduced to golf through our junior clinics and camps
- Our expectation is that we will be able to offer weekend and weekday clinics next season
- As we continue to develop our facilities we are hopeful to be a First Tee Canada site

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The Future:

Public Course Priorities

- While we will continue to offer a limited number of seasonal play packages we are a public first facility and we plan to stay that way moving forward
- It is critical that we continue to have access to the tee for all public golfers and we need to ensure that we offer an inclusive experience for all golfers whether they have played here their entire life, or with a new golfer just starting the game

Promotional Offers

- We will be releasing 5 and 10 game packages for Admiral's Green in the coming days and we expect to continue a similar practice moving forward, giving golfers the opportunity to commit to a small number of rounds at a reduced rate
- Since we only charge \$20 for Captain's Hill on a daily basis, we are unable to add any additional discounts for the 9 Hole moving forward
- We encourage everyone to purchase Gift Cards Online if they'd like to give the gift of golf

Course Closing Procedures

- As we get into the fall season each year there will be a number of invasive and cultural practices that we take part in
- This starts with the aeration of the greens, a practice where we drill out soil cores from the green and then backfill the holes with sand which is called topdressing. The sand will allow for better root growth and overall health of the plant over time
- We will also be spraying applications to provide the turf some disease resistance and moisture tolerance over the winter
- In addition to this, we will keep the turf staff on for a few more weeks to tackle additional projects such as drainage work and course beautification projects.

Admiral's Green & Captain's Hill Improvements

- Beyond the drainage work and the widening of hole corridors through strategic tree removal we will be tackling tee work, including the addition of new tees, the re-leveling of existing tees and work on existing tee boxes to provide a flatter and softer surface
- On Captain's Hill we will start to remove some of the sand traps and in time, all sand traps will be converted to grass bunkers. The main reason for this is to add to the playability of the golf course for juniors, seniors and beginners
- Golfers with slow swing speeds struggle with bunker shots and grass bunkers provide a fair challenge to all golfers, while still offering a pleasing aesthetic.

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The Future: Cont.

New Practice Range & Short Game Area

- Plans are in place to begin the construction of the practice range starting early next year
- We will be adding a large concrete pad with a roof over it for our hitting bays which will be on turf mats and there will be some bench seating added as well
- There will be a spacious hitting area for each person and the roof will provide some shelter to the various elements we encounter here at Pippy
- We will also be building a grass tee deck to be used for private instruction and next to that we will be adding a short game area with a couple of target greens with bunkers around them for so that we can provide every element required to practice your short game
- Most strokes are wasted within 50 yards of the green and our short game area will provide serious opportunities for improvement for any golfer

Comfort Station for Captain's Hill

- We plan to add portable restrooms to Captain's Hill next year as we are planning the addition of a septic system and a power source so that we can provide a clean and reliable restroom to our golfers during the season
- These portable units are often used for large scale outdoor events and they will suit our needs perfectly. We also plan to add vending machines at this location so that we can provide snacks and beverages on the course for our golfers

Introduction of Electric Carts

- We acknowledge that the future of golf carts will be reliant on electric cart fleets and we want to ensure that we are prepared to make this transition
- The benefits of electric carts are numerous and we will start by bringing in some Demo models to get us on our way.

Expanded Parking

- While we have recently completed a small expansion of our upper parking lot, we realize that this will still not be sufficient space for our golfers and clubhouse guests
- We are working to develop additional plans for parking around the main clubhouse to ensure that we offer a proper parking option to those who visit our facility
- Until then we will continue to offer regular shuttle service to the lower lots on busy days when our parking lot fills up

Clubhouse & Pro Shop Expansion

- The next project phase after our practice range is complete involves our interest in offering an expanded Pro Shop location and a Restaurant/Lounge for our golfers to utilize and enjoy after a round of golf
- We are currently looking into the addition of an approximately 3500 square foot two level building with golf cart storage on the lower level
- The benefits of this new building would be numerous and we will continue to explore our best options for this
- Once such an undertaking is complete we would then look to fully renovate our current clubhouse as it would remain an integral component of weddings and events.

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The golf courses and its facilities are governed and managed by a Board of Directors. These are voluntary positions and appointed by the Pippy Park Commission. The mandate of the Board is to support the continuance of the public golf course as a key infrastructure of Pippy Park. Two of our management objectives are to support opportunities for individuals to learn and improve their level of play and to deepen their appreciation of the natural beauty and wildlife which surrounds us here at Pippy Park. Another is to support and ensure an atmosphere of safety and respect for all clients and employees. It's been my pleasure to serve as your General Manager and I look forward to continuing to assist you as we move ahead.

On behalf of our team, we wish you and your loved ones all the best in the coming months and we can't wait to welcome you all back to the course next spring.

Jeremy Rivando
General Manager



*So
Grateful
for Your
Support!*