

# 2025 Spring Newsletter

## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER, JEREMY RIVANDO



Another golf season is nearly upon us, and I know many of you are itching to get out as we have been teased with so many beautiful sunny days in the last 4 weeks. As a result of the mild winter, both golf courses will be in better shape than normal for this time of year, and we certainly plan on ensuring that the conditions get even better this year.

We've been working hard behind the scenes this winter to plan a number of projects and initiatives highlighted by our plans to build the tee deck for our new practice range. The range work will likely start in July, and we hope to limit any interruptions on day to day play for as long as we can. We are all excited to be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Captain's Hill and we are planning weeklong celebrations during the week of July 6-12, highlighted by a Founder's Dinner that will include many of the people that brought the 9 Hole to life in 1975.

Our rounds played on Captain's Hill last year easily broke the previous record and we are happy to announce that the green fee will stay at \$20 this season, ensuring that we continue to attract more new golfers and families who can enjoy the game in a stress-free environment.

We will be hosting a new golf tournament this summer, the Admiral's Open and it will be a 36-hole event featuring a two-man new stableford format. This will be open to all golfers who have a Golf Canada handicap, and it will be held on August 16-17. We will also once again host the RBC PGA Scramble on July 27<sup>th</sup>, this has become a very popular event across Canada and the winning teams go on to compete regionally for a chance to earn the trip of a lifetime to Cabot Cape Breton.

On behalf of our team, we can't wait to welcome you all back to Pippy for another great year!

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT, JOSH FOSTER



With the Masters still fresh in our minds and lots of nice weather ahead, it's time to start getting excited for the 2025 season.

It was an above average winter for both golf courses. There was no snow cover for much of the winter, relatively stable temperatures, and minor ice cover from early February to early March, but not long enough to cause any damage. The greens on both courses have wintered significantly better than the previous season.

# 2025 Spring Newsletter

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT, JOSH FOSTER Cont.

The tees and fairways on both properties wintered perfectly. And, thankfully, there was no damage on either of the properties from snowmobiles or ATV's.

When the season ended on November 3<sup>rd</sup> we broke ground on some much-needed drainage work on Admiral's Green. We started by digging drainage trenches on #10, #14, and a ditch on the righthand hillside of #15. We will be backfilling these trenches with aggregates and drainage tile this spring. Along with the drainage projects, we continued grubbing, lifting, and removing trees with the intent of improved playability and safety. Next will be remediating these areas by stripping away the remaining material, capping with fill, shaping, then seeding.

In setting expectations, all these projects are ongoing and with that there will be disruptions and ground under repair. We will have white stakes out to indicate G.U.R., we will also protect any wet areas and you'll see signage to communicate any other necessary information. Your consideration for these areas will aid with the grow in, the pace of play, and help us get back to normal as fast as possible.

Thank you and have a great season!

## FROM THE CHAIR, RICK GILL



Welcome back!

There's truly no place like The Hill at Pippy Park surrounded by the stunning landscapes of our capital city. Rolling greens meet open skies with unmatched views including Cabot Tower, an occasional distant iceberg, cruise ships and surprising wildlife visitors.

This year we celebrate 50 years of community, camaraderie and competition at Captain's Hill. Last year we set a new record of approximately 45,000 rounds played on both courses. We expect even higher numbers this year.

You'll see significant improvement in both courses as the season progresses, mainly due to the commitment of our team and our investment in new equipment. Construction at Captain's Hill will begin in the summer featuring a new comprehensive practice facility including driving range, chipping, putting and bunker play areas.

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# 2025 Spring Newsletter

## FROM THE CHAIR, RICK GILL **Cont.**

Holes number 1, 2, 3 and 9 will be adjusted and a totally new fairway and green will be created for the new 2nd hole (opening June 2026). Regular 9-hole play will continue during the season.

And on Admirals Green we are already tackling major drainage issues and other course improvements. The drainage work while extensive is essential but it should not in any way interfere with regular play.

Having just experienced a very kind Newfoundland winter and with the addition of several new pieces of course maintenance equipment you can expect to see much improvement in greens, fairways and tee boxes by mid-season.

In all we employ approximately 50 full time and seasonal personnel. Their dedication and pride in the improvements they are making throughout our entire operation is obvious to all of our patrons.

As Chairperson, I'm excited to see new friendships formed, old rivalries renewed, and countless great stories created on these fairways and greens. Let's play with good spirit, respect for the game and an appreciation for this beautiful public recreational area that we are lucky to call our own.

And of course, a hearty thank you to our many volunteers and the support of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

May your drives be long, your putts be true, and your memories be many.

## Key Plans for 2025:

### **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

# 2025 Spring Newsletter

## Key Plans for 2025: Cont.

- We are committed to developing a long-term plan to address our tee boxes and specifically, we will look to add a number of forward tee boxes that will enhance both courses
- Our purchase of a new sprayer last summer will allow us to treat the course with regular applications that will assist us with providing improved turf conditions

### **LEAGUE PLAY**

- We look forward to another successful year with our Senior, Ladies and Men's League and we expect to have a few openings available to join our Ladies (9-hole and 18-hole) and Seniors
- We will do our best to maintain the momentum we have recently seen and a big part of that is due to the efforts of previous volunteers who dedicated many hours to helping grow the Leagues

### **JUNIOR GOLF**

- 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 weekday clinics once again this season and we look forward to expanded offerings in the coming years

### **NEW PRACTICE RANGE & SHORT GAME AREA**

- Plans are in place to begin the construction of the practice range tee deck in July
- 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. In addition to that we plan on adding a short game area with a couple of target greens with bunkers so that we can provide every element required to practice your short game

# 2025 Spring Newsletter

## Key Plans for 2025: cont.

### **COMFORT STATION FOR CAPTAIN'S HILL**

- We plan to add a permanent restroom to Captain's Hill this summer. To do that, we are planning the addition of a septic system and a power source, along with adding a new building so that we can provide a clean and reliable restroom to our golfers during the season
- This small unit with two restrooms 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

### **50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS ON CAPTAIN'S HILL**

- We have a volunteer committee to assist with extensive planning as we look to host a number of events including an Alumni tournament, a Founder's dinner, a complimentary introduction to golf session and a Family Day tournament
- We will be selling a number of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary items in the Pro Shop to commemorate the anniversary, featuring hats, t-shirts, ball markers and bag tags
- For anyone that started golfing on "The Hill" back in the 70's, please send an email to [golf@pippypark.com](mailto:golf@pippypark.com) so that we can include you on the invite list
- All other information will be shared through our social media feeds

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. We thank you in advance for your respect for our property and our staff.

On behalf of our team, we can't wait to welcome you all back to the golf course.

**JEREMY RIVANDO**  
GENERAL MANAGER

*So  
Grateful  
for Your  
Support!*