

## Presidents Letter

Hello everyone. I just wanted to take a few minutes to reflect on the season we just had at our golf club. The start of the year was a nervous time for many of us since Covid had us questioning if the golf course would even be open. However, it did, and even though there were restrictions which delayed our restaurant opening and many restrictions on the course and in our Pro shop I am happy to say it turned out to be an excellent season for our club.

As we prepare for the 2021 season, I know there are so many new members who did not get to experience the social atmosphere of our club. Hopefully, next year, all our members get to experience the part of our golf game which extends after the round. I am also looking forward to the return of our ladies nights, men's nights and doubles night as these provide an opportunity to mix and form connections with other members.

There are so many things that happen behind the scenes which sometimes we take for granted, but these do not happen by accident. As you enter the club and at various places around our course, there are shrubs and trees which have been planted and cared for by Lily Jones, Bev Skanes, Jeanne Collins, Cavelle Skanes and Nancy Dawe. Thank you.

Also, last year Brent Jenkins cleared out a large section of brush on front of #3 tee making the fairway more accessible. At various times in the fall brush clearing and burning occurs many a weekend. Dom Brych, Roger Soucy, Dave Soucy, Rick Sheppard and Rod Lane are at the club giving up their time to help out. Last spring Bert Peddle and Dave Brake spent time clearing brush on #2 and #3 just to make things a little better for when we started the season. At year end Dave Brake, Craig Churchill, Tom Jones, Dave Soucy and Roger Soucy helped with the aeration of the greens. Thank you.

Inside the club, Bert Peddle, Ray Skanes and Tom Jones put the finishing touches on our restaurant and bar area. Thank you.

Throughout the summer I know that there are many discussions about areas we would like to clear out and make every round more enjoyable. Sometimes we depend on volunteers because Herb and his crew are always working to keep our course in the best possible condition. So, if there is an area that concerns you or you would like to help please feel free to come along and help. It will be appreciated.

I also want to acknowledge all our Staff. Of course, Callum Tulloch, our manager is an invaluable asset to our club in terms of his knowledge and ability, and his relationship with the staff is something which has been a huge benefit to our club.

The pro shop staff: Carrie-Lee, Christine, Autumn, Mary, and Bethany

Our restaurant staff: Michelle and Leah

Our greens staff: Superintendent Herb Newhook, Dale Oake, Brian, Dale Rumbolt, Jerome, Bill, Paul, and Angus.

We are so fortunate to have a dedicated, hard-working staff who are doing their part to make sure that the Gander Golf Club provides a positive experience. We are so lucky to have them and hope to have them working with us for many years to come.

I also want to thank Randy Nolan for his contribution the last two years as House Chairperson. Next year we will get to see many of the improvements that were the results of Randy's skills and hard work. I think members will be excited to see the improvements to the restaurant area of the clubhouse.

When I accepted the position of President I only did because of the people that I had worked with on the executive previously, and I knew that each one has only one thing on their agenda, and that is the success and the longevity of the Gander Golf Club.. It is a great group of people and I am glad to be a part of that and the expertise that they share. It is easy to say that any time that any two of us are in the same room, a golf meeting is happening, and I look forward to each discussion with our current Executive which is:

|                                |             |                             |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Ladies President               | Nancy Dawe  | Tournament Chair            | Bob Fowler  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President | Roger Soucy | Past President/Greens Chair | Tom Jones   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President | Bob Skanes  | House Chair                 | Bert Peddle |
| Secretary/Treasurer            | Dave Soucy  | Junior Chair                | Craig Loder |

It is interesting to note that over the years many people serve on the executive and at times have served in different positions. I want to thank Roger for his years as greens chairperson and acknowledge all the positive changes on the course which are a product of his vision and I know as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President that will continue

I also want to thank Tom Jones for his many years of President of our club. I am not trying to replace Tom in any way...his contribution and dedication cannot be matched. I am happy to say that he continues to serve and wears two hats on the current executive.

It is my feeling that the Gander Golf Club is a constant work in progress. Having said that we have recently acquired three new pieces of equipment, a greens mower, a sprayer, and an aerator that will enhance the condition of the course. This new equipment will make the operation more efficient especially with Winter shutdown. Next season we have decided as an executive to have the Des Power event October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> and to keep our 18 holes open into the following week.

I know that all executive members welcome suggestions for improvement and I know we will discuss them. Please remember that we are working constantly to improve the golf course and the whole Gander Golf Club experience. We like to hear that members are proud of being a member at the Gander Golf Club which in my mind is a very special place to play. In this past year I am pleased to say that I spoke to several people from other clubs who said that our course was their favorite place to play. Those are great things to hear and helps bring more people to our club.

So, as we look forward to next year let us hope that our new members get to enjoy the things they missed out on this summer and that our membership continues to increase. I also want to thank all our members for their patience and support over this past season. It is much appreciated. Especially in a summer which no one could have forecasted. I am looking forward to next year already!!

Please take some time to look at the Membership Fees for next year. The fees remain the same, however, the social fee will be re-introduced with the hope that next season is a return to normal operations in our clubhouse.

A few years ago, in one of my reports I said, "I hope our members feel like guests and our guests feel like members." I hope we get to that point.

Bob Dyckson  
President  
Gander Golf Club