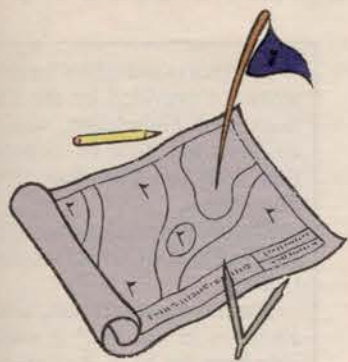


Briefs



LAFOY HAPPY WITH N.C. COURSE

HOLLY SPRINGS, N.C. — "Each hole is different, each has a unique character," says architect John LaFoy of his newest creation — Devils Ridge Golf Club here.

Opened for play Nov. 30, the design is LaFoy's first complete course in the Triangle area.

"It's going to be very challenging from the championship tees for low-handicap golfers, and from the other tees, it will be challenging, yet very enjoyable," he said.

With many hardwoods on site, Devils Ridge has a mature look.

It was developed by Carolinas Golf Group, a firm that owns, develops and manages golf courses in the Southeast. It is part of the Sunset Ridge development.

POPA JOINS GRAHAM/PANKS

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Thomas Popa has been named director of marketing for Graham/Panks International, a Scottsdale-based golf course architectural design firm.

Popa, a former collegiate golfer, has more than 10 years of experience in sales and

marketing golf course properties. Just prior to joining Graham/Panks International, he served as a golf course properties broker for Lyon Commercial Brokerage and director of marketing for Desert Highlands Golf



Thomas Popa

Club and residential community in Scottsdale.

A 1974 graduate of Ohio State university, Popa and his wife, Michele, live in Scottsdale with their three daughters.

Graham/Panks International is a partnership formed in 1987 between architect Gary Panks and former PGA and U.S. Open champion David Graham.

FREI LAYS OUT ECHO FALLS CC

PGA professional and course architect Jack Frei is designing a golf course, Echo Falls Country Club, which will be public but also serve as the centerpiece of a 79-home community outside Woodinville, Wash., in south Snohomish County.

Developed by Steve Burnstead, the 18-hole, par-70 course will cover 6,350 yards.

Burnstead said: "There's a pent-up demand for new, high-quality public golf courses in the Puget Sound area. We're optimistic about home and lot sales despite the flat, upper-end market because opportunities to live in a golf community are rare."

THREE-COURSE PROJECT READY TO GO

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — A golf course, 7,200 homes and commercial and industrial space have been approved by the St. Johns County Planning and Zoning Agency for the northwest portion of the county.

Construction could start in January.

First homes hopefully will be finished by the end of 1992, and the first of three golf courses ready for play in the spring of 1993.

Canadians build in face of recession

By Mark Leslie

Anationwide recession and regional permitting hangups have hampered golf course development in Canada, but pent-up demand for public courses remains strong.

"In 1986-89 the future looked tremendous. A lot of people put shovels into the ground," said John Gordon, executive director of the Canadian Golf Foundation. "But building a golf course isn't like building a car. You don't turn one out every 12 minutes. And by the time the courses came on stream, there was a glut in the upper end of the market. Had they been decent-calibre semi-private or public golf courses, I don't think they would have suffered."

Mike Hurdzan of Hurdzan Design Group in Columbus, Ohio, who has three courses under construction in Canada, said: "The Canadian economy is much worse than ours. It's a lot harder to borrow money. Plus, they've instituted a value-added tax that has tightened up the money supply."

"But the demand for golf is so high, they're building anyhow. They are even more golf-crazy than we are."

Hurdzan added that obtaining permits to build is also more difficult than in the United States. "It's more bureaucratic. An example is Vancouver, where there is a tremendous need for golf, but you can not take land out of production for golf," he said.

Douglas Carrick, of the architectural firm Robinson, Carrick & Associates in Willowdale, Ontario, said: "(More difficult) permitting is an irreversible trend. Money is temporary."

Ted George, of the golf course building company Bruce S. Evans Ltd. in Scarborough, Ontario, said: "Quite a few builders are worried that environmental controls will get stiffer and slow things down... Two years of studies are needed before most courses get approval. Twenty-eight agencies are involved."

George said it is estimated this procedure costs \$300,000 to \$400,000.

"Permitting has gotten steadily tighter over the last 10 years," he said, but added: "I think it's all for the good. It does not restrict you other than it costs more money to build that way. We can build a course with hardly a drop of water leaving the site with a speck of color, and that's because of what we have to do to control it."

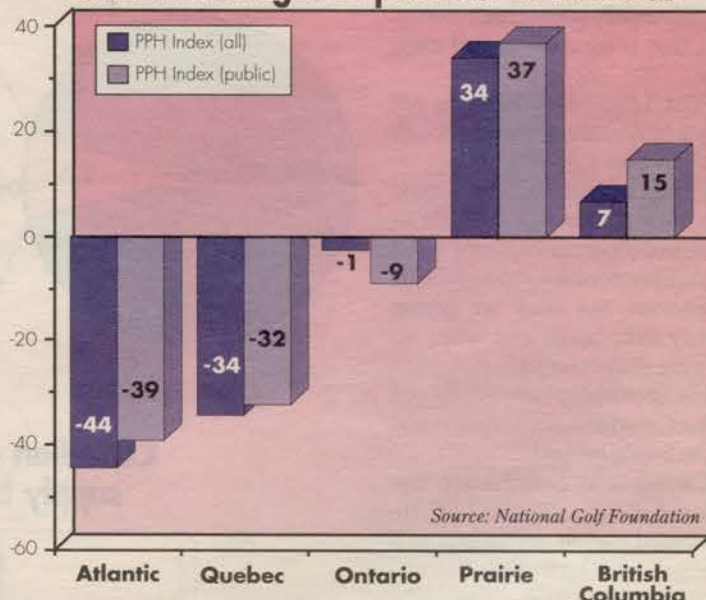
Evans usually includes in its bids a \$100,000 allowance to meet environmental procedures for an 18-hole course.

"In the West, with high elevation changes and other factors, it can go way beyond that," George said.

And yet, George said builders agree, if anything is slower, it's "the ability of new owners to raise funds. Banks have never been

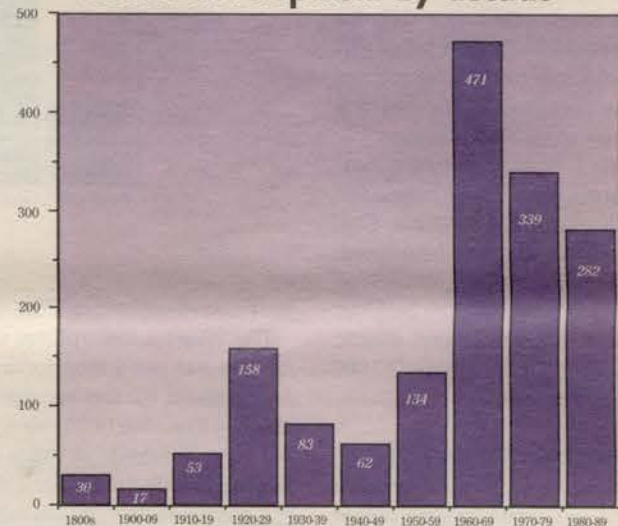
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Canadian golfers per hole compared to nat'l average for public & all facilities



The overall supply of golf in Quebec, as measured by a population per hole (PPH) index, is 34% below the national average. The supply of public golf in Quebec is 32% below the national average. Based on the national index, the Prairie Provinces are the best supplied; the Atlantic Provinces, the worst. The "0" line is the baseline.

Course development by decade



Johnston's touch a traditional one at Southernness

ATLANTA, Ga. — Southernness Golf Club, the city's newest daily-fee golf course, designed by Clyde Johnston, opened Nov. 1.

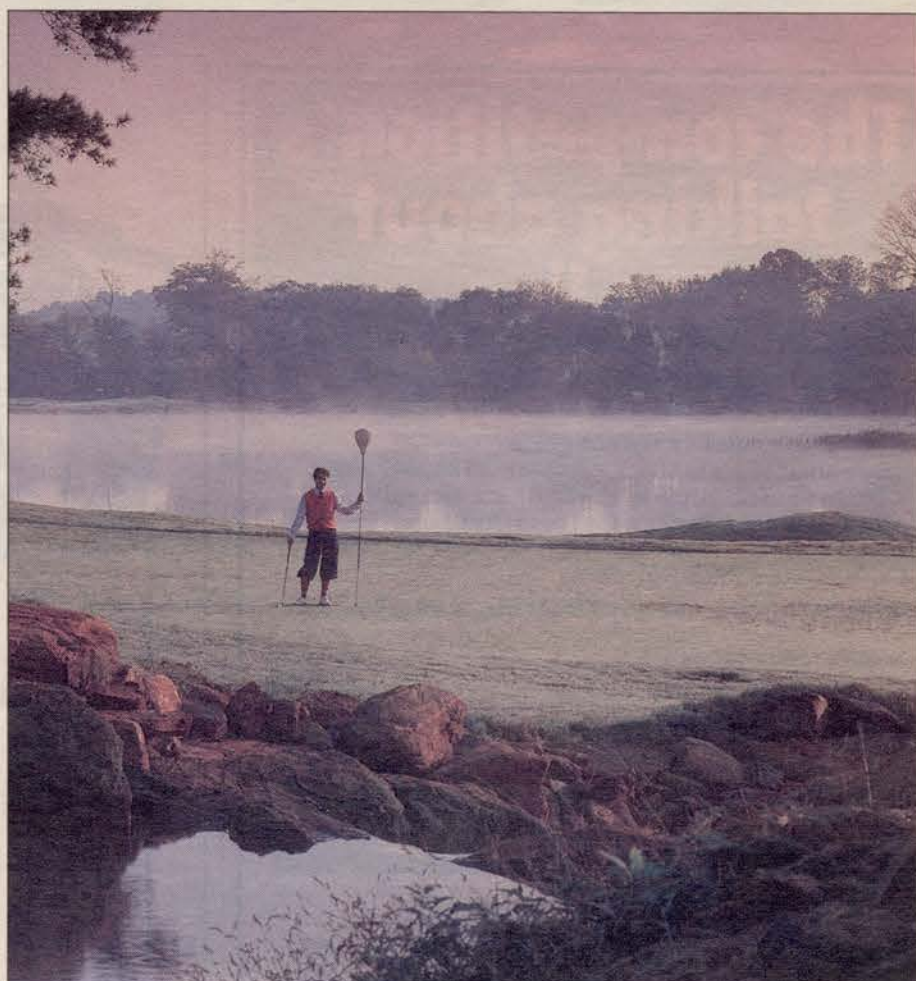
Located 20 minutes from downtown Atlanta, next to the Panola Mountain State Park, Southernness is being developed and operated by The Club Group, Ltd. of Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Adjoining South River on the grounds of an antebellum cotton plantation, its builders feel Southernness combines Southern hospitality and resort service with some of the best traits of Scottish golf.

Southern touches include: the original plantation house (circa 1822 and spared by General Sherman, who passed on the other side of the river), which stands at the club entrance; 200-year-old oak trees throughout the course; and historic Flat Bridge, which crosses the South River near the 10th green.

The most visible Scottish touch is the use of a traditional wicker basket to top each flagpole. The rolling hills, grass bunkering and eight different grasses found on the golf course also add a Scottish flavor.

The course's signature hole is the 16th, a 175-yard par 3, playing across Alexander Lake and framed by a waterfall.



A golfer shows off the traditional wicker basket atop the flag on a green at Southernness Golf Club in Atlanta.