

## Off The Fringe

# The World Meets at Kananaskis GC

CANADIAN COURSE WAS SITE FOR G-8 SUMMIT

By Andrew Penner

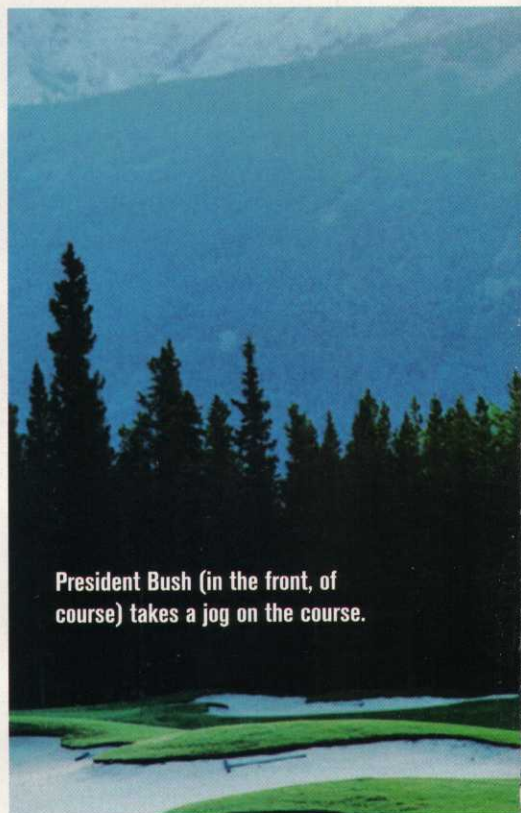
**W**hen was the last time President George W. Bush went for a jog on your golf course? Better yet, when was the last time that eight of the world's most powerful leaders got together at your club for meetings and dinner? Kananaskis GC club manager Darren Robinson's response to both of those questions is last June.

The G-8 Summit, the pre-eminent gathering of the most powerful nations in the world, took place in Kananaskis, Alberta, last summer. In attendance were Bush, Jean Chretien (Canadian Prime Minister), Tony Blair (Prime Minister of the United Kingdom),

Vladimir Putin (President of the Russian Federation), Jacques Chirac (President of France) and Gerhard Schroder (Chancellor of Germany). Also in attendance were leaders from Italy, The European Union, Japan and the United Nations.

"The golf course was closed for 13 days for planning and security purposes prior to the meetings," says Kananaskis superintendent Calvin McNeely. And there was plenty of security.

"The hillsides were dotted with military tents and soldiers were everywhere," he says. "It was something I won't soon forget. It did, however, give us a chance to restore some bunkers and get some work done that otherwise



President Bush (in the front, of course) takes a jog on the course.

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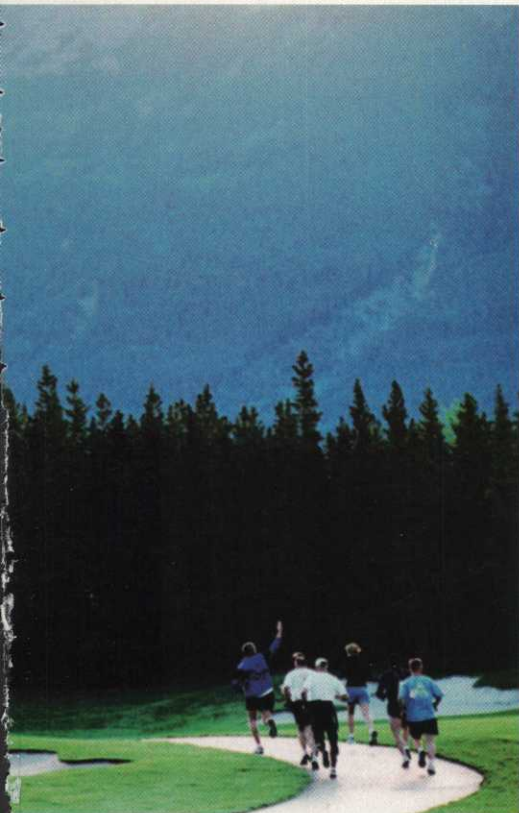
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wouldn't have been possible. I kept my entire staff working."

Not surprisingly, when the Kananaskis GC reopened — after nary a divot was taken for almost two weeks in prime growing season — it was a thing to behold. (Prime Minister Chretien did manage to get in four holes with head professional Bob Paley).

"'Absolute perfection' is the best way to describe it," Robinson says.

**When was the last time the world's leaders gathered at your course for a summit? They did last summer at Kananaskis GC in Canada.**

Kananaskis boasts two pristine Robert Trent Jones Sr. courses and is considered to be one of the world's finest 36-hole facilities.

*Penner is a free-lance writer from Calgary, Alberta.*

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