

Stanley Thompson

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A newsletter for members and friends of The Stanley Thompson Society
Number 25 / SPRING, 2010

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Society Technical Guides Thompson Golf Classic - Early Bird entries
A room for Stanley DRS Florida swing
Sons and daughters Guelph Turfgrass Institute seminar

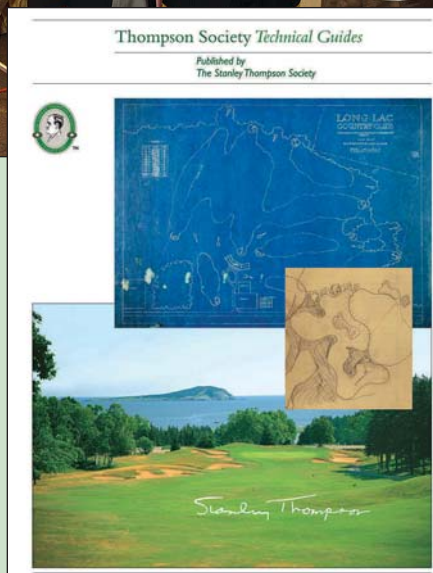
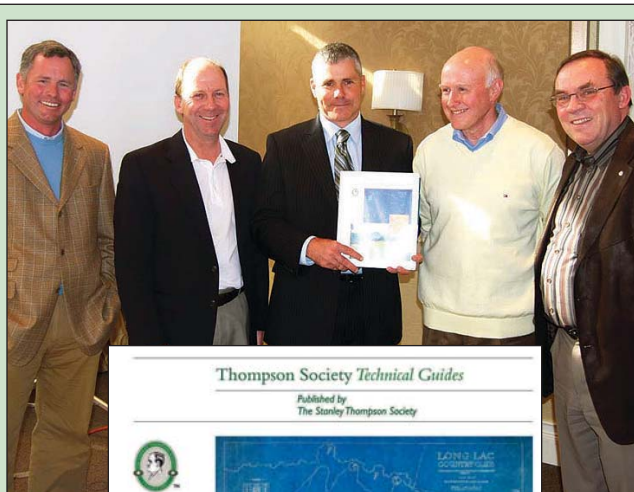
Thornhill celebrates architectural past

Thornhill G&CC held a reception Saturday, March 27 based on the theme - 'the more things change, the more they stay the same.'

The well-attended event featured a review of the club's architectural past, over more than 85 years. Designed in 1922 by Stanley Thompson, the course has a remarkable record of consistency through its architects, all disciples of Thompson - from Robbie Robinson, Howard Watson and Bob Moote to its current architect-of-record, Doug Carrick.

Former Thornhill Presidents, and current STS Directors, David Clark and Howard Back led the presentation, with Carrick and his associate Cam Tyers demonstrating, through images, the various changes.

John Parkinson, also a former club President and a teenage chauffeur for Thompson, recalled anecdotes about his famous employer.



(above, left to right) Keith Bartlett, former Thornhill superintendent who now holds the same position at St. George's GC; Doug Carrick; Thornhill superintendent Greg McFarlane; David Clark, former club President and STS Director; Howard Back, also a former President and longtime STS Director. (inset) Cover, Society Technical Guides.

Register for The Thompson Golf Classic
Thornhill G&CC, Monday, August 30

See page 4



Members and guests chat about the club's success.

Society Guides released March 27

The Thompson Society presented the first run copy of its newly published Technical Guides to Greg McFarlane, Thornhill superintendent.

More than eight years in development, the 80 page document covers a range of subjects aimed to help those who are the decision-makers for course restoration activities.

The document will be released to the Society's Member Clubs and Corporate members. Copies may be purchased through the STS website: www.stanleythompson.ca

Thornhill will name a room after Stanley

Plans are underway to officially name the main floor lounge of the club in Stanley Thompson's name.

This is the same room where the reception for the Society's 2002 tournament was held.

Thornhill is one a number of clubs which have honoured Thompson either as an on-course plaque or by naming a room after him.

Thornhill General Manager Matt Butko said: "We are privileged to have a Thompson course and remain as a testament to the work of this legend of Canadian architecture."

Sons and daughters: a new member feature recognizing personal achievement



Cam Smithers: Son of Society Director Larry Smithers. Cam is 31 and attached to the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry based in Edmonton. He is married to Vanessa. They are expecting their first child in July.

On tour in Afghanistan, Cam was an 'outside the wire' medic. At the Olympics, he served in special security forces.

Notable Achievement: Awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for demonstrating an outstanding level of service. (above) Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean presents the medal (inset).



Andrew Clark: Son of Society Director, David Clark. Andrew is 35, married to Amanda. They have a son and a daughter.

He has a BA from Mount Allison, and a MLitt from the University of St. Andrews.

His company, High Road Golf Expeditions, specializes in high-end golf trips to the UK.

Currently he is the Managing Partner of Merit Golf Vacations.

Notable achievement: 2010 President of Thornhill G&CC following his father as President (1999) and his grandfather also as President (1971).

(right) Beau's great grandfather Matt Thompson (left), a brother of Stanley, and his grandfather Bill (far right) during construction of Stanley's Sault Ste. Marie course, 1955. Matt and Bill were professional champion golfers in Western Canada.



Beau Thompson: Son of member Matt Thompson, who is the Society's Ambassador for Western Canada.

Notable Achievement: Beau is the 2010 Canadian Biathlon Junior Men's Champion. At the recent competitions in Canmore he was first in the 10 km Sprint, first in the 15 km Individual and second in the 12.5 km Pursuit; and his team was third in the three-person Mixed Relay.

Winning the 10 km Sprint, March 3, he wore number 21 which happened to be his 21st birthday.



Sons and daughters recognizes members' children who have achieved, excelled or contributed in a significant way to their community. If your son or daughter, or grandchild, has an accomplishment such as a special scholarship, award or educational achievement, please let us know. Birthdays, birth of grandchildren, purchase of a new house, or excellence in whiffles do not count.

Send us a little background, the notable achievement and a good resolution jpeg. Material may be sent to Bev Peck (see page 1).

PHOTOS: CAM, COURTESY LARRY SMITHERS; ANDREW, COURTESY THORNHILL G&CC; BEAU, JEFF STOKOE; MATT THOMPSON, COURTESY WILLIAM NEWTON

CGHF / STS seminars: March 28 seminar - The 'restoration' of The Toronto Club

Was the work a restoration or a renovation? This was the question frequently asked from an audience of about 30 persons at the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame.

Michael Kalman, COO of TDI, the company who did the construction work, showed images of changes explaining various degrees of construction.

Originally designed by English architect Harry Colt, the updated plans were developed by Martin Hawtree, also an English architect who is familiar with Colt's style. The work affected all holes.

Jim Fraser, Toronto Club member, explained the project process noting that key club personnel travelled to England to examine Colt's work.

Changes included a somewhat longer course, safer in obvious locations, with steep slopes terraced for easier walking. One year in the making, it is visually dramatic and came in under budget.



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(left, left to right) Panelist Jeff Mingay, speaker Michael Kalman and panelists Jim Fraser and John Smith.

Donald Ross Society outing: Thompson Society Highland Ambassador joins the Florida trip



The January Ross Florida swing, arranged by Ross Society Outings Chairman, Derek Dobbs, was a six-day affair, playing six Ross courses with a visit to the World Golf Hall of Fame.

Bob Weaver, Thompson Society Ambassador for Highland Country Club in London, Ontario was the STS emissary for the outing.

DRS President Gerry Stratford sent this note during the trip: "I am overwhelmed with trying to keep up with the long drives, straight putts and tolerance for fun demonstrated by Bob Weaver."

The Thompson and Ross Societies have similar goals in terms of course preservation and are currently discussing forming an alliance to further their common objectives.

(above) The full group at Sawgrass Country Club, Derek Dobbs home course; 1-Bob Weaver, 2-Derek Dobbs, 3-Gerry Stratford, President DRS. (right) Derek Dobbs and Bob Weaver at number one tee, Hyde Park.

Of note:

"While it is true that in *The Architects of Golf*, Cornish & Whitten suggest that Hyde Park was revised by Stanley Thompson, the provenance is not clearly established, and management there still insists that the original design was by Donald Ross.

"Thompson involvement seems possible, as the large and high greenside bunkers with flashed-up faces are more Thompson-like than Ross. Another possibility is that Thompson's construction company did the build from Ross drawings."



May 16 seminar

Lynn Campbell moderator

The final seminar is Sunday, May 16. This all day affair will address questions facing future golf course architecture and golf as a business. The lineup includes notable speakers and panelists.

It will be held at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute with a tour of the turfgrass plots at the end of the day.

To register for May 16, or for further information, please contact: Carolyn Ferguson at 905 849-9700 ext. 265; or cferguson@rcga.org



Lynn Campbell, Senior Development Manager, Library and the College of Arts, University of Guelph, will take on the role of moderator at the May 16 seminar.

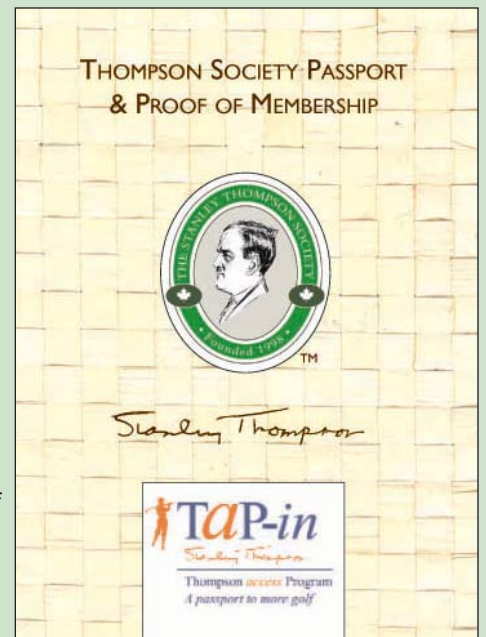
An accomplished speaker, she will guide six speakers and four panels through discussions about the future of architecture, new environmental regulations and market trends in the industry.

The all day session will be held at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

Your membership renewal invoice has been sent to you. On confirmation of your renewal, the Society will issue its new membership card, which is in a passport format.

As part of the TaP program (Thompson access Program - member benefits), members will have access to a number of Stanley Thompson clubs.

Procedures and a list of participating clubs will be sent with your passport.





August 30



Thornhill, 2010 - Early bird call for entries Thompson Golf Classic - Monday, August 30



This year's Classic will be held at one of the best courses in the Toronto area. A 1922 Thompson treasure, Thornhill is where the legendary Byron Nelson won the 1945 Canadian Open, finishing off that year with 18 PGA victories including 11 consecutive.

The tournament fee remains at \$225. It includes a gift, lunch, golf, cart, two drink tickets, reception, dinner, taxes and gratuities.

Note: Thornhill members will have a discounted fee of \$160.

If your paid entry is received by May 31, your name will be entered in a draw for a foursome with carts and lunch at an Ontario Thompson course. You may enter through our website by completing the registration form and mailing your cheque with the form to Bev Peck.

The tournament is regarded by members as one of the best. It is a day of friendship, competition, a silent auction and a first-rate dinner.



Again this year, there will be a team competition for the *Thompson Interclub Challenge Trophy*. Last year, the inaugural winning team was Thornhill.

Captain Howard Back states: "Thornhill will enter this year, and likely more than one team. I challenge other Thompson clubs to enter and try to take this trophy away from us. Good luck."

If you wish to enter a team, there is no additional cost. In fact, your individual foursome per person entry fee will be reduced to \$195. Indicate your team entry on your entry form.

Note: Members of an Early Bird team entry will qualify for the draw if the entry cheque is received by May 31.

THE PRESIDENT, THORNHILL GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB,
110 Union Trust Building,

January Fourteenth, 1922.

TORONTO, ONT.

DEAR SIR:

Reporting on the Langstaff property, Thornhill, as to its adaptability to Golf purposes, would say regarding the land, that it lends itself admirably to the construction of a first-class gentlemen's eighteen-hole and a ladies' nine-hole course.

Portions of the acreage has turf in such condition as to require very little expenditure to bring it up to the best requirements. In a few days we will furnish you with plans, which provide for the completion of fourteen fairways for play on the 24th of May next.

As to the buildings: The Langstaff homestead, with an expenditure of seven thousand dollars, could be converted into a commodious club house, sufficient for club purposes for many years. The new house, built last year, is of such architecture as to render it immediately available as a club house for ladies. The chauffeur's house and garage could be converted into a locker room and professional's shop. There are also a good farm house and barns in the centre of the property, which are suitable for living quarters for the help.

We will have our specifications ready in a few days, so that the contract can be entered into without delay.

Faithfully yours,

STANLEY THOMPSON & CO., LIMITED,

STANLEY THOMPSON,

President.

Thompson's 1922 inspection report regarding the Thornhill property, demonstrating the level of analysis that he was capable of providing.
FROM THORNHILL ARCHIVES