

Stanley Thompson

DORMIE



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A newsletter for members and friends of The Stanley Thompson Society
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Guelph research report released

A detailed draft of the report was released to the Committee in June for review. This thoroughly professional examination of all of Thompson's Canadian courses is backed by various levels of authentication.

Once it is checked, and signed off by the Board, a summary will be released on our website.

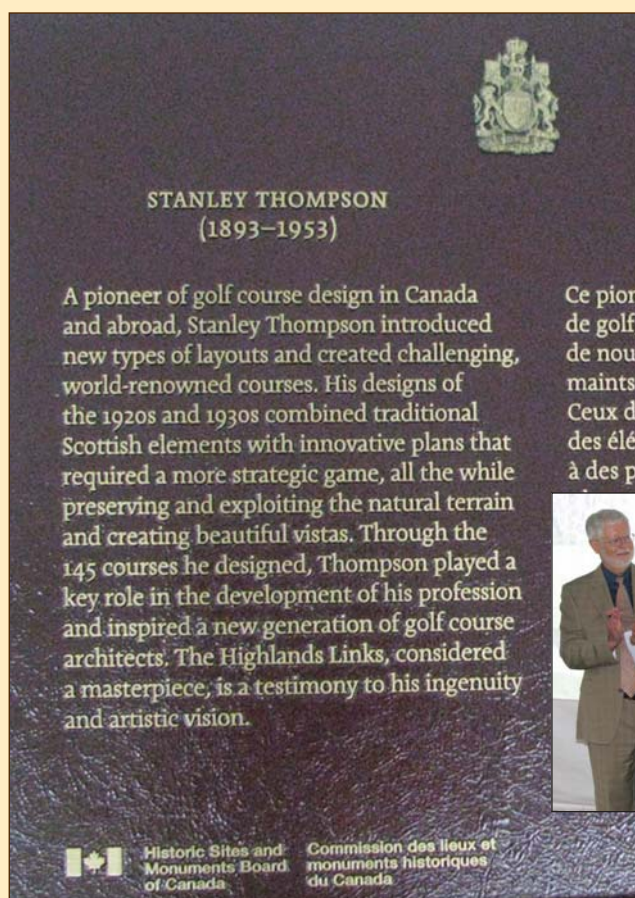


Lead researcher Kirsten Brown points to her slide presentation. Beside her is Dr. Cecelia Paine. Behind them (left to right) are David Moote, Larry Smithers and David Clark, Chair of the Research Committee.

Plaque unveiled

During the unveiling ceremony, architect Ian Andrew said this: "... how all Canadian communities, large and small, feature work done by Stanley Thompson and how his golf courses have touched all Canadians and not just in one region, but from coast to coast.

"... Highlands Links was the ideal spot to honour him since it's the most important and most accessible of all his great layouts. I think he would have been humbled ... but particularly proud that it occurred at Highlands Links".



A bilingual bronze plaque honouring Stanley Thompson as a 'person of national historical significance' was unveiled at Highlands Links, June 29.



(left to right) Dr. David Sutherland, Nova Scotia representative for Historic Sites and Monuments Board for Canada; Senator Mike MacDonald; Helene Robichaud, Superintendent, Cape Breton Highlands National Park; Ken Donovan, Historian, Parks Canada.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PARKS CANADA



The Thompson Golf Classic is less than five weeks away.
Don't miss this annual day of golf, competition, friendship and an outstanding dinner.



April 17: The Donovans, all five of them, came to town, stayed three days, then finally left

It all began with the last seminar in the series (*About Golf*), organized by the Society and the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame. That was held on April 17 and both Stewart and Ken Donovan were participants.



(far left) Stewart Donovan and Hall of Fame Director, Karen Hewson.

(left) Ken Donovan explains the finer points of architecture to architect Ted Baker; while others review Jim Fraser's notes about the restoration of Toronto Golf Club.

Day 1



Day 2

On Day 2 it was a visit to the University of Guelph archives where the Thompson Society Collection is kept; followed by a lunch at the Cutten Club. That evening, at St. George's G&CC, the Society hosted an awareness reception for the Highlands Links Thompson monument fund.



(above) The Donovans and Greg McMullin (second from right) received monogrammed Stanley umbrellas from Bob Moote (centre).

For more information go to:
 (Monument fund) www.friendsofstanleythompson.org
 (Canadian Golf Hall of Fame) www.rcga.org

Day 3



Day 3 was golf at Cutten followed by a farewell evening barbecue. Next year the Donovans, apparently, will bring two more brothers and a sister. They were told that enough was enough.



The trip had a purpose

Apart from the three days of camaraderie, the trip west had some solid objectives.

The first was to participate in the CGHF/STS seminar series on classic golf courses, meet representatives of the CGHF and visit the Hall of Fame.

The second was to view the archives and interact with University of Guelph representatives such as Lynn Campbell, Kathryn Harvey (archivist), Dr. Cecelia Paine (Heritage landscape architect) and Kirsten Brown (the graduate student undertaking research on Thompson courses).

And the third was to meet STS Directors and members and develop working relationships that will advance the Society and its goals across the country.

At the end of the visit, everyone agreed that these goals had been successfully achieved.

Note: for brevity, the Donovan boys are referred to by first names only.

(Day 2, top row) David Moote, John, Paul, John Smith, Stewart, David Clark, Cecelia Paine, Ken, Glen; at lunch, Ken (third from left) explains new policies in place by Parks Canada; (second row) Jo Newton at registration desk chats to Greg McMullin and his wife Marie-Claire; STS and Research Committee member Chris Parker with Ken and David Clark (Research Chair); Ted Baker and Don Brown. (next row) fiddler Ann Lederman played Cape Breton tunes; Director Cheryl Trist (left) and Linda Cruickshank, wife of STS member Michael; Directors Jay Peters (left) and Howard Back with Larry's wife Sheila Johns; Larry Smithers with Bob Moote; Isobel and

Carol Moote are in the background.

(Day 3) The Donovans played a round with the O'Bright brothers. Here two of them Glen, (left) and Ken (right) flank STS Director Mark (left) and Mike; and the evening dinner group with host Jo Newton - no need to name the brothers. You now know them.



September 17

Galt 09

The annual raffle will be replaced this year by a silent auction offering numerous outstanding prizes. This new feature is one of a number of changes to the format.

But the friendship encountered at the Society's annual *Thompson Classic* will still be the same, as will the dinner quality. If you have not registered, or know of

someone who would like to, please contact either one of us:

bevpeck@on.aibn.com or larry@lgc-smithers.com

Lambton G&CC: This venerable old course, founded in 1902, is one of the finest and first urban golf courses in Canada. George S. Lyon was involved from the outset; and both Donald Ross and Stanley Thompson were involved in its architecture - Thompson making several revisions between 1927 and 1947.

August 1, the club will begin a total renovation of the course, undertaken by Rees Jones. Recently, we made a photo inventory of what we believe to be Thompson features. Here are three images.

For more information go to Lambton Golf and Country Club.



(from top) Mounding is reflective of 1920s chocolate drops; intricate bunker shape appears Thompson-like; as does repeated bunker bays and mounds.

(above) Plaque heralds the many championship events held at Lambton including the 1907 Canadian Open followed by three more, the last being 1941, won by Sam Sneed.

How many Stanleys have you played?



PHOTO: MIKE O'BRIGHT

New Director Mark O'Bright and his brother Mike continue their quest to play as many Stanley courses as possible.

This outing, at Dundas Valley, was their twenty-fourth conquest. In April, they played Cutten for the first time (see picture, page 2).

Here Mark poses beside *The Stanley Thompson Boardwalk* marker with STS and Dundas Valley members **Wayne Winterfield** (left) and 'here he is again' Smithers.

FLASHES & Updates

St. George's remembers Thompson with a room A long-forgotten artifact comes home

The official opening of the new Stanley Thompson Room was April 11. On July 27, 24 Society members and guests played the course and dined in the room.



(top) Ceremonial ribbon cutting at the new Thompson Room (left to right) Society President David Mootie; St. George's General Manager Joe Murphy and former Thompson associate architect, Bob Mootie. (above) July 27 participants enjoy dinner in the new room.

During a recent trip from his Quebec home to Ontario, John Watson, son of Howard Watson, dropped by the Cutten Club to revisit old memories from a time when he had lived there.

He dropped off original drawings of Highlands Links and of the Seigniory Club. Both sets are now in the archives.

He also brought a cane which he believed was given to Stanley during a 1920s trip to

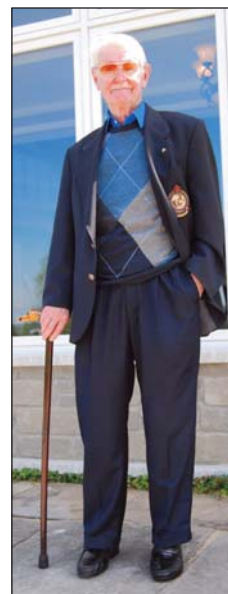


(above) In 1929, Howard Watson (left) joined Thompson's firm the same day as Robbie Robinson; left the firm in 1932, re-joining it after WWII; in 1949, began his own practice, joined by son John in 1953. In his last years, Stanley turned over projects to Howard.

Jasper. The handle is a carved and hand-painted head of a duck, thought to be the work of a native Albertan artist.

Both John and his father Howard were Presidents of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, as was Stanley.

Interestingly, Doug Carrick, one more Thompson disciple (through Robbie Robinson), was elected ASGCA President this year.



Architect John Watson, who is a former Cape Canaveral test pilot, displays the walking stick outside the Cutten clubhouse; the very distinctive folk-art style of the cane handle; and Stanley with one more cane at Dormie House.



May 30: The Canadian Golf Hall of Fame replicated, for the most part, the symposium held September 16, 2008 at Highlands Links to honour Stanley Thompson. This photograph is of the September 16 event with participants at an end-of-day panel. The well-attended May 30 event at the Golf Hall of Fame - organized by Karen Hewson, Rob Thompson and Ian Andrew - covered much of the same ground.

September 16, 2008 group (left to right) Bill Newton, Greg McMullin, Rob Thompson, Ian Andrew, Jeff Mingay, Lorne Rubenstein, Stewart Donovan, Ken Donovan.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF GRAHAM HUDSON

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID MOOTE

WATSON/THOMPSON AND THOMPSON WITH DOG, STANLEY THOMPSON SOCIETY COLLECTION