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# GLAGA Golf News

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Volume 2 Issue 2

August 1998

## All City Medal Play - The Monsoon of 98

What is the story of this year's All City Medal Play Tournament. Without the professional assistance of the Forest Akers staff including Ken Horvath and Steve Ruthenberg, the field of 294 Lansing area golfers probably would not have been able to finish the 54 hole tournament before sun fell on Sunday.

It is perhaps fitting then that Bob Fossum, the son of retired MSU Golf Coach, Bruce Fossum, slogged through the rain, mud, thunder and lightening with a one under par total of 215 to take the Championship Trophy by two shots over his closest competitor Corey Peckham. Low senior honors went to Carl Bond who has shown in past tournaments an ability to rise to the occasion on tough

As with the First Flight, the Third Flight winner had to be determined in a sudden death playoff. After shooting 251 for the tournament, Jesse Villegas closed out Mike Parisian with a birdie on the first extra hole to claim his prize. Thomas Moen, Daren Palacios, and Paul Sternburgh tied for third.

But the story this year was the tournament that almost wasn't. After three weeks of clear, warm weekends, the flood gates opened up in the second weekend in August. When it wasn't raining, the humidity shrouded the play in a sauna from which there was no snow bank to escape.

Having had two years of shotgun starts, threatened and actual rain, there seemed to be a general consensus among the players that something has to be done to try to avoid a threepeat in 99. While no one can control the weather - be it a La Nina or El Nino flow from the mid Pacific - we can do something about the size of the field and the location

*"There really was no truth to the rumor that the tournament organizers were seen building an Ark for Sunday play at the Akers."*

golf courses in adverse conditions. Fossum and Peckham were followed by Bob Matthiesen and Alberto Quevedo who tied for third. Nathan Clark, who won the GLAGA Summer Medal Play at Brookshire in July, finished fifth with a four over par score of 220.

First flight champion Gary Hunt had to go extra holes before he could claim his trophy. John Quisling and Nick Diedrich shared second place after completing 54 holes with a 234 total. Fourth place honors went to Scott King and Dave Koenigsknect after they finished the tournament with score of 235.

Second and third flights were played on Forest Akers East with players going off at 11 am in fivesomes on all but the par three holes. Robert Kempf won the Second Flight with a three day score of 236 followed by Keith Voegl in second. Kevin Murphy, Dan Parsons, and Royce Wolverton tied for third with a total of 241 shots.

of the course for next year and beyond.

The Board will begin to consider options for next year's tournament at its September meeting. Several suggestions have been put forward as alternative formats for the All City. Some local golfers have suggested that we return to the format of old where the field is cut to the top 36 after thirty six holes and an All City Champion is crowned from this group. Others have argued strenuously that every year there are four All City Tournaments which makes the tournament popular and accessible to golfers of all skill levels.

It seems clear that changes in the format will probably come. As everyone who played this year discovered, with 294 players on two courses, there isn't much light in August for the entire field to complete 18 holes if play is disrupted for any reason for more than an hour.

In all likelihood, the field will be limited in size next year with late or surplus entries placed on a waiting list. The

GAM Mid-Am tournament has had to limit its tournament to the first 225 members who sign up. The Board will probably discuss returning the tournament to July, if for no other reason, than to afford the field more hours of light in case thunderstorms do erupt. The theory that in Lansing it rains less in August than in July hasn't born out over the last few years. Also the Board will probably discuss choosing a venue where there are 27 holes to use. In this way, if inclement conditions threaten play or if there is a desire to keep the field as open as possible to the obvious demand for this tournament, the tournament could be played on three separate 18 hole tracks on the last day. At any rate, this year's All City Medal Play is likely to continue to stimulate animated discussions among the golfing public on how the tournament can be improved.



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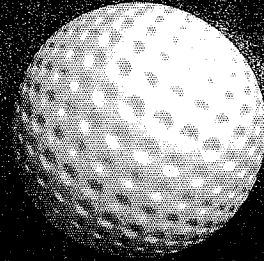
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## From the President

We are winding down our summer golf season. We have not only crowned Lansing's Match Play Champion, we also have an All City Medal Play champion for 1998. The public challenge cup team has all but been decided. Only the Captain's picks will remain for this year's captain, Dick Wakulsky to announce.

In celebrating the accomplishment of this year's outstanding golfers, I want you to take a moment to consider how all of this was possible thanks to the dedication of volunteers like Paul Nieratko, Larry Yachcik, Ward Clark, Paul Oi, Larry Meirndorf, Gray Tuttle, Eli Blazeff and Jim Riley.

But we also need to look back and remember with admiration and appreciation the people who have brought the Greater Lansing Amateur Golf Association to where it is today - a vital, fiscally solvent community resource.

If I were to start a list, I would inevitably leave someone out and unnecessarily slight their contribution. But there are two people - Jim Donahue and Harold Singleton - who I want to single out for special recognition, since without their years of selfless dedication to the promotion of amateur golf for junior and adult golfers much of what we have to be appreciative of today would not be here. Earlier this year, GLAGA made a stab at paying tribute to these two men for their vision and their dedication. We dedicated the All City Match Play Tournament Trophy in their name. Now when we crown an All City Match Play Champion we will also remember two men who along with former board member Bob Amaugher revived and kept the tournament alive.

And there is much to remember about these two men and their energetic commitment to amateur golf in the Greater Lansing area. James (Jim) Robert Donahue was born on September 17, 1942. In the fifty-six years he has traveled this earth, he and his wife Jan have raised four children, two of whom are currently employed professionally in the world of golf. An organizer by nature and an enthusiast for sport in its many forms, Jim not only started the Greater Lansing Amateur Golf Association in 1977, he also organized the Greater Saginaw Amateur Hockey Association in 1971. He makes his living at Oldsmobile but he has made a home in the hearts of hundreds of local golfers for whom the passion to play golf oftentimes transcends the necessity to earn one's daily bread.

In recent years, Jim has partnered with Harold Singleton to bring the All City Medal Play Tournament to a special place of prominence in the community. Each year more than 250 local golfers tee it up for three days and test their games against golfers of comparable skill levels. It doesn't matter if your handicap is a Plus 1 or 36, the All City

## Golf News

Medal Play Tournament has a place for you. All you need is the desire and the willingness to tee it up. For more than five years, Harold made sure that the tournament ran as smoothly as it could by serving as the tournament director in addition to his duties with GLAGA as President, Vice-President or Treasurer. Harold gave up his chance to play in the last five All City Medal Play Tournaments so that he could oversee the running of the tournaments without distraction. The devotion of countless hours to GLAGA and the All City Medal Play Tournament is not insignificant considering Harold's position as Manager of Oldsmobile's Lansing Site Employment Services and Payroll division.

The next time you play in a GLAGA tournament, receive a GLAGA newsletter, enter your son or daughter in a junior tour golf event, aspire to play in the Public Players vs. Private Players Challenge Cup, read about a CAWGA tournament in the local newspaper, or enter the All City Match Play, Medal Play or Seniors Tournaments, you may want to consider that all of these opportunities are with us today and sustained by the current and hopefully future boards of GLAGA because Jim Donahue and Harold Singleton held to their faith in amateurs helping and supporting other amateur golfers. Mere thank you is hardly sufficient. I can only hope their efforts were as deeply rewarding to them as they have been for the rest of us.

## Stableford Comes to Lansing

The Groesbeck Fall Best Ball was cancelled this year since only 10 teams had signed up with less than three weeks to play. Don Ballard felt that the short notice for the tournament had led to a lack of response. However, the Spring and Fall Best Ball tournaments will be back in force next year at Groesbeck.

In the meantime, GLAGA has decided to hold a modified Stableford Tournament at Wheatfield Valley in Williamston and Groesbeck on September 26 and 27. Entry fees are \$60 for this 36 hole tournament which will be flighted after the first day. The field will be limited to 50 GLAGA members. The first tee time for Saturday at Wheatfield Valley will be 10:30. Sunday's play will start at 9 am at Groesbeck.

Conducted the same weekend as the Public - Private Challenge Cup, the tournament format offers local golfers a chance to compete using a different scoring system. In the GLAGA Stableford, pars will be worth one point, birdies two points, and eagles six points. Bogeys produce zero points; double bogies will result in the loss of one point, and the dreaded other will cost three points. For more information about the tournament, contact Stu White at 485-2734.

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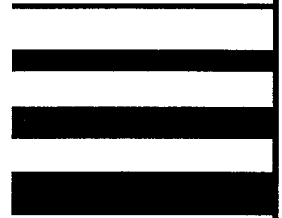
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## Joe Platte Captures All-City Match Play

**J**oe Platte defeated Gray Tuttle on the first extra hole of the final match to win the 1998 All City Match Play. Platte will have his name engraved on the new James R Donahue/Harold L. Singleton Trophy after having reached the final match in 1997 only to be disappointed by Jac Hyuck-Kwon.

Platte and Tuttle each played some excellent golf in the match which never saw either player take more than a 2-up advantage for its duration.

The match hinged on the Par 5 17<sup>th</sup> hole where Tuttle held a 1-up advantage. Each player's shots into the green were excellent, Tuttle's stopping 6 feet left of the flag, Platte's hitting just a few feet in front of the pin, narrowly missing on the first hop and then releasing to about 15 feet past leaving a tricky downhill slider. Platte's birdie attempt was dead on line the entire way but stopped two turns short of the cup opening the door for Tuttle to finish the match.

But it was not meant to be. Tuttle's putt kissed the high lip and spun out a foot below for the halve - sending the match to the par 3 18<sup>th</sup>.

With the pin cut at the back middle on the 170 yard 18<sup>th</sup>, Tuttle hit what appeared to be the perfect six iron. But the gusting winds, which plagued the entire weekend, knocked the shot down and left leaving an uphill 25-foot, left-to-right putt. Platte, also firing at the pin under duress or die pressure was more fortunate with the elements, his shot hitting and sticking 8 feet above and left of the pin. Tuttle's 25 footer settled to "kneeknocker" range 3 feet below the hole, but he would not have to face the reality of that test as Platte's birdie attempt found the hear of the hole sending the dual to the par-5 1<sup>st</sup> hole for a sudden death playoff. Both players hit respectable drives into the stiff north wind but the second shots may have told the tale as Platte found the center of the fairway about 90 yards away and Tuttle pulled his slightly left into a thick lie, just a few feet into the rough, about 110 yards out. Tuttle's approach left another 25 footer to negotiate while Platte's wedge smothered the flag leaving him 4 feet for the birdie to win his first All-City Championship. After Tuttle's putt rolled 3 feet past. Platte "calmly (butterflies churning, knees knocking, palms sweating, heart racing) stroked home the winner earning the crown.

In the semi-final matches, Platte defeated two-time past champion Earl Anderson after being three down after the first four holes. Tuttle defeated John Quisling in the other semi by winning holes 12 and 13 with back to back birdies

and holding off the Forest Akers golf shop employee down the stretch.

### Third Round Results

Joe Platte d. Steve Turner / Tony Keim d. Dick Pennington / Earl Anderson d. P.J. McCabe / Jeff Irish d. Ryan Osborn / Dave Greely d. Carl Burman / John Quisling d. Daryl Chappell / Jamie van Ravensway d. Alberto Quevedo / Gray Tuttle d. Gary Domagalski

## Spring Medal Play

**G**LAGA kicked off its 1998 tournament schedule last May with a two day Medal Play Tournament at The Emerald in St. Johns. Saturday saw two players - Bob Matthesen and Sam Walker - break 70 on the course which had been set up for a local Oldsmobile Scramble qualifier set for the same day. With evening came an area-wide storm that knocked out power in Clinton and Ingham counties. Undaunted by the fact that they had no electricity, the course opened Sunday morning to the fifty plus GLAGA members who were equally undaunted by the threat of electricity in the air.

Day two proved to be a victory for the course against golfer. Nathan Ward was second day medallist with a 74. Bob Matthesen and Sam Walker finished one, two as they had started play on Sunday. Nathan Clark, the GLAGA Summer Medal Play champion, was one three shots back in sole third place.

First Flight honors went to Carl Bond who posted a 149, followed by Eric Morfe at 154 and Clark Shaw and Dick Seehase at 156. Randy Dewey took home the trophy in the Second Flight with a 166 total while Sean Coe finished two strokes back at 168 and Martin Mitchell took third three shots off the pace at 168.

As always Ed Kelbel and the entire Emerald staff made GLAGA feel welcome and at-home on their course and in their facilities even with no running water or electricity on Sunday. The superintendent and his staff gave the GLAGA competitors everything they could have asked for in a test of golf under extreme conditions. We look forward to a return visit next year.

## Meet the Board

**S**ince the last newsletter was published in the spring, GLAGA has added two new Board members - Ward Clark and Gray Tuttle. We have asked each one these gentlemen to describe briefly themselves and their goals for GLAGA.

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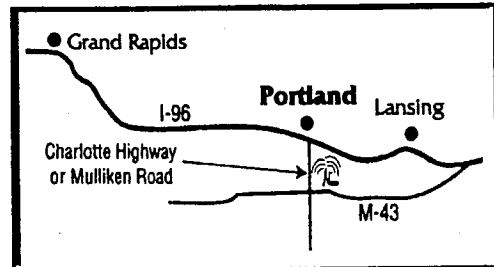
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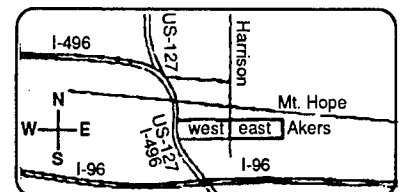
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Ward Clark was introduced to golf when television and Arnold Palmer made it a sport for everyone. He was born and raised in the Mason area where he played high school team golf. He returned there after time in the Air Force and college. Ward has worked for the Michigan Department of Community Health for the past twenty five years and been a member of GLAGA for the past ten.

My purpose in joining the GLAGA board is to help continue the tradition of affordable, quality amateur tournaments in the Lansing area. My own experience is that the highest level of golfing enjoyment comes with the total involvement required when playing in a competitive yet friendly environment. Through my GLAGA board involvement, I hope to encourage this attitude in as many Lansing area amateur golfers as possible.

#### Gray Tuttle

I am indeed honored to serve on the GLAGA Board of Directors. Golf has enriched my life for nearly 40 years, and I've enjoyed competition for more than 30. Competition has kept the game intriguing and for a few fleeting moments rewarding.

I'm very excited to be involved with organized golf in the Lansing area. I was impressed as a recent transplant from North Carolina by GLAGA, its tournaments and contributions. Junior golf has been of particular interest to me, and I am encouraged by GLAGA's renewed interest in Junior golf. I look forward to working in liaison with Ed Brown to strengthen Lansing's junior golf program and introduce interested youth in this honorable and humbling sport.

My view from the inside of GLAGA for the past few months has revealed a dedicated group of individuals committed to advancing the game in our area and offering a series of competitions for all to enjoy. I am impressed with what I see, and I look forward to contributing to our organization.

## Final Challenge Cup Standings for 1998

Earlier this year, the GLAGA Board voted to assume responsibility for selecting a Public Players Team to challenge a team of golfers from the Country Clubs of Lansing and Walnut Hills. This Challenge Cup was moved from the spring to the fall. A point system was established to select all but two of the Public Players Team members. Points for the team could only be earned in GLAGA events such as the Spring and Summer Medal Play Tournaments as well as the All City Match and Medal Play Tournaments. Points earned in these tournaments last year were carried over into this year. Points earned in this year's tournament are doubled. The Captain of this year's Public Players Team is Dick Wakulsky who has two Captain's picks to round out the team of 12.

As of the end of the All City Medal Play Tournament, the final points for the top 30 Public Players are as follows:

1. Bob Matthiesen	440	16. Dave Koenigskecht	75
2. Nathan Clark	335	16. Kip Klewicki	75
3. Gray Tuttle	195	16. Jeff Irish	75
4. Alberto Quevedo	170	16. John Quisling	75
4. Jerry Blake	170	16. Jerry Gunthorpe	75
6. Sam Walker	165	16. Doug Kahl	75
7. Bob Fossum	150	16. Jeff Irish	75
7. Joe Platte	150	24. Bob Davis	70
9. Jamie Van Ravensway	135	25. Charles Pentilla	65
9. Eric Morfe	135	26. Dan Cook	55
11. Earl Anderson	120	27. Eli Blazeff	45
12. Corey Peckham	90	27. Kevin Miller	45
13. Dave Greeley	85	27. Dick Pennington	45
13. Carl Bond	85	30. Matt Pumford	40
15. Larry Meirndorf	80	30. Joe Wojda	40
16. Stu White	75	30. Marty Trierweiler	40



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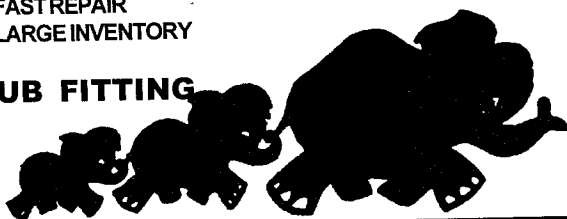
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## Junior Golf Update

**G**LAGA remains committed to fostering and promoting junior golf in Lansing. We want to introduce interested youth to the game and provide opportunities to experienced players who may lack resources to excel and develop into accomplished competitors.

We have established an active dialogue with individuals already involved in junior golf and scholastic programs, and we welcome involvement and contributions from GLAGA members.

There are no formal undertakings in the Lansing area by the USGA's First Tee Program or the Tiger Woods Foundation. GLAGA is inquiring about future involvements by these organizations. In the meantime, GLAGA has identified the following areas of need that would assist our youth in experiencing and enjoying this honorable game:

- Equipment: clubs, bags, balls (both junior and adult sets -- male and female).
- Access to practice facilities.
- Instructional programs on fundamentals, etiquette, safety and rules.
- Golfing memberships to municipal courses.
- Access to competitions.

GLAGA will take an active approach to coordinate and attain these goals. It will contact area courses, professional retailers and manufacturers to provide opportunities to our youth who are keen to learn the game but lack the resources. Any assistance or contributions of time and experience from our members is welcome. Please feel free to contact any Board member for details and additional information.

## Golf Vacation Bargains

**T**he vacation bargain of the summer has to be a trip anywhere in Canada. With the Canadian dollar trading at 65 cents American, the cost of meals, lodging, green fees, clothes, and gifts for the ones you leave behind at home is rock bottom. My wife and I recently returned from a ten day vacation in Canada. We kicked off our trip with 18 holes at Forest City National Golf Club in London, Ontario. This 18 hole bent grass course was built in 1992. With a slope of 132 and a rating of 73.6 from the championship tees, this course can rival any Northern Michigan for difficulty, design, and quality. This is the only golf course in Ontario that has been rated with four stars by "Golf Digest." It hosted the 1994 and

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1995 Ontario Open. After finishing our round, we dined at the course on steak sandwiches which had been marinated for days in a wine mix that made it taste like no steak sandwich I've had at any golf course in Michigan. The total bill for two players in peak time with carts, range balls, and steak and fries dinner afterwards was about \$70 per person Canadian. By my less than precise calculations, London is about 2 and 1/2 hours from Sarnia which is about an hour and a half from Lansing on I-69. So the route is all freeway from the time you leave Lansing until the Airport exit east of London you take to get to the golf course. Driving time is about an hour to an hour and a half more than the time it takes to get to Gaylord from Lansing. If it is worth an extra hour (if you drive like the Canadians do, an extra thirty minutes) to drive to London instead of Gaylord or Harbor Springs, you can play a championship golf course for about \$37 American.

If you don't want to stay in a motel room after you've played and dined, you can retire the way most travelers in Canada do - at a quaint bed and breakfast or country inn where a good nights rest is followed by a meal and a friendly adieu from your host and hostess. My wife and I selected a part time bed and breakfast for our first stop after leaving Forest City and London for points east. About 10 miles north of 401 outside the town of Guelph you will find Oak Ridge Farms (519-856-2034) run by Robert and Cheryl Stacey. They have been restoring this farmhouse for the past 10 years. It sits on a 140 acre farm that includes a pond where guests can fish, canoe or simply relax and read a book. For two road weary travelers/golfers like my wife and I were when we checked in at 9:30 in the evening, the best feature of the house was its upstairs guest bathroom. This room was larger than many hotel bedrooms I've slept in. It was spotless with a modern shower and a two person Jacuzzi bath which we quickly filled with water, bath salts and our aching selves. Our room contained several antiques and family knickknacks along with a queen size bed. Breakfast consisted of fresh farms eggs scrambled, toast and jam, fresh juice and fruit, cereal if you so desired, blueberry pancakes with home made maple syrup, and an unending pot of coffee or tea. The grand total for this night of pampering and morning gusto - \$60 Canadian/\$42 American for the two of us.

We discovered on our return trip that Oak Ridge Farms is only 10 minutes from Blue Springs Golf Club in Acton. Blue Springs features two courses - a nine hole executive style course, named Trillium and Turtle Lake an 18-hole bent grass course built in 1991. The Turtle Lake Course is quite hilly with very well-bunkered fairways. Hole #8, a 382-yard, par 4, requiring a tee shot of more than 200 yards over water to a tight fairway claimed three of my drives from the back tee until I gave up and dropped on

the other side. From the back tees, the course plays 6821 yards with a slope of 137 and a rating of 72.5. Not only is Blue Springs home to the Canadian PGA, it is also the qualifying course for the Ladies' Professional Tour. My wife and I played nine uninterrupted, unpressured from anyone behind us, holes with a cart at a twilight rate of \$25 per person or \$35 American for the two of us.

Canada has much to offer the avid golfer and bargain conscious vacationer. For the golfer in cyberspace, Canadians have developed a host of web based resources to help you plan your golf vacation regardless of what metropolitan area you chose to visit. You can start with **GolfNet Canada** ([www.golfcanada.com](http://www.golfcanada.com)) and search for courses using a regional map. Featured courses oftentimes have links to the course homepage where you generally can find a layout of the course, a scorecard, reservations policy and price info.

The **Ontario Province Golf Association** has its own web site with an directory of golf courses ([www.oga.org/crsdirectory/courseindex.htm](http://www.oga.org/crsdirectory/courseindex.htm)) listed by area. While there are no hyper links in this directory it gives you a place to start with a list of courses and course ratings.

If you want hypertext links, check out page two of **Thor's Golf Links** (<http://ttsofl.com/thor/golflinks.html>), which lists various Canadian web sites.

If Toronto is your destination, there are several web sites you can check out. **Toronto Golf Travel Service** ([www.torontogolf.com/torontogolf/toronto/index.html](http://www.torontogolf.com/torontogolf/toronto/index.html)) features several courses in the Toronto area for which you presumably can purchase a travel package. One course that seems to stand out in the area is **Royal Woodbine** ([www.royalwoodbine.com/royal](http://www.royalwoodbine.com/royal)) if you want to pay \$110 Canadian to play 6500 yard par 71 course with a slope rating of 139.

If you plan to travel a little further east to Ottawa, you may want to check out **Ottawa Golf Online** ([www.ottawagolf.com/enhancedindex.htm](http://www.ottawagolf.com/enhancedindex.htm)), where you will find links to more than 38 courses including Eagle Creek Golf Course which was designed in the late 1980s by Ken Venturi. In 1996, Eagle Creek received the prestigious Platinum Award presented by Canada's Golf Course Ranking Magazine as one of the top 10 courses in

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Ontario. While I didn't play the course, I intend to the next time I'm in Ottawa. For \$65 Canadian, I think its worth a shot.

If you are shooting for a trip to Montreal then you might visit **Golf Montreal**

([www.golfmontreal.com/general/sitcang.html](http://www.golfmontreal.com/general/sitcang.html)), with a map which lets you search for golf courses by region. One of the highly ranked golf courses in the region is *LE GÉANT OF MONT-TREMBLANT* which is located 80 miles north of Montreal. The green fee, \$100 per person, is somewhat steep by Canadian standards but the layout is visually appealing and the course seems playable. It has a slope of 131 from the championship tees. Because this area north of Montreal is a prime vacation spot in July and August for Canadians, expect to pay a premium for lodging and meals. Still the national park in this area is vacationer friendly and if you plan ahead, you can secure a campsite if you prefer to rough it or a golf package with discounts on green fees.

In addition to these geographically based web sites, you can browse on over to Canada's golf magazine **Scoregolf** ([www.scoregolf.com/](http://www.scoregolf.com/)), for an electronic version including its listing of the top 50 places to play in Canada, ([www.scoregolf.com/SCORE%20Golf/Top50/top50.html](http://www.scoregolf.com/SCORE%20Golf/Top50/top50.html)).

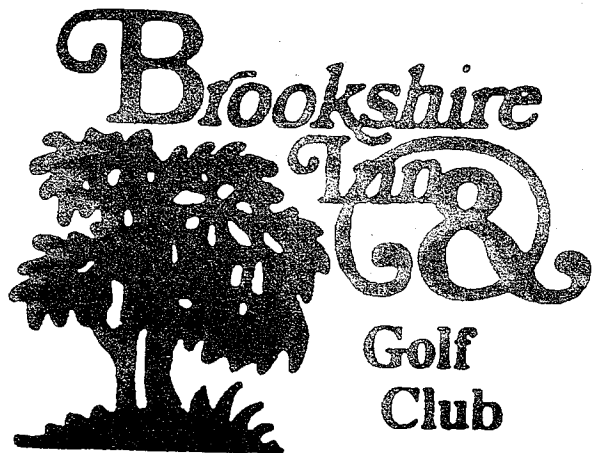
Finally, if you are looking for a place to stay you can search for lodgings at **Bed and Breakfast Online Canada** ([www.bbcanada.com/](http://www.bbcanada.com/)), **Bed and Breakfast Inns of North America** ([www.bestinns.net/canada.html](http://www.bestinns.net/canada.html)), or a host of localized travel sites that can be found using any search engine on the web. Many of these sites have search engines of their own that allow you to narrow the range of options by your personal preference. For example if you are looking for a room that can be coupled with a golf course green fee, a non-smoking facility, a private bath, or a pet-friendly home, you should be able to find a list of inns or bed and breakfasts that will accommodate you. A word of caution - what they publish on the web may not be how they operate - so if it is important to have a smoke free home with your own bath, confirm this before you make your reservation.

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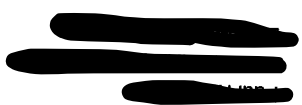
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