

Paradise Canyon Country Club

"Proud to be ranked as one of Canada's 60 best courses
- AND the #1 course in Southern Alberta"



CANYON GOLFER

December 2016



On behalf of the Ownership Group, the Management Team and all the Staff of The Paradise Canyon Country Club, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a safe and memorable Christmas Season filled with love, happiness, good health, cheer and wonderful food celebrated with the blessings of special friends and family.

Mike Fleischhauer Accepts New Challenge

They say that in today's world, the only constant is change. Things do not stay the same, and if they do, then you are probably going backwards.



Successful managers recognize change, embrace it and are constantly re-evaluating how they do things.

Certainly one successful change agent is Mike Fleischhauer, who recently announced that he will be leaving his current position as General Manager of the Paradise Canyon Country Club at the end of December, ending an association with "The Canyon" that goes back almost two decades. Mike has accepted a new challenge as the General Sales Manager of C.E.M. Heavy Duty Equipment. With Head Offices in Taber and a branch in

Nisku, C.E.M. Heavy Duty Equipment is part of the Davis Auto Group and the sole authorized Alberta representative for construction equipment manufactured by Hyundai Heavy Industries.

Originally from Shaughnessy, at an early age Mike turned his love of golf into a career. After several years working as an Assistant Professional at the Cranbrook Golf Club and competing as a player on the West State Professional Tour, Mike came to Paradise Canyon as the Teaching Pro in 1998. Following a change of ownership, he was promoted to the role as Head Golf Professional in 1999. After a one year hiatus to pursue interests as a manager in the local private business sector in 2008, Mike returned to Paradise Canyon as General Manager in 2009 before becoming part of the ownership group with others and Ron Sakamoto in 2012.

A "people person", Mike leads by example. He can be seen doing everything from cleaning carts and painting building exteriors to giving tips on the driving range and interacting with golfers on the terrace. Friendly and outgoing, Mike is characterized by his open door policy, excellent interpersonal skills, commitment, energy and willingness to seek changes that will improve customer experiences. A natural problem solver and highly competitive, Mike believes golf offers many life lessons that build character and integrity. Married to Charity and with four children, away from the office Mike enjoys an outdoor lifestyle centered on hunting, fishing and camping.

The skills and attributes that Mike possesses create a foundation for success as he closes this chapter of his career and assumes the new challenge with C.E.M. We wish him every success in his new capacity and look forward to seeing him return to visit informally and play the course with clients, friends and colleagues.

"Come and Go" for Mike Fleischhauer

Paradise Canyon would like to extend an invitation to all its members and patrons to join us at the clubhouse **between 4:00 and 7:00 PM on Tuesday, Dec. 20** to enjoy some finger food, refreshments and socializing in Mike's honor. In order for us to be properly prepared, if you plan to attend it would be appreciated if you could please RSVP Dave at: events@playinparadise.com.

Pro Shop Christmas



Only three weeks left to take advantage of great prices on remaining inventory at the Pro Shop. Specials include:

- 50% OFF ALL Men's and Ladies' clothing
- 40% OFF ALL remaining Footwear
- 30% OFF ALL Gloves and Headwear
- 30% OFF ALL remaining Golf bags
- UP to 50% OFF ALL remaining Golf Clubs

Titleist Golf Ball Special

Time is running out to get free personalized Titleist balls at great prices. Order before Dec. 9th for delivery before Christmas. Contact the Pro Shop to order at 403-381-4653 or email Jae at: proshop@playinparadise.com

December Pro shop Hours:

Mon - Sat: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sundays: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Sat., Dec. 24th: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Closed: Dec. 25 - Jan. 2 inclusive



ENJOY FREE PERSONALIZATION THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

NOVEMBER 1st - DECEMBER 31st • 1 DOZEN MINIMUM
ORDERS PLACED BY DECEMBER 9th ARE GUARANTEED TO ARRIVE BY DECEMBER 24th

Titleist
"I ball in gold"

Custom title number 98113 & 98112 (\$5.00) cannot be guaranteed for delivery by December 24th.
Custom title number 98114 subject to availability through 12/24/16. ©2016 AccuTee Canada

Birdies, Bogies and Bunkers

George had been at the Golf Club Christmas party for several hours and was frequently refilling his glass. But every ten or fifteen minutes, he reached into his pocket, pulled out his phone, took a look at it, then put it back in his pocket.



Finally a friend came up to him and said:

"George, I've been watching you all afternoon, and I have to ask you, why do you keep checking your phone? Are you expecting an important call or text?"

"No", George replied. "I keep admiring the picture of my new Scotty Cameron putter."

"Why do you keep looking at that?" the friend continued. "It's not new, you bought it last July!"

"Because," George answered. "When it looks so good that I'm actually convinced that it will reduce the number of putts I take, I realize it means it's time for me to go home!"



Off Season Program

Want to help your game? With winter fast approaching, contact Jae Maegaard regarding how you can use the off season months for instructional programs or fine tuning so you are ready for 2017.

Proshop: 403-381-4653
Cell: 403-330-5720
email: proshop@playinparadise.com

Turf Talk - Kelly Thorsen

With a fall season such as

we have enjoyed, golfers frequently ask why we closed Oct. 23 when the good weather continued until the last weekend of November. As we have often stated, some of the nicest playing conditions in this part of Alberta are experienced after Sept. 1st. The annual challenge is to try to predict when will the good weather end.



This year, March 12th marked our earliest opening date ever. The early opening was possible due to an unseasonably warm winter, minimal snowfall after the New Year, and the fact that our course was well prepared the previous fall. Our closure date of Oct. 23 resulted in one of our longest playing seasons ever.

The physical location of Paradise Canyon creates some challenges for our turf crew that other courses typically do not face. Firstly, we know that the Lethbridge area can be very windy, particularly in the late fall and early spring, and our valley location, bolstered by an open links design and minimal trees, frequently exposes us to above average wind conditions. Such wind speeds up evaporation of snow cover, robbing us of the potential insulation factor snow may provide to more sheltered courses, while also drying the subsoil. To minimize these effects, winter preparations typically tarp not only exposed greens but also select tee boxes to aid in overwintering.

Secondly, at Paradise Canyon we pride ourselves on having the best and most consistent bunkers in Alberta. That is possible because our bunkers, which are typically larger than those present at other area courses, are filled with a very clean and finely grained silica sand which we import from western Washington State. The local screened river sand or like material frequently used by other courses features larger grains along with clay and soil particles that tend to compact easily, making bunker conditions very inconsistent. The combination of the wind and the fine sand mean we must also tarp select exposed bunkers to prevent the total loss of the sand over the winter season and early spring. Other courses rarely tarp bunkers.

Thirdly, even though the daytime fall temperatures may be above average, overnight/morning frost is a constant possibility. Frost and foot traffic do not mix, and frost exposure minimizes turf growth and can in fact be lethal as it prepares for winter. Combine that with no watering and our exposed greens can be directly impacted.

As a result of all of the above, putting our course "to bed" for the winter is a more labor intensive project than any other course in this area. We must do it at the same time that our turf crew numbers are depleted due to the seasonal nature of the job and fact that many of our crew are college and university students who have limited availability after early Sept. For this same reason, we cannot consider opening the course for a week or two in response to an unseasonably warm February.

Our number one priority is to do as much as possible to insure that our course can winter well so that the following spring we will have top-quality healthy turf with playing surfaces and conditions as consistent as possible, allowing golfers to enjoy the game, the fellowship and the weather without additional challenges created by poor course conditions.

A Round To Remember!

Golfing in November in Alberta? Who would have thought! Along with many others, Thor Fjeldsted, Rick Chisholm, Rob Burland and Canyon Editor John Darroch took advantage of the decision by



Land-O-Lakes to remain open. The unseasonably balmy spring-like weather during the first two weeks of November allowed them to enjoy some great fellowship, warm temps [one of us in shorts!] and a round of NOVEMBER golf on the links at Coaldale.

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