

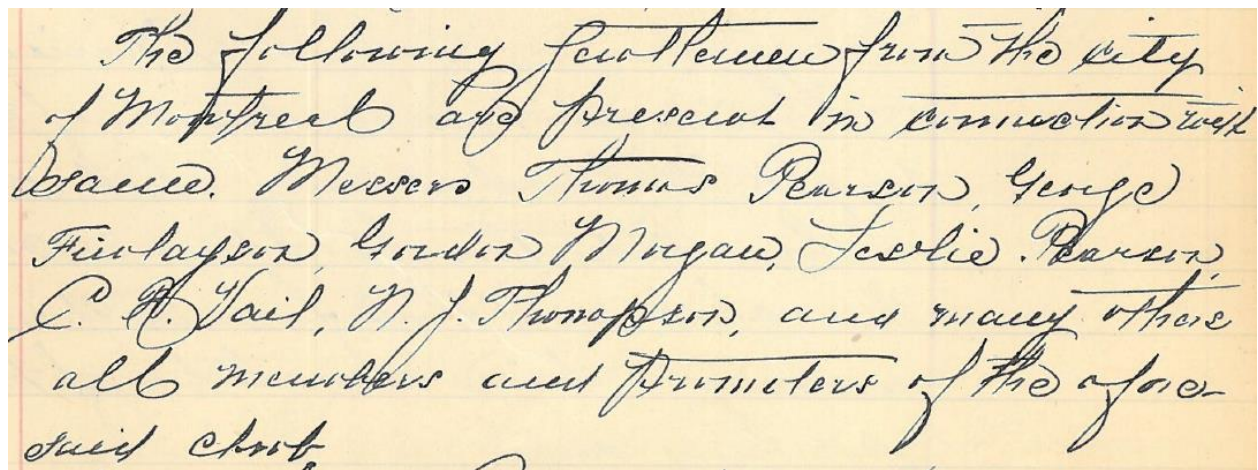
## SECTION 4 – MEMBERS

Founded by a group of Westmount businessmen with friendly and family ties, Rawdon's first log clubhouse was characterized by this friendly and family atmosphere. Reflecting the summertime composition of Rawdon's population in its early days, the golf club's membership roster soon included local sports men and women and was enriched by members who put down roots in the community.

This section explores the maze of membership categories, looks at the evolution of the membership and highlights the contributions of some of the members. It also traces the changes in membership fees and examines some interesting statistics.

### 4.1 - Early members

A complete list of the first members of the Rawdon Heights Golf and Country Club could not be found. However, the minutes of the Rawdon Village Council meeting held on April 25, 1925, identify some of the members of this delegation.



*Excerpt from the minutes of the Rawdon Village Council meeting held on April 25, 1925*

The delegation included Thomas Pearson, George Finlayson, Gordon Morgan, Leslie Pearson, C.V. Vail, N. J. Thompson and several other club members. Thomas Pearson headed the R. C. Jamieson Paint & Varnish, George Finlayson owned Finlayson Garage, Leslie Pearson, Thomas' son, managed the Gotfredson Truck Company, while N. J. Thompson, husband of one of Thomas Pearson's daughters, was Chief Commissioner of the Canadian National Railway. These people formed the nucleus around which the Rawdon Heights Golf and Country Club grew. Through business and family relationships, this group expanded first with Rawdon's summer population and then with local sports men and women. Over the years, A. (Adjutor) Cantin, manager of the Royal Bank in Rawdon, and P. Skelly, secretary-treasurer of the Municipality, were elected club captain and secretary, respectively. Unfortunately, during these early decades, some founding

members passed away. Leslie Pearson died in 1927 at the age of 34. George Ainslie Finlayson did not survive an accident on one of his construction sites in 1938. Leslie's father, Thomas Pearson, and son-in-law, N. J. Thompson, both died in 1939.

Newspaper reports of elections to the various administrative positions at the golf club added several names to the list of people having been members of the club. A table in subsection 4.5 identifies those elected to key administrative positions.

#### *A ladies' section*

Various documents obtained provide some clues to the existence of a ladies' section at the Rawdon Heights Golf and Country Club, right from its first year of existence. The photograph of the clubhouse, probably taken in 1926 and reproduced in subsection 3.2, shows several ladies. One of them, positioned on the tee-off, is about to drive. *The Gazette* of September 23, 1930, announced the death of Mrs. Thomas Pearson, noting that she had been President of the Ladies' Section of the Rawdon Heights Golf and Country Club. As will be seen later on, an article in *The Gazette* dated July 16, 1930, reported the results of the qualifying round of the Ladies' Captain's Award competition.

## 4.2 - Number of members and participation

The following table shows the few statistics available concerning the number of members of the Rawdon Golf Club throughout its existence.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of members</i>	<i>References</i>
1955-1960	100	Estimate by Carol Finlayson
1966	200*	<i>Le Petit Journal</i>
1981	+ 100 life members	Rawdon Golf archives
1987	125*	<i>La Presse</i>
2025	80	Rawdon Golf Resort

- Male-female disaggregation not available

As can be seen, the first 40 years of the club's existence saw its membership reach a peak of 200, only to decline to the current figure of 80. In fact, over the last 30 or 40 years, the average age of members has increased almost systematically. Ten years ago, all but five members were over 60.

In the past, the number of members was a good indicator of a golf club's success, but today this indicator is not sufficient to explain club attendance. To this number must be added those who pay green fees and those who take part in tournaments. It then becomes a question of number of rounds played.

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In this respect, the Rawdon Golf Resort is doing rather well. An article published in the newspaper *L'Action* dated August 31, 2016, reported that “some 25,000 rounds are played annually at the Rawdon Golf Club.” [translation] In 2024, the number of rounds exceeded 30,000. With a golf season that rarely exceeds 200 days (especially in mountainous areas) and with capricious weather (rainy days), this figure will be hard to surpass.

As a global sport, golf has seen its popularity and participation rates fluctuate due to a variety of factors, both inherent to the sport and to a combination of prevailing factors. The arrival of Tiger Woods, the Nicklaus-Palmer rivalry and the exploits of Ben Hogan certainly helped boost participation. Since 2018, golf has become a very popular sport. Golf Québec noted a significant increase during the pandemic (+19% in 2020 and +21% in 2021) and attributes this rise to the pandemic, which had limited leisure options and pushed people to discover or rediscover golf. The social aspect of golf, as well as the possibility of playing outdoors, also played a role in this craze. The number of rounds played remained high in 2022 and 2023, despite the fact that clubs had to adapt to new realities, particularly in terms of inflation and maintenance costs, leading to an increase in fees.

#### *Towards increased participation*

Although the number of members has continued to decline, this has been more than offset by the arrival of new, more mobile clients who don't like to be tied down to a single venue. As Golf Québec points out, the golf industry is constantly evolving, with the emergence of simulators and indoor and outdoor training centres to complement traditional courses. Clubs must adapt to these new trends to attract and retain clients, while managing the challenges of inflation and competition.

An analysis of recent membership trends at the Rawdon Golf Club shows that, at best, the membership has increased slightly or stayed the same, at about 50 or 60 members. Nevertheless, the number of rounds of golf played is at such a level that it would seem difficult to surpass. While there are still about 15 lifetime members who were approached by Gordon to join when they were already quite elderly, it is clear that the concept of traditional golf club membership has virtually disappeared at the Rawdon Golf Resort. Golf culture has evolved. Along with the last club presidents and captains at the end of the 20th century, tournaments, trophies and other vestiges of an outdated way of doing things also disappeared. People who would previously have purchased a membership card now buy booklets entitling them to a certain number of rounds. Another sign that the culture has changed is that green fees for nine-hole rounds, which used to represent only a tiny percentage of total revenue, now account for nearly 20%.

In general, current policies and pricing promote accessibility. While membership numbers are increasing only slightly, overall traffic is not losing out, with a higher number of rounds being played.

To increase participation, the Rawdon Golf Club is banking on the friendliness and customer service for which it is renowned. Efforts are also being made to attract a younger (junior) clientele. In the wake of this cultural shift, it is worth highlighting the excellent program that allows juniors to play for free.

At the Rawdon Golf Resort, demand for rounds of golf literally exploded during the pandemic. Since golf was one of the few sporting activities that were allowed to continue, many young people took up the game, propelling golf revenues to levels rarely, if ever, seen before. In addition to increasing the number of golfers, the ban on dining and events during the pandemic gave management time to reflect and review its strategic positioning.

### **4.3 - Categories**

Several membership categories have existed at the Rawdon Golf Club, but in retrospect, these categories were created and used mainly to establish differentiated pricing and also to smooth out traffic over all time slots, both weekly and seasonal.

**LAKESHORE DRIVE**  
**GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB**  
 RAWDON, QUEBEC, CANADA

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

DATE July 9 ..... 1967  
 (Fees per season)

GENTLEMEN ..... \$80.00

LADIES ..... \$65.00

INTERMEDIATE ..... \$55.00  
 (Under 21 Years of age May 1st or Student)

JUNIOR ..... \$30.00  
 Under 16 Years of age May 1st  
 Playing hours : 8 A.M. to 6 P.M.  
 Mon. Thru. Fri. Only  
 No Clubhouse Privileges.

SOCIAL ..... \$ 5.00  
 (No Playing Privileges)

Green Fees ..... Week Days ..... \$ 3.00  
 " " Sat. Sun. and Holidays ..... \$ 4.00

*Membership application form – 1967*

Thus, the amount charged for men (\$80.00) and women (\$65.00) corresponds to inflation-adjusted rates of \$726.63 and \$590.39, respectively, in 2025. However, it should be pointed out that the services rendered are not quite the same.

As early as 1967, and probably well before, differentiated rates existed for members (by gender: male and female, by age group: junior, intermediate). Green fees were differentiated by day of the week or weekend. At national level, a distinction was also made between “amateurs” and “professionals.”

Over the years, more categories were added, to the point where they included Men’s (5 days, 6 days or 7 days) and Women’s (5 days, 6 days or 7 days). In 2016-2017, the approach was simplified to keep only three categories of members (unlimited, after 12 p.m. and after 3 p.m. or 40 and under). They are normally considered “ordinary members.” The same applies to green fees: there used to be weekday green fees and weekend green fees. Differentiated fees still exist...with full fees in the early morning, until 1 p.m. From 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., a first reduction is applied, and then from 3 p.m. onwards, the fee is reduced again for the rest of the day.

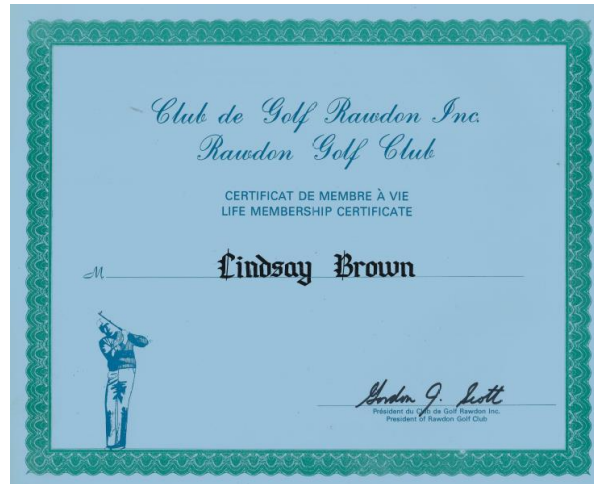
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*A very special category*

“Junior” members are a category of membership that needs to be carefully monitored, as they represent the future of the sport. In Rawdon, in the days of the Finlayson family, Weir Finlayson’s wife, Pauline St-Maurice, enjoyed organizing social events and ensuring that junior golfers had an enjoyable and active summer. In Gordon Scott’s days, there were three groups of youngsters: those who played eighteen holes, those who played nine and the beginners who practised on the driving range. There was a junior championship. Over the years, interest in golf waned. Several factors (lack of a pro to provide instruction, low youth interest in golf, lack of volunteers to mentor a junior program) contributed to a decline in junior membership during the 1980s-1990s. Funding from the Kenny Tinkler Memorial Tournament helped revive the program and set up training programs and tournaments for juniors between 1993 and 2010. With the end of the Kenny Tinkler Memorial and its financial contribution, the number of new players decreased. In 2016-2017, during the exercise that led to the simplification of the categories and in view of the lack of succession, the club’s management implemented a set of measures to interest young people in golf. These measures included an incentive program known as “Juniors Play for Free.” It recognizes the importance of training the next generation.

**4.4 - Members with special status**

Some people have enjoyed, and continue to enjoy, a special status at the Rawdon Golf Club. From the moment he purchased the golf club, Gordon Scott had the goal to realize the Finlayson family’s dream of adding a second “nine-hole” to the club, bringing it up to eighteen holes. To achieve this at a time when interest rates were quite high (in the range of 20%), Gordon used an innovative method, inviting members to purchase “life membership” certificates. One hundred and seven people purchased these “life membership” certificates. The price was set at \$1,000<sup>xii</sup>. Discounted (using the Bank of Canada’s spreadsheet<sup>xiii</sup>), this amounted to \$3,321.21, which would have been quite a bargain for a golfer still playing today. Thirty-five years later, some twenty people were still playing golf as “life members.” Forty-five years later, that number had dwindled to eight or nine.



*Life Membership Certificate – Rawdon Golf Club*

In addition, the deed of sale between the Rawdon Land & Construction Company and Gordon Scott contained an explicit condition granting George Weir Finlayson and his wife lifetime memberships. The same status was also granted to his immediate children until they married. Generous by nature, Gordon Scott extended the same privilege to his family members.

#### *The Shankers*

This description of members with a special status would be incomplete without mentioning the “Shankers.” In golf, the term Shank has a rather negative connotation, identifying a shot that has gone wrong. At the Rawdon Golf Club, the term “Shankers” identifies a group of golfers who have been around since the early 70s, playing every Saturday for fun and engaging in all sorts of friendly competitions (the Rawdon Cup, the Gordie Scott Cup, etc.). The season ends with a big party. Over the years, this group has even ventured into forming teams in other sports.

Another group, the Gents, joined the Golden Girls and continues the tradition.

#### **To be completed if required**

#### **4.5 - Club administration and captains**

The social and sporting aspects of a golf club are normally managed by a board, which organizes and coordinates the club’s main activities, and a captain, who is in charge of the sporting elements of golf. Traditionally, the captain supervises and assists starters, marshals and pro-shop staff. In coordination with the general management, his duties include:

a) enact, amend, enforce and interpret all local rules and regulations pertaining to the sport of golf;

- b) take charge of any team chosen to represent the Club;  
 c) be responsible for margins of error (handicaps); and  
 d) be responsible for all internal leagues and tournaments.

Annual membership meetings are held to review financial reports and elect directors and the captain. The following table lists the names of the individuals holding these various positions who could be found. This list is by no means complete, but we would be delighted to hear from you if you have any information that would help us complete it.

<b>Year</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Vice-president</b>	<b>Secretary-Treasurer</b>	<b>Captain</b>	<b>Source</b>
1926	Thomas Pearson	C.R. Vail	N.J. Thompson D.G. Finlayson		Montréal <i>The Gazette</i>
1927					
1928			J.W. Johnston		<i>The Gazette</i>
1929	John A. Craig	J.B. Harkness	Charlie Ries	John Osborne	<i>The Gazette</i>
1930					
1931					
1932					
1933	L.W. Latimer	J. Osborne	T. Pearson	A. Cantin	Montréal <i>The Gazette</i>
1934					
1935					
1936	Bracken				Montréal <i>The Gazette</i>
1937	Bracken				Montréal <i>The Gazette</i>
1938	J.G. Barrow	H. Finlayson	P. Skelly		Montréal <i>The Gazette</i>
1939					
1952	G. Lépine	B. Buckland	J. Bennett	L. McGuire	
1953					
1954					
1955					
1956	A.A. Dectar	R. Lavallée	G. Bennett	C. Osborne	
1957	R. Lavallée				
1958	Gordon A. Bennett	Stan W. Fraser	Carl Mein	C. Osborne	
1959					
1960	S.W. Fraser	J. Robertson	C. Mein	C. Osborne	
1961					
1962	G. Fletcher	R. Lavallée	R. Lorenz	R. Dubiel	

1987				John Simpson	
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Table to be completed once new information is obtained

A report on the Rawdon Golf Club’s annual members meeting, published in the Montréal newspaper *The Gazette* on December 11, 1933, states that the club’s financial situation is acceptable and presents the results of the elections. L. W. Latimer was elected president, John Osborne vice-president and Thomas Pearson secretary-treasurer. On the sporting front, A. (Adjutor) Cantin was elected captain. The heads of the various committees (greens, entertainment, publicity) were identified.



Montréal, *The Gazette*, December 11, 1933

As the number of “ordinary members” declined, there was less and less reason for this type of organization. It gradually disappeared from the beginning of the millennium. In 2010, a project to reorganize the club by setting up a committee consisting of a male captain and female captain and at least five directors was considered but ultimately did not see the light of day.

#### 4.6 - Pricing

While pricing is used to segment users and smooth traffic, it is first and foremost used to cover a golf club’s operating costs. These costs include labour, course maintenance inputs (fertilizers and pesticides), course watering and energy (electricity), as well as interest on debt. Over the years, these costs have risen sharply, as have membership and green fees. The following table shows, as far as available, the evolution of fees from the club’s foundation to the present day.

Year	Membership fees	Green fees	References
1967	M = \$80 + W = \$65 Intermediate = \$55 Junior = \$30 Social = \$5	\$3 weekdays / \$4 weekends	Archives Rawdon Golf Resort
1976		Nine holes \$4.50 weekdays / \$6 weekends	
1978		Nine holes \$5 weekdays / \$7 weekends	<i>The Gazette</i>
1980-1981	Life membership – \$1,000		
1984		Eighteen holes \$10 weekdays / \$12 weekends	<i>The Gazette</i>
1986		Golf and cart Monday-Friday = \$12 After 5 p.m. = \$10 Golf only Saturday-Sunday = \$12 After 4 p.m. = \$8	<i>La Presse</i>
1995		Monday-Friday = \$18 Saturday-Sunday = \$23.50 Monday-Friday = \$25 (golf + cart)	<i>La Presse</i>
1996		Monday-Friday = \$19.50 / \$26 with cart Saturday-Sunday = \$24.50	<i>La Presse</i>
2025	<u>Golf (on foot)</u> No restriction = \$2,344.80 After 12 p.m. = \$1,628.33 After 3 p.m. or age 40 and under = \$1,302.67 <u>Golf and cart</u> No restriction = \$3,483.05 After 12 p.m. = \$2,634.36	Regular = \$48 (golf) \$65 (golf + cart) – Free for juniors After 1 p.m. = \$36 (golf) \$50 (golf + cart) After 3 p.m. = \$27 (golf) \$42 (golf + cart)	Rawdon Golf Resort

	After 3 p.m. or age 40 and under = \$2,251.21		
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Without providing the precise date of acquisition, this table supports a statement to the effect that a first fleet of carts was acquired in 1989. The 1986 fare structure does not offer carts, but the 1995 fare structure does.

Since 2016-2017, the pricing grid has been simplified. Weekday/weekend rates have been abolished. The distinction between men and women has also been eliminated. In a similar way, the 5-6-7 day women’s and 5-6-7 men’s rates were not retained. The premise on which previous pricing was based seemed less and less valid. Rates were lower during the week because a very high proportion of the population had the weekend off. Today, this is less and less obvious. On the other hand, the way in which customers are greeted on the course remains the same, whether it’s a Sunday or a Monday. The new, simplified schedule still includes differentiated fares, but they are restricted to time slots (before 1 p.m., after 12 p.m., after 1 p.m. and after 3 p.m.).

2024 season	Golf	Golf & Cart	Barbill
Unlimited member no restriction	2344.80	3483.05	400
Member after 12:00pm	1628.33	2634.36	200
Member after 3:00pm or under 40 years old	1302.67	2251.21	200

Green fees are offered in similar categories (regular, after 1 p.m. and after 3 p.m.).

18 holes	Golf	Golf & cart
Regular	48.00\$	65.00\$
After 1 pm	36.00\$	50.00\$
After 3 pm	27.00\$	42.00\$

While these rates may seem very attractive, it should not be forgotten that they are even more advantageous for juniors, who play for free.

Today, the golf club’s management determines annual fee increases based on a formula that reflects inflation and operating costs. Current management has also moved away from this “member-green fees” dichotomy and introduced a category that could be described as VIP. These people purchase, in advance, packages valid for a certain number of games. These packages are normally offered in the off-season, enabling revenue to be generated during “quieter” periods.

For comparison purposes, the 1967 green fee (\$4) has been updated with the Bank of Canada’s Inflation Calculator. The \$4 fee is equivalent to a fee of \$36.33 in 2025.

#### 4.7 - Other statistics of interest

It is always interesting to observe the evolution of certain performance indicators such as occupancy rates, % of tee times booked, number of rounds played, revenue per round, green fee revenue, customer satisfaction, maintenance costs, member retention rate and other indicators. Ultimately, the number of rounds played annually will remain the most significant indicator.

Year	Number of rounds played	Number of tournaments	Reference
2002	30,000	50	<i>L’Action</i> newspaper May 19, 2002
2016	25,000	30	<i>L’Action</i> newspaper August 31, 2016
2024	30,000	100	Rawdon Golf Resort Retrospective 2024

*Number of rounds played*

The course can accommodate a maximum of 300-320 golfers (rounds) per day.

In Quebec, these 25,000 or 30,000 rounds of golf are spread over a typical golf season, which generally runs from mid-April to the end of October. In Rawdon, the colder mountain air will shorten this season by a few weeks. Exact start and end dates may vary according to the weather conditions each year, but you can normally expect around 175 to 200 days of golf per year.

#### 4.8 - Golf terminology

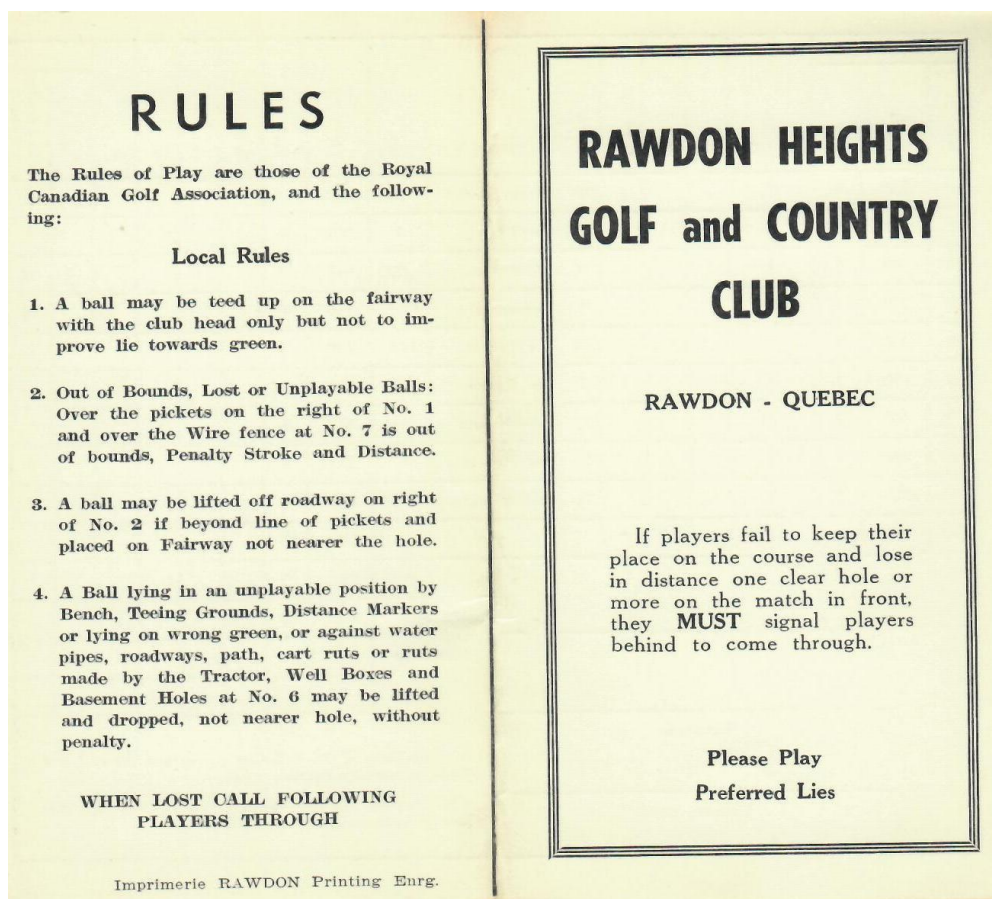
A golf glossary produced by the Quebec government presents French-language terms associated with golf (in English alphabetical order). These terms were drawn from the *Grand dictionnaire terminologique* of the Office québécois de la langue française. It is available on the Office’s website at [www.oqlf.gouv.qc.ca/ressources/bibliotheque/dictionnaires/golf\\_2005.pdf](http://www.oqlf.gouv.qc.ca/ressources/bibliotheque/dictionnaires/golf_2005.pdf).

#### 4.9 - Rules and regulations

An early scorecard used before 1964 indicated that the rules of the Royal Canadian Golf Association applied as well as the following local rules:

1. A ball may be teed up on the fairways with the club head only, but not to improve lie towards green.
2. Out of bound, Lost or Unplayable Balls: beyond the stakes to the right of No. 1 and over the Wire fence at No. 7 is out of bounds, Penalty Stroke and Distance.
3. A Ball may be lifted off Roadway on right of No. 2 if beyond line of pickets and placed on fairway but not nearer the hole.
4. A Ball lying in an unplayable position by Bench, Teeing Grounds, Distance Markers or lying on wrong green, or against water pipes, roadways, path, cart ruts, or ruts made by the Tractor, Well Boxes and Basement Hole at No. 6, may be lifted and dropped, not nearer hole, without penalty.

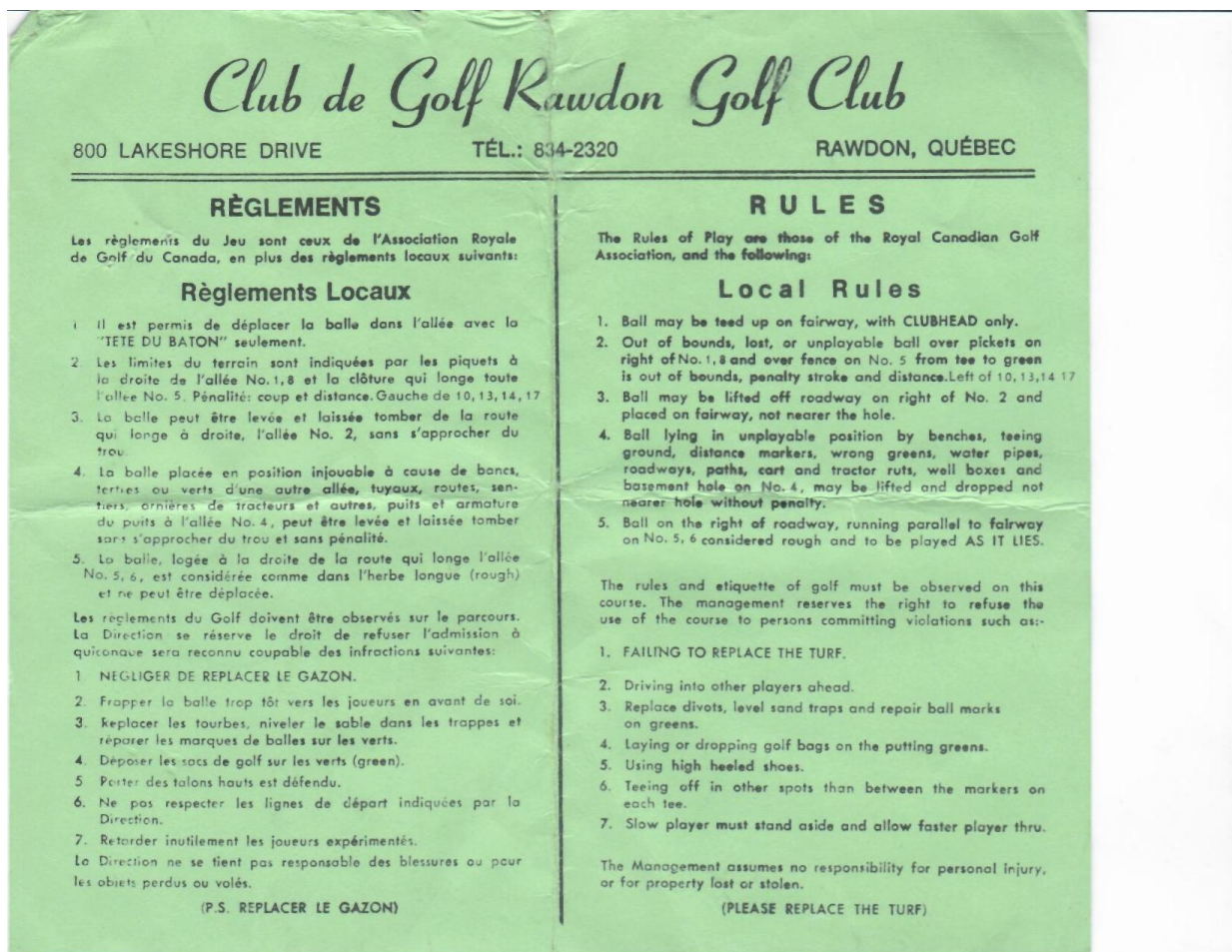
WHEN LOST CALL FOLLOWING PLAYERS THROUGH



The following local rules have been added over the years:

5. Old bunker across No. 4 is classed as fairway, but ball may be teed up.
6. Trap on fairway beside new green on No. 7 may be lifted and dropped, but not nearer the hole.
7. Ball on right of roadway running parallel to fairway on No. 7, considered rough and to be played AS IT LIES.

After Gordon Scott acquired the club, even more elaborate local rules applied, this time with a French version.



As the governing body of golf in Canada, Golf Canada publishes and distributes the Rules of Golf in Canada. These rules are updated every four years by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, Scotland, and the United States Golf Association (USGA). The rules can be downloaded from [www.golfcanada.ca/rules-of-golf/](http://www.golfcanada.ca/rules-of-golf/).

The golf code of ethics encompasses the moral principles and rules of conduct that players must respect. It aims to promote fair play, respect for other players, integrity and responsibility. Golf etiquette concerns the rules of conduct and good manners to be adopted on the course, in order to maintain a smooth and enjoyable pace of play for all.

In the same vein, it is interesting to note that, despite pressure to lengthen courses and the introduction of five tee-offs instead of the traditional men's and women's tee-offs, the majority of golfers choose to play from the closest tee-off.

## **SECTION 5 – STAFF**

Since its foundation, the Rawdon Golf Club has almost always been owned by family businesses. It's only natural that these owners should manage all operations. But as the club accepts new members, expands its services and develops its organization, it becomes necessary for the owner to entrust responsibility for certain tasks to other people.

Generally speaking, the general management of a golf club delegates its responsibilities by grouping them under the following four functions:

- The sport of golf (golf pro, pro shop, club rental, training, starter/tee-off times)
- Grounds maintenance (superintendent, maintenance crew)
- Catering, events and hospitality (food services, kitchen, room services)
- General administration (member services, social activities, reservations, tournament organization, accounting)

The Rawdon Golf Club has grown from a family business employing a few people on a seasonal basis to a major organization, still family-owned, but with over a hundred people, including more than thirty permanent positions.

The following sections identify various people who have marked the club's history in each of these functions. For a century-old organization, it goes without saying that many people have contributed to the club's development. It's impossible to name them all, and apologies are already due to those who may have been overlooked.

### **5.1 - General management**

The general management of the Rawdon Golf Club has rested in the hands of two families: the Finlayson family and the Scott family, with the exception of a brief interlude in the early 1960s. The following individuals have managed the Rawdon Golf Club:

- George Ainslie Finlayson (1926-1938)
- Weir Finlayson (1938-1960)
- Mieczyslaw Sieprawski (1960-1963)
- Weir Finlayson (1963-1967)
- Gordon Scott (1967-2007)
- Debbie Scott and James Scott (2007-2013)
- James Scott (2013-2025)
- James Scott and Annik Perreault (2025-present)

Biographical notes on each of these two families are appended to this document (see Appendix 3 and Appendix 4). They provide additional information.

Hugh Scott mentions that his sister managed the facility until James became owner.

Management of the nine-hole course remained the responsibility of a few full-time employees and mostly part-time staff.

The expansion experienced by Rawdon Golf Resort over the past twenty years meant that it was becoming increasingly difficult for one person to manage all the associated operations and services offered. Gradually, under Gordon Scott's administration, a management team was formed. It initially consisted of three people (general manager, chef and controller). It then grew to seven or eight people (president, vice president, general manager, controller, two chefs, events and banquet managers, hospitality manager and superintendent).

## 5.2 - Professionalizing golf

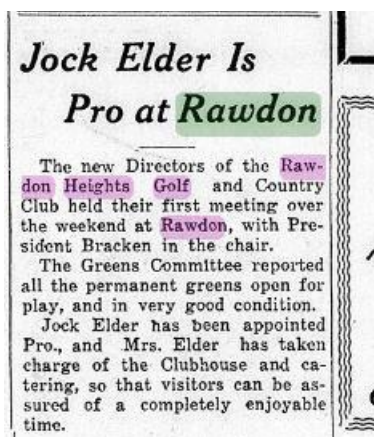
Considered a healthy sport, golf demands precision, endurance, technical mastery and concentration. Like many other sports, it has become professionalized to the point where millions of dollars are at stake in international competitions. This level of professionalism is underpinned by the existence of numerous clubs, like Rawdon's, and the staff responsible for developing these skills. Under the direction of the club's professional or "pro," who is also responsible for teaching golf techniques, the pro shop staff (golf equipment sales and rental), starters, caddies and marshals ensure that rounds of golf run smoothly.

Over the years, the club has retained the services of numerous professionals. This list, which still needs to be completed, includes the following professionals:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Professionals</b>	<b>Reference</b>
1931	Robert "Bobbie" Kerr	<i>Le Canada</i>
1936	Jock Elder	<i>The Gazette</i>
1937	Jock Elder	<i>Westmount Examiner</i>
1938	Jock Elder	<i>The Gazette</i>
1939	Jock Elder	<i>The Gazette</i>
1949	John McPherson	<i>The Gazette</i>
1951	Clifford "Biff" Osborne	<i>La Presse</i>
1956	Clifford "Biff" Osborne	<i>Le Sorelois</i>
1957	Clifford "Biff" Osborne	<i>Sherbrooke Daily Record</i>
1962	Clifford "Biff" Osborne	<i>The Gazette</i>
1965	Clifford "Biff" Osborne	<i>L'Action Populaire</i>
1967-2007	No professional	Interviews conducted
1986	No professional	<i>La Presse</i>
1987	Robert Bouchard	<i>La Presse</i>

2008-20xx	Daniel Corbeil	Administrative Assistant
20xx-20yy	Serge Poirier	Administrative Assistant
2024	Jade Fogarty and David Poirier	Rawdon Golf Resort
2025	Jade Fogarty and David Poirier	Rawdon Golf Resort

Of this group, it’s interesting to note that family relationships often prevailed. Jock Elder, formerly of the Saint-Jovite and Cornwall clubs, was named “pro” in 1936. He remained with the club until 1939. His wife was in charge of the clubhouse and catering. A member of a large family of professional golfers in Quebec, his father Robert Sr. and his three brothers passed on their knowledge and experience to many golfers at clubs such as St. Andrews Golf Club, Whitlock Heights Golf Club in Hudson, Islesmere Golf Club in Montréal and Shawbridge Golf Club.



*The Westmount Examiner – May 28, 1937*

## A Family of Outstanding Professional Golfers

CANADA can boast quite a unique record in the professional world, namely, a father and three sons all actively and prominently identified with the Royal and Ancient Game. And they are all engaged in the Province of Quebec. Between them they represent 68 years of golfing experience. This remarkable record goes to the credit of Robert Elder, Sr., professional to the St. Andrews Golf Club, St. Andrews East (40 miles from Montreal); George Elder, at the Whitlock Heights Golf Club, Hudson Heights, Que.; **Joek** Elder, assistant pro at the Islesmere Golf and Country Club, Montreal, and Robert Elder, Jr., at the Shawbridge Golf Club. All fine, outstanding players and instructors the father and his three sons are a credit to golf a credit to their profession and a credit to Canada, the home of their adoption.

*Canadian Golfer, May 1930*

Following in the footsteps of his father, one of the first members of the Rawdon Golf Club, Clifford “Biff” Osborne left his mark on the 1950s and 1960s. During these years, Biff not only helped to perfect the technique of club members but also led the club’s competition team and took part in numerous tournaments proudly representing the Rawdon Golf Club. He even reported a hole-in-one.

During Gordon Scott’s era, the Club didn’t hire a professional. However, there were many individuals who would provide lessons and could be considered as the “pro.” Names like Brian McGuigan and Mickey Batten have been suggested.

Since 2024, Jade Fogarty and David Poirier have been teaching the basics of golf to young and old alike. A junior member of the Rawdon Golf Club between 2010 and 2014 and a very good golfer, as evidenced by his results in the many competitions he took part in (Alexander of Tunis, Duke of Kent, Provincial Championship), Jade learned and improved his performance under the guidance of Daniel Corbeil and Serge Poirier. He landed a job at Club Fontainebleau, then worked for seven years for equipment manufacturer Callaway. He couldn’t resist a return home when he was offered a job at the Rawdon Golf Resort.

Although a junior member of the Joliette Golf Club, David Poirier has been playing at Rawdon for many years. He first accompanied his father, who played in a Rawdon league. His first job was at the Joliette Golf Club. Well aware of the dynamism of the Rawdon Golf Resort management team, he didn’t hesitate when offered a job in Rawdon.

While for many years the Rawdon Golf Club did not have a professional on staff, or if there was one, the pro had an informal status, the current administration recognizes the contribution of

professionals. Although the presence or absence of professionals would probably not change participation, the presence of a professional recognizes both the technical nature of golf and the desire of golfers to improve their performance. The existence of such an additional service is appreciated and lends credibility to the pro shop.

#### *Starters and marshals*

Somewhat behind the scenes, the starters and marshals ensure that golfers can play safely, spacing out the different groups (foursomes, threesomes) and finding playing partners for singles and pairs. Their professionalism was highlighted by several persons interviewed. As these jobs are seasonal, there is always a certain amount of staff turnover.

As the course includes several holes with obstructed visibility due to the uneven terrain, the presence of marshals is of great importance, especially on busy days and during tournaments with large numbers of participants. During Gordon Scott's ownership, course safety was ensured by the collaboration of juniors and volunteers, who helped players by signalling them to speed up play. For a while, marshals travelled by scooter.

#### *Caddies*

Originally, "caddies," a term derived from the French word "cadet," were responsible for carrying the bag and clubs, searching for lost balls, replacing divots, raking sand traps and maintaining the course. Today, the caddies' role has evolved considerably. They have become strategic advisors, helping with club selection, reading greens and assessing weather conditions. The cost of these services means that caddies are used mainly by professional golfers.

Many baby boomers will have learned the rudiments of golf by caddying for club or family members. They surely have many stories to tell.

At the Rawdon Golf Club, caddies gradually disappeared as the number of pull-carts and carts increased. Today, with its fleet of Club Car electric carts, few if any golfers use a caddy.

### **5.3 - Grounds maintenance**

Certainly, a key position in a golf club's success is held by greenskeepers, or as they are known in the world of golf, course superintendents. In this group, Johnny Murphy tops the list of the most loyal employees, with over 35 years of service to the Rawdon Golf Club. Johnny Murphy, who died on January 5, 1962, at the age of 77, was hired in 1926, making him not only one of the longest-serving but also one of the earliest members of the Rawdon Heights Golf and Country Club staff.



*L'Action Populaire – January 17, 1962*

In fact, it would probably be more appropriate to highlight the importance of the Murphy family, as three generations of this family have maintained the golf course and facilities. John's son Freddy and Freddy's son Paul took over until recently.

Also worthy of mention are John and Hugh Scott, two of Gordon Scott's sons, who held the position of superintendent. Although they weren't employed by the Rawdon Golf Club for as long as the Murphys, the contribution of these two brothers deserves to be highlighted. John, who served for four years between 1994 and 1998, and Hugh, who replaced him from 1998 to 2004, contributed to the history of the Rawdon Golf Club by sharing their knowledge. As his brother Hugh points out, John's expertise is well worth mentioning. With a degree in horticulture, specializing in golf, from the University of Guelph, John Scott is considered one of the foremost authorities on golf course maintenance in Quebec and even Canada. A biographical note submitted demonstrates this (see Appendix 6).

His brother, Hugh Scott, replaced him at the Rawdon Golf Club, serving as superintendent from 1998 to 2004. Hugh had previously been responsible for construction work and general maintenance at the golf club.

Scott Hughes currently holds the position of superintendent. An amateur and then professional golfer early in his career, Scott began working in golf maintenance in 1992 at the Beaconsfield Golf Club, while continuing his education at the University of Guelph. He soon obtained a position as assistant superintendent at La Vallée du Richelieu Golf Club. In 2007, he became superintendent at Le Versant Golf Club, a 72-hole course in Terrebonne. The Rawdon Golf Resort now benefits from his extensive experience.

As John Scott points out, it is difficult to recruit staff for positions in grounds maintenance teams, because these jobs require working in the summer, very early in the morning and on weekends.

#### **5.4 - Catering, events and hotel**

To ensure the smooth operation of golf courses and country clubs, it is necessary to set up a catering service that provides food and drink to golfers. From its earliest years, the club provided catering services that quickly became renowned for the quality of the food served and the way the visitors were received. A newspaper article from these early days noted that the clubhouse offered visitors beautiful apartments and excellent cuisine. The wife of one of the club's first professionals (Mrs. Elder) took charge of the clubhouse and catering.

Until the early 2000s, social events were organized by members of both the men's and women's sections. These events took place during the golf season and normally began in May and ended in October.

Renovations done to the clubhouse between 2007 and 2009 increased the importance of making the most efficient use of the new conference rooms, including opening the facilities during the winter season, and contributed to the creation of the position of events manager. One of the tasks of Debbie Scott's mandate was indeed to take charge of these events. However, Stéphanie Labelle was the first to be recruited specifically for this role. Others who shared the task later included Heather Scott, Tracy Tannahill, Annick Perreault and even James Scott.

Over the years, several people have worked on restaurant and event-related operations, including:

- Walter Deschênes
- Ida Copping
- Fred Green
- John Simpson
- Pete Purcell
- Terry Brown

The addition of the hotel in recent years and the opening of Gordie's restaurant on an annual basis have multiplied the number of people working in catering, events and hospitality.

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## 5.5 - Administration

Many administrative tasks are involved in operating a golf club, including member services and social activities, customer relations and reservations, and tournament organization, not to mention accounting and human resources management.

Over the years, many people have made their contribution. For almost twenty years, Tracy Tannahill has held the position of administrative assistant, taking on most of the tasks listed above. Did you know that Tracy Tannahill has held many other positions at the Rawdon Golf Club, including starter, cook, waitress and receptionist? She has also worked in the pro shop. So, she's well versed in the many facets of operating a golf club.

With the growth in activities and services offered, the number of employees has also increased considerably, from a few under the Finlaysons to around ten under Gordon Scott, and to over a hundred under the current administration. Their numbers have grown and the areas in which they work have diversified. The various positions cover the fields of hospitality and catering (housekeepers, cooks, waiters), customer service (starters, marshals) and grounds maintenance (watering system technicians, fairway and greens maintenance staff).

To recruit and retain talent, the Rawdon Golf Resort has launched a number of innovative human resources initiatives, including:

- Access to Home Ownership Program: financial assistance of up to \$5,000 for the purchase or renovation of a home, after two and a half years of service, under certain conditions.
- Promotion of physical activity: one hour of paid sports per week, to encourage the well-being of employees.
- Group insurance program.

Many people contribute to the efficient running of the golf club and its many related activities.

## 5.6 - Number of years with the club and recognition

Several people have distinguished themselves through peer recognition, significant actions or their longevity in the golf club's employ, an indicator of competence. At the outset, it's important to recognize the contribution of Célia Marchand, who was awarded an Xcelsiors award as Employee of the Year at the annual gala event of the Chambre de Commerce du Grand Joliette.

Whether at the pro shop when you leave to tee off on the golf course or when you make your hotel reservation, Célia embodies service excellence in every interaction. She is much more than a dedicated colleague: she is a model of commitment and devotion. Her curiosity and constant

desire to learn led her to take an accounting course to become an essential support to Tracy Tannahill, making her a true pillar of the team. But what you may not know is that Célia is also the mother of two wonderful little boys, Nate and Cole. Her family life is her driving force, and her love for her children shines through in everything she does.

People like Célia are examples of dedication, loyalty and professionalism and contribute to the company's regional and national reputation.

### **5.7 - External suppliers**

In addition to the Rawdon Golf Resort's own staff, external suppliers have contributed and continue to contribute to the operation of the Rawdon Golf Resort's various business sectors. Too numerous to name them all, these suppliers contribute to the quality of the services provided by the Rawdon Golf Resort. Construction and renovation companies, suppliers of golf equipment and course maintenance equipment, caterers and other specialists have been mentioned, even if some of them are no longer in business today.

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## SECTION 6 – SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Golf, like many sports, has its own list of sporting feats demonstrating the skills that players have mastered. These include tournament winners, record rounds and holes-in-one.

### 6.1 - Tournaments

There are several types of tournaments. At the Rawdon Golf Club, they can be grouped into four categories:

- Provincial or national
- Intercity or interclub
- Club championships (classes and formulas)
- Charity

#### 6.1.1 *Provincial or national tournaments*

At the top of these categories are provincial or national tournaments, including provincial championships. The first provincial championship was held in 1920. The “open” categories are open to all players. The higher the prize money, the higher the level of competition will be.

After the Second World War, Rawdon merchants and the municipality joined forces to offer substantial purses and set up the “Rawdon Open.” Purses of \$1,000 (equivalent to \$13,800 in 2025 dollars) attracted many renowned golfers. Over the years, the Rawdon Heights Golf and Country Club course has seen a steady stream of professional golfers known on the national circuit, including:

- Jack Archer – Lachute Golf Club
- Damien Gauthier – Municipal, Montréal
- Stan Horne – Islesmere Golf Club
- Jules Huot – Laval-sur-le-Lac
- Rodolphe Huot – Royal Québec
- Bill Kerr – Beaconsfield Golf Club
- Bob Kerr – Grey Rocks
- Stan Kolar – Gatineau Golf Club
- Red Mackenzie – Elmridge

Since its foundation, the Rawdon Golf Club has hosted a dozen tournaments of this calibre. The Rawdon Open was held for ten years from the late 40s to the early 60s. The following information was published in newspapers of the time:

- In July 1949, the Rawdon Open Tournament was held, with a purse of \$1,000.



Le Canada – July 17, 1951

- In July 1951, Stan Kolar of the Gatineau Golf Club won the Rawdon Open with a score of 71 after additional holes to break a tie with Gerry Proulx and Diamond Gauthier. Rodolphe Huot, Bill Kerr and Biff Osborne followed with a score of 74.
- In June 1952, the list of foursomes and starting times for the Rawdon Open tournament was published – *The Gazette*.
- In July 1957, Jules Huot of Club Laval-sur-le-Lac won the O’Keefe Open in the professional category with a score of 69. In the amateurs’ category, Brian McGuigan of the Summerlea Club, with a 71, obtained the best score – *L’Action Populaire* – July 24, 1957.



L’Action Populaire – July 24, 1957

The Rawdon Open and the O’Keefe Open attracted not only renowned golfers but also top sportsmen and sportswomen, including players from the Montréal Canadiens, who in those days often celebrated their Stanley Cup triumphs. The Montréal Canadiens won the Stanley Cup five times in the 1950s, five times in the 1960s and six times in the 1970s.

### 6.1.2 Intercity or interclub tournaments

At a second level, numerous intercity and interclub tournaments brought the region's clubs together in a variety of formats.

- A tournament held at the "Les Dunes" club in Sorel in July 1955 brought together a hundred golfers from Sorel, Joliette and Rawdon, with Rawdon coming out on top with 12 points, ahead of Sorel with 10½ points and Joliette with 4 points.
- On July 27, 1963, the Rawdon club again won an intercity tournament that also included the Joliette, Sorel and Berthier clubs.



RAWDON GAGNE L'INTER-CLUBS — Les représentants du Club de Golf de Rawdon l'ont emporté sur les équipes de Joliette, Sorel et Berthier lors du tournoi inter-clubs disputé à Joliette, le samedi 27 juillet. Voici les noms de l'équipe championne de notre région pour 1963: rangée du bas, de gauche à droite, George Stanley, Al Moodie, Fred Ferguson, capitaine, recevant le trophée des mains de M. André Gauthier, gérant du Club de Golf de Joliette, rangée du haut, Ernie Barrie, Ross Wilson, Howie Rourke, Biff Osborne, professionnel du Club de Golf de Rawdon, Mickey Battent et Edward Dubiel.

*L'Action Populaire – July 31, 1963*



Le Club de golf de Rawdon a dû remettre la coupe emblématique du championnat interclub au capitaine du club Joliette, Georges Leroux. Le pro Biff Osborne, de Rawdon, est accompagné d'un

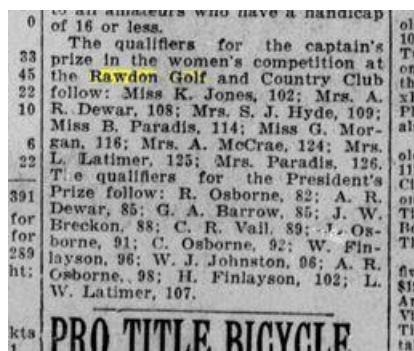
*L'Action Populaire – August 4, 1965*

The 1987 calendar mentions that intersectional competitions start on July 12. The 1987 program also included the Laurentian Cup, the Air Canada Cup and the Rawdon Challenge Cup.

### 6.1.3. Club championships (classes and formulas)

The club's annual championships are divided into several categories, notably by gender and by handicap (net or gross score). To the surprise of many, ladies were already competing in the early years. The Montréal newspaper *The Gazette* reported, on July 16, 1930, the following scores in the Captain's Prize competition:

Name	Score	Name	Score
Miss K. Jones	102	Miss G. Morgan	116
Mrs. A. R. Dewar	108	Mrs. A. McCrae	124
Mrs. B. J. Hyde	109	Mrs. L. Latimer	125
Miss B. Paradis	114	Mrs. Paradis	126



*The Gazette – July 16, 1930*

Until a few years ago, the club's championships were divided into different categories: junior, senior, men, women. Jimmy Tinkler and Kenny Tinkler won the men's championship a few times. The search for trophies is continuing in order to identify more excellent golfers. As these championships were held over three weekends, they became increasingly difficult to organize. If this competition were to be held in 2025, Jimmy Tinkler would award the championship to Lucas Scott, son of the Rawdon Golf Club's owner and recent winner at the Joliette Golf Club.

The club championship is complemented by a variety of competitions that can be described as "friendly." The 1987 calendar included the following competitions: "4-Ball Best Ball, Mixed Two Ball, Vegas, Junior-Senior, Scratch & Scramble."

To this day, the Shankers' Tournament and Gordie's Cup bring "fierce" competition and lots of fun for all participants. The most recent winners (2024) of Gordie's Cup were Jérémie Émond, Sylvain Lachance, Guillaume Vézeau, Dany Lemarbre and Marcel Sergerie.



*Gordie's Cup – Shankers Tournament*

Tournaments such as the Club Championship, President's Cup and Captain's Prize no longer exist, although some members would like to see them revived.

#### 6.1.4 Charity tournaments

Charity tournaments espouse numerous causes and serve primarily to raise funds for the organizations that set them up. Organizations as varied as the Rawdon Chamber of Commerce, the Saint-Alphonse Snowmobile Club, the Breast Cancer Research Fund of the Jewish General Hospital in Montréal and the Rawdon Firefighters have held their tournaments at the Rawdon Golf Club.

Of all the charity tournaments held at the Rawdon Golf Club, the Kenny Tinkler Memorial stands out for its renown, longevity and number of participants. An appendix is devoted to this tournament (see Appendix 7 – The “Omnium Kenny Tinkler Memorial” Tournament).

An article in the newspaper *L'Action*, dated May 19, 2002, reported that 30,000 rounds of golf were played and some 50 tournaments organized annually. With the decline in golf's popularity, by 2017 this figure had dropped to 25,000 rounds of golf and some 30 tournaments. The pandemic of recent years has contributed to an increase in the number of golfers and, in so doing, has enabled us to reach new heights in 2024, with over 30,000 rounds played and around 100 tournaments. The year 2024 was an exceptional one for the Rawdon golf course, thanks to both mild weather and a season that extended until November 23. The closure of a number of courses in the region attracted many new golfers, contributing to this record total.

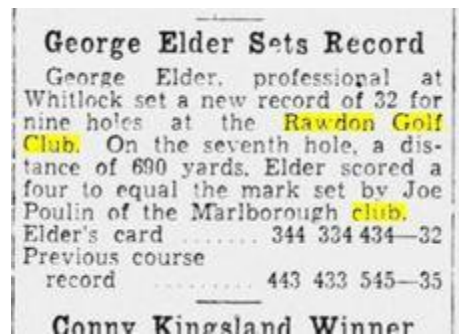
## 6.2 - Record-breaking and anecdotal rounds

Record rounds are generally recognized by the clubs, but as such records are not broken frequently, they are hardly known outside the clubs. An article in *The Gazette*, dated July 1, 1937,

announced that George Elder, a professional at the Whitlock Golf Club in Hudson, had set a new record for a nine-hole round at the Rawdon Golf Club. The newspaper article noted that Elder recorded a score of four on the 690-yard seventh hole. This score on hole #7 equalled the score achieved by Joe Poulin of the Marlborough Club. The article reproduced the scorecard from this record-breaking round:

George Elder's scorecard – Whitlock = 344 334 434 = 32

Previous record – Joe Poulin – Marlborough = 443 433 545 = 35



*The Gazette – July 1, 1937*

This score of 32 stood for many years, until 1966. It was then improved by one shot to a round of 31. This record of 31 was set by Wayne Marlin and has probably never been beaten and will never be, since the course has been replaced by a new eighteen-hole course. For an eighteen-hole round, that is, twice the nine-hole course, the record of 67 belongs to Bill Kerr and Ontario golfer Bob Alston.

#### *The eighteen-hole course*

On the eighteen-hole course opened in 1981, a round of 68 by Greg Tinkler proved to be the best round. This mark held for several years until it was improved to 67. It was again lowered to a score of 66, which was 7 strokes under par. It was achieved by Lucas Scott and Jade Fogarty.

#### *Anecdotal rounds*

On August 28, 1975, the Montréal newspaper *The Gazette* reported an anecdotal round of 84 by Jimmy Stein, who played his age.

### 6.3 - Holes-in-one

People who have the good fortune and/or luck to hit a hole-in-one are so rare that, at one time, the newspapers carried the news. If the shot made you happy, it also hurt your wallet, as tradition dictated that the hero of the day had to buy a round of drinks at the clubhouse upon returning from the round.

Among those who succeeded and reported the feat, we can mention the following names:

Unfortunately, we can't confirm that they kept to tradition.

#### *Nine-hole course*

Date	Name of person	Residence	Hole	Distance (yards)
October 1935	Clifford Osborne	Montréal		215
July 1948	John Pettigrew		# 3	145
September 1949	G. W. Finlayson	Rawdon		
	A. W. Scott		# 3	160
June 1957	Roger Lavallée	Rawdon	# 6	190
July 1958	Gerry Fitzgerald		# 3	
1969	Michel Charbonneau, Secretary to Minister Marcel Masse			<i>L'Action Populaire</i> September 17, 1969

#### *Eighteen-hole course*

Date	Name of person	Residence	Hole	Distance (yards) / Other info
July 2, 1982	Duncan Mitchell	Rawdon	# 6	160
	Ronald Joly			
2010	Jean-Guy Blouin		# 13	Photocopy of scorecard
October 5, 2010	Claude Lavigne		# 6	Photocopy of scorecard
June 20, 2011	Richard Mercier		# 6	Photocopy of scorecard
September 18, 2012	Bernard Henri		# 15	Iron #7

September 21, 2012	Yvon Arbour			Photocopy of scorecard
June 4, 2013	Hugh		# 6	Wednesday night Vegas
September 21, 2014	Claude Beauséjour			Sunday Vegas
September 21, 2014	Alain Filteau			Same as previous event, same foursome
24 June 24, 2015	André Lauzon		# 6	Signed scorecard
May 10, 2016	Jacques		# 15	Photocopy of scorecard
May 31, 2016	Roch Venne ?		# 13	Photocopy of scorecard
July 24, 2018	Ronald Joly		# 6	
August 10, 2018	Richard Comtois		# 13	
2023	Lucas Scott		# 15	
June 7, 2024	Michel Delavergne		# 15	Facebook post Rawdon Golf Resort

Please complete this table!

#### 6.4 - Trophies and Hall of Fame

The purpose of this section was to identify the best male and female golfers to have played on the fairways of the Rawdon Golf Club. The trophies and plaques that adorned them would have allowed us to take a trip down memory lane. Unfortunately, these relics have mysteriously disappeared.



*Biff Osborne, the club professional, presenting a trophy to a “junior”*

*Photograph from the Finlayson family archives, provided by Carol Finlayson*

### **6.5 - For the pleasure of playing: handicap and mulligan**

A retrospective of golf in Rawdon would not be complete without discussing two terms—handicap and mulligan—which underlie concepts that make golf so exciting and enjoyable.

The term “handicap” identifies a system that measures the performance of male and female golfers, allowing players of different skill levels to compete or play a friendly round on an equitable basis. Using relatively sophisticated calculations, this handicap system adjusts an individual’s score to take into account the most recent scores obtained and the difficulty of the course(s) on which those scores were obtained (Course Rating and Slope Rating). In practice, a golfer with a zero handicap (scratch golfer) usually plays the par of the course. A handicap of 18 refers to someone who would play a bogey (one over par) on every hole.

The term “mulligan” is used in golf to informally authorize a player to replay a shot, even though this action is contrary to the rules of golf. Although the term is now used in many contexts, the most plausible explanations for its origin are more often than not associated with golf.

The most common origin of the term “mulligan” in golf comes from an anecdote about Canadian golfer David Mulligan. Often arriving late and shaken by the bumpy drive to the golf course in the 1920s, he used to replay a missed first tee shot. His friends then agreed to give him a second ball, and the action became known as a “mulligan.” Another plausible explanation points to a locker room attendant named John A. “Buddy” Mulligan, who was also allowed to replay shots, particularly on the first hole.