Carol Finlayson describes it as follows:

"The caddy shack was a separate building to the left of the clubhouse. It was a green log building where clubs were kept and where green fees were purchased. The caddies sat on a bench outside the caddy shack waiting for a caddying job."

Description provided by Carol Finlayson – September 25, 2025

The Caddy Shack
Photograph from the Finlayson family archives, provided by Carol Finlayson

The architectural style described by Carol Finlayson is similar to the style of the first clubhouse destroyed by fire. This "shack" would therefore likely have been built before 1950.

In the early days, caddies carried the bags with the golfer's clubs, but the development and refinement of pull carts and carts led to the virtual disappearance of caddies, except in Professional Golfers Association (PGA) tournaments. While caddies continue to carry the bags containing the clubs, they now act as advisors, helping with distance assessment, club selection and reading of greens.

The arrival of pull carts in the 1940s and 1950s saw a gradual decline in the use of caddies, to the point where today, with the ubiquity of golf carts, caddies have disappeared from the Rawdon Golf Club.

The pull cart is thought to have been invented in the early 1940s. Numerous companies developed their own models. In 1946, Bruce Williamson and E. Roy Jarman cobbled together the first Bag Boy hand cart from aluminum tubing, a few springs and a pair of lawnmower wheels. Nearly three quarters of a century later, not only does the company still exist, but it has forced many a golfer to admit that carrying an average golf bag weighing around ten kilos with its fourteen clubs, a few balls and accessories over a distance of more than eight kilometres made little sense.

Although developed during the 1930s for other applications, the motorized golf cart began to appear and gain popularity on America's golf courses from the mid-1950s onwards. A typical golf cart can carry two golfers and their equipment. It is generally about 1.2 m (4 ft.) wide, 2.4 m (8 ft.) long and 1.8 m (6 ft.) high. It weighs between 410 and 450 kg and can reach speeds of up to 25 km/h.

The first golf carts appeared at the Rawdon Golf Club in the 1960s or early 1970s. These first golf carts at the Rawdon Golf Club were owned by private individuals, who reimbursed the club for electricity consumption and storage, when applicable. Interviewees recalled the three-wheeled carts manufactured by the "Victor" and "Pargo" companies.

Private cart – Rawdon Golf Club

The Rawdon Golf Club acquired a fleet of Yamaha gas-powered golf carts in the late 1980s. These were replaced by electric carts in 2008-2009. Today, the club has a fleet of Club Car electric carts. It should be pointed out that Gordon Scott quickly took steps to reduce the impact of these carts on the course. In particular, he restricted cart access to various parts of the course, with the immediate effect of protecting greens and other sensitive parts of the course. However, these measures had a negative impact by creating numerous cart paths.

It soon became necessary to provide facilities for washing, storing and protecting these carts from theft. The first cart shed was built on the site where the hotel is now located. Guy Juteau demonstrated his welding skills by assembling several 2-inch-diameter steel pipes. As the fleet of carts grew, storage for all this new equipment required more adequate facilities. A second shed/shelter was built in 1994 on the site of the current Gordie's restaurant and bar.

The cart shelter that would become Gordie's

In 2004, this shelter was converted to house the catering services, the pro shop and the administrative offices. It was replaced by two service buildings to store golf equipment (bags, clubs and pull carts) and golf carts. With a fleet of nearly 80 carts, some 2,500 square feet of storage space is required.

3.4 - Service buildings

Over the years, the rapid growth in membership in the 1950s and 1960s, the evolution of technology and the addition of the second nine-hole section to the course all contributed to changing and especially increasing customer demand for complementary services. These factors resulted in the clubhouse exceeding its capacity, which led the owners to relocate certain services.

Catering services would soon require increasingly sophisticated refrigeration and kitchen equipment. The survey produced by Ed. W. Kirk in July 1960 (see subsection 3.1) identified a complementary building on the northeast side of Lakeshore Drive, identified as the "ice house." At the time, an "ice house" was a structure designed to store blocks of ice year-round, before the advent of refrigerators. These buildings were essential for preserving food during the hottest months of the year. Ice was collected from the frozen lake in winter. The arrival of refrigerators sounded the death knell for such practices.

Meals were served for many years in the clubhouse. Steaks cooked on the barbecue were a popular item in the 1960s and 1970s. The installation of a shack on the course in the 1960s also enabled golfers to enjoy refreshments during their round of golf, including chocolate bars and drinks. Strategically located on the nine-hole course, golfers had easy access to the shack before teeing off on the 5th hole, along the 7th and at the green of the 8th.

A multifunctional service building

Still on the subject of food and drinks, it would be several years, a few course inversions and the stabilization of the current course (with hole #1 of the nine-hole course now hole #10) before the decision was made to transform the cart shelter (see photograph in previous section) located on the golf side of Lakeshore Drive near the tee-off of hole #10 into a multifunctional building.

Today, this building houses Gordie's restaurant, the pro shop, equipment rental (golf and other outdoor activities) and driving range access services, the starter's station and the administrative offices. The selected site allows golfers to eat and drink between the first and second nine-hole sections as well as at the end of their eighteen-hole round. The municipal assessment form mentions that this building was constructed in 1994. The area of the buildings and the type of construction are not specified. In 2011, this building on the golf side was renovated to match the main clubhouse. The addition of a large marquee terrace would mark the opening of Gordie's restaurant and bar and allow for the accommodation of a greater number of guests during the summer season.

The culinary offering, first served in the clubhouse, earned rave reviews from members right from the start. Since the opening of Gordie's restaurant, the clientele has expanded. Gordie's has become a friendly place to get a bite to eat between rounds of golf, enjoy its renowned cuisine, and even relax after a day on the hiking, fat bike, and snowshoe trails. Gordie's prides itself on

working with local, seasonal produce. Gordie's stands out for the quality, variety and uniqueness of its menu, while appealing to even the fussiest of palates.

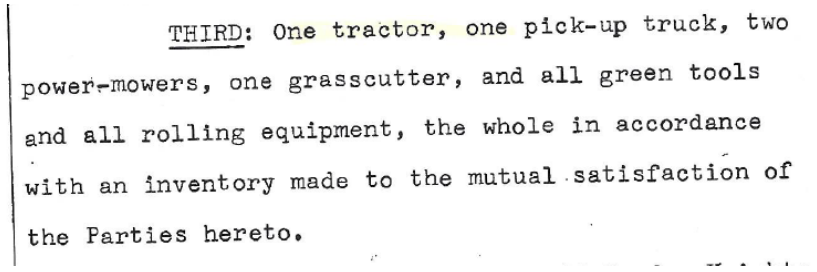
The pro shop provides golfers with all the equipment they need to practice the sport of golf, including tees, balls, golf shoes, clothing and even clubs. While the space occupied and the inventory have fluctuated over the years and decades, the equipment on offer has always been able to tide customers over in times of need.

3.5 - Grounds maintenance

A key factor in the quality of a golf club, the condition of the grass is a major challenge for golf clubs located in mountainous regions. Essential to keeping the grounds in good condition, course maintenance would bring its share of innovations and requirements in terms of vehicles, equipment and infrastructure.

Over the years, the evolution of course maintenance techniques has created new infrastructure requirements. While sheep and scything were used to keep the lawn short before the industrial revolution, it was not until the invention of the mower and, in particular, the cylindrical or helical mower, that mechanization took hold. With several units grouped together and pulled by horses, then tractors and self-propelled machines, it became possible to cut large areas quickly. Various technological improvements (wheels minimizing the footprint, cutting height adjustments, user safety, etc.) were developed. The latest models incorporate a mechanism that transforms the cut grass into mulch. Accessories for soil aeration, greens levelling, watering and vegetation control have been adapted for use on golf courses. A special tool (plugger) is used to dig holes that are systematically moved every day and to repair small areas of damaged turf.

When the Rawdon Golf Club was sold by the Rawdon Land & Construction Company to the Rawdon Heights Golf and Country Club in 1960, the grounds maintenance equipment was part of the transaction. It was described as follows:



THIRD: One tractor, one pick-up truck, two power-mowers, one grasscutter, and all green tools and all rolling equipment, the whole in accordance with an inventory made to the mutual satisfaction of the Parties hereto.

Still on the subject of grounds maintenance, the use of pesticides and fungicides has become standard practice, with the aim of creating grass surfaces offering ideal conditions for golf. The addition of nine more holes required the purchase of better-adapted maintenance equipment capable of maintaining this larger surface area.

With a commercial loan dated May 29, 1984, the Rawdon Golf Club acquired Jacobson commercial mowers, an M.J.C. Marbel trailer, an OLATHE seeder, a Lely wheeled fertilizer spreader, a 120 H.P. White water tank, a MARFAX pole drill, a tractor blade and a "flail mower."

Drainage and irrigation

While the children of Weir Finlayson and Gordon Scott were fortunate enough to be introduced to the benefits of hand-watering the greens at an early age, it wasn't until the 1980s that an automated watering system was installed. First installed on the new eighteen-hole course, the system was entrusted to Holmes Irrigation. In 1987, an automatic watering system was installed on the first nine holes, which had no such system. An as-built plan drawn up by Mr. Holmes, the installer, identifies the main elements of this system. A pumping system brings water from Rawdon Lake to the entire course. It's worth noting that, until this system was installed, only the greens and tees were watered, and then only manually. As soon as it was up and running, the course would get better and better.

It's interesting to read Gordon Scott's diary entries from 1983 to 1987. They cover a wide range of golf course maintenance tasks:

- Watering
- Mowing of the greens with a push mower
- Mowing of the greens with a triplex
- Spreading of fertilizer on greens and tees
- Preparing of maintenance tools and equipment (plugger, blower, aerator, fairway mowers)
- Sowing of grass
- Repair of carts
- Treatment of diseases
- Maintenance of clubhouse showers
- Repair of frost damage to the course

What a long way we've come and what improvements have been made to the course over the last 40 years! See for yourself by comparing these photographs.

Hole #6 circa 1930-1940

Hole #13 (former hole #6) – Photograph taken around 2010

Let John Scott explain a typical day for a golf superintendent. “Plans for the day are made the day before. Arriving at the Club at 5:30 a.m., it’s time to prepare for the team’s 6:00 a.m. arrival. It’s going to be a busy day, with a thirty-six-hole tournament starting at 11:00 a.m. on one course, while the other is reserved for members. Work must therefore be completed by 11:00 a.m. The greens and fairways have to be prepared and the holes moved. Constant contact is maintained with the clubhouse, pro store and maintenance team to react to any problems that may arise. With thirty-six holes to maintain, grass cutting is carried out on one course per day in alternation. This means ensuring that all staff members are at their posts, compensating for absences, and reacting in the event of machinery breakdown. Once operations are well underway, a general inspection is required. With a team of 30 to 40 people for a thirty-six-hole course, there are always surprises, and weather is a factor.”

In addition to these typical summer days of work, seasonal maintenance operations are also required. To ensure that the much harsher climate in mountainous regions such as Rawdon does not damage the course, specific operations must be carried out, particularly to prevent irrigation pipes from freezing and to protect the greens. New regulations along with the early arrival of the first snowfall increase the level of difficulty associated with applying pesticides.

3.6 - Complementary infrastructure

In addition to these physical installations, there is the virtual technological infrastructure required to manage operations. Management software, websites and data storage are now essential components of operations management.

Management information system

The Rawdon Golf Resort uses computerized systems to manage its operations. Given the multiplicity of its operations, several software programs interact. For golf activities, the Chronogolf software is used to manage tee time reservations and pricing. For restaurant and hotel operations, the Libro module facilitates reservation management, while Webrez handles room reservations. All these modules are brought together under Lightspeed, which integrates them with its point-of-sale management software (pro shop, restaurant sales, accounting, etc.). The website was designed by blankonumérique.

Parking spaces

The opening of the eighteen-hole golf course created additional car parking requirements. To meet these needs, a main parking lot replaced hole #10. The P3 parking lot (at the intersection of Chemin du Golf and Lakeshore Drive) was also enlarged with the acquisition of adjacent land.