

clubhouse at Rawdon Golf Club. This clubhouse served as a restaurant and meeting place for members. It had changing rooms and storage space for equipment (bags and clubs).



Photograph obtained from the Paradis and Léonard family, reproduced in La Presse – June 5, 1926

The exact date on which this photograph was taken is not known. However, it was reproduced in *La Presse* on June 5, 1926. The clubhouse was built between April 1925 and June 1926. The newspaper *Le Canada* described it as follows in 1931:

“It has a very ‘chic’ nine-hole course with greens and promenades that are becoming more attractive every year. The clubhouse, located on the heights overlooking the lake, offers its visitors beautiful apartments and excellent cuisine.” [translation]



Le Canada – May 18, 1931

Alain Chaput, a specialist in the history of golf in Quebec, has extensive knowledge of the clubhouses built at that time. He confirms that this clubhouse can be described as “very beautiful, even magnificent.” It already offered accommodation and catering services.

Country clubs

Private clubs emerged in Quebec towards the end of the 19th century in the wake of the English bourgeoisie. These clubs were accessible only to their members, politicians or industry leaders, who met to exchange ideas and do business. The Rawdon Golf Club was soon recognized for its country club family-friendly atmosphere.

This second photograph (see below) shows the clubhouse some ten years later, in the late 1930s. The exterior had been modified, but it was still the same original building. A fireplace with a chimney and an exterior gallery had been added. Windows on either side of the chimney had replaced the original single window. The three windows on the roof slope had been slightly modified but occupied the same location.



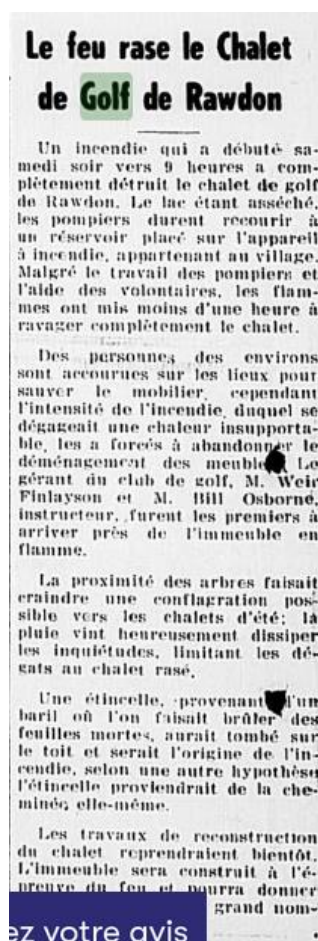
Photograph from a postcard showing improvements to the first clubhouse

The October 1950 fire

At around 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 21, 1950, a fire broke out in the clubhouse of the Rawdon Golf Club. With the lake dry, firefighters were unable to bring the blaze under control. In less than an hour, the fire had razed the clubhouse to the ground. Newspapers^x of the time reported that club manager Weir Finlayson and pro Biff Osborne were the first to arrive on the scene. With the help of volunteers, they tried to get the furniture out but were unsuccessful because of the excessive heat.

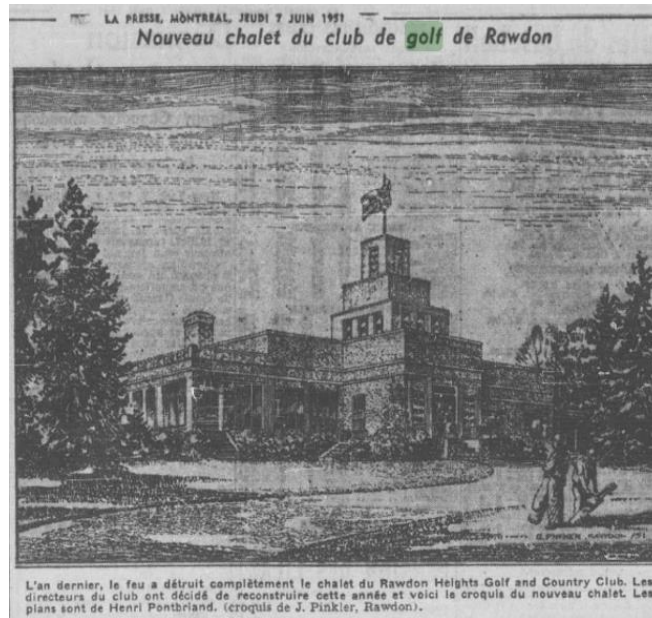


L'Avenir du Nord – October 27, 1950

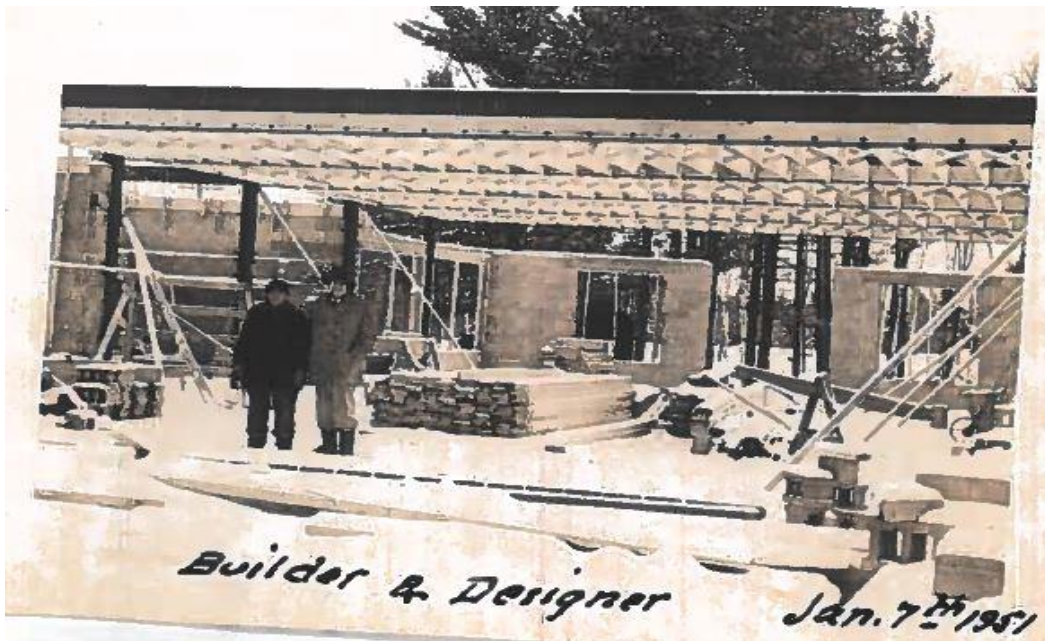


L'Étoile du Nord – October 26, 1950

On June 7, 1951, the newspaper *La Presse* published a sketch of the new Rawdon Golf Club clubhouse to be built in accordance with Henri Pontbriand's plans.



The second clubhouse – The concept, La Presse – June 7, 1951



*The second clubhouse under construction – January 7, 1951
Photograph from the Finlayson family archives, provided by Carol Finlayson*



The builder, Fred Booth, and the designer, Henri Pontbriand—the second clubhouse under construction

Photograph from the Finlayson family archives, provided by Carol Finlayson

Another newspaper article reported that the new clubhouse would be ready in time for a major tournament, the Rawdon Open, to be held at the end of July 1951.



Le Canada – July 17, 1951



Photograph of the second clubhouse – 1950s (obtained from Carol Finlayson)



Photograph of second clubhouse

“The photo of the clubhouse was from the 1960s. The Finlayson family lived in an apartment in the Golf Club clubhouse until 1960. The structure on the left led to the basement where the lockers and washrooms were. We also had our junior dances there!”

Description provided by Carol Finlayson – September 2025



Photograph of a painting of the clubhouse by artist S. Harwood

The municipal assessment form states that the clubhouse, which replaced the one destroyed by the fire, was built in 1952. It has a surface area of 1,106.8 m² on each of its two floors. The type of construction is not specified. Several users recall the changing rooms with lockers and showers (men and women) located in the building's basement.

It should be pointed out that from the moment the Finlayson moved out of the clubhouse, it was closed during the winter, from early November to May.

The post-war baby boom created a new pool of users and golfers, increasing demand (the number of golfers) and the services expected of golf clubs. With Gordon Scott's acquisition and the creation of Rawdon Golf and Ski-doo Club, the clubhouse opened its doors to snowmobile enthusiasts in winter until 1979. Gordon Scott even became a dealer for snowmobile manufacturer Polaris. With the economic downturn following the November 1976 election, Gordon Scott's focus shifted to adding a second nine-hole to the existing course...which monopolized a significant portion of his financial resources (improving the irrigation system, purchasing a fleet of golf carts, adding a second service building)...until his death in 2007.

Renovations 2007-2010

On February 23, 2007, the Municipality of Rawdon granted the Rawdon Golf Club a renovation and repair permit for work inside the main clubhouse (main room, back room and kitchen). The work, estimated at \$85,000 and carried out by Construction Réjean Beauséjour Inc., included electrical work and the installation of interior siding and equipment such as sound systems, movable acoustic walls, bar equipment and furniture.

Between 2008 and 2010, a second floor was added to the main clubhouse^x. The exterior of the clubhouse was completed in 2010.



Photograph of a painting showing the clubhouse with its two floors

Back to accommodation

Starting in 2017^{xi}, the Rawdon Golf Club enhanced its eighteen-hole course with accommodations offering some 40 rooms by expanding the clubhouse as well as acquiring a second site. More details on accommodation are provided in section 8.

Over the years, the practice of golf and the society surrounding this practice have evolved, leading to an increase not only in the number of services offered but also in the degree of sophistication of those services. As demonstrated in the following sections, golf course owners have equipped themselves with additional infrastructure to meet this demand.

3.3 - Transportation and storage of equipment

Golf equipment (bags and clubs) and the way in which golfers' equipment is transported on the course have also evolved, creating new needs in terms of facilities. Dating back to the very invention of golf, the presence of caddies was unavoidable until the 1950s. At the Rawdon Golf Club, this presence is evoked by a small shack known as the "caddy shack."