
SECTION 3 – THE FACILITIES

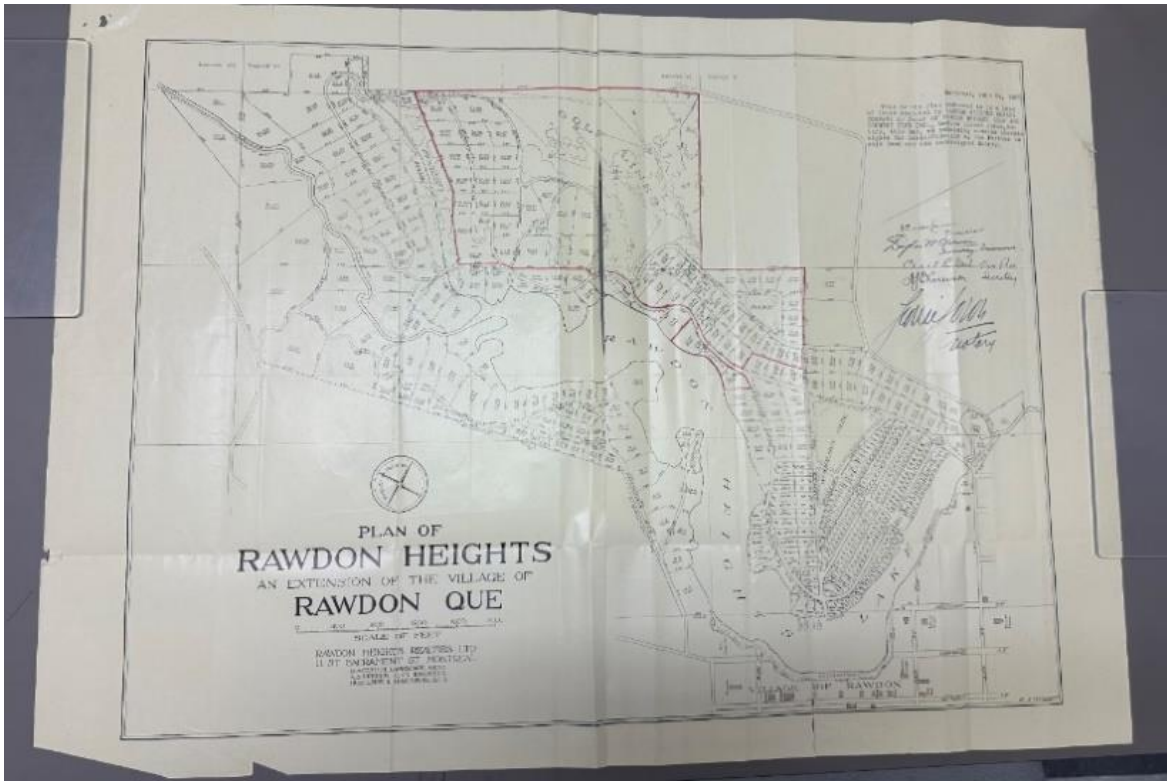
The original promoters of the golf club had acquired large tracts of land (1,000 acres) with the intention of developing Rawdon as a tourist destination. They also set aside about 135 acres of this land for a golf club. When it opened in 1926, the club, known at the time as the Rawdon Heights Golf and Country Club, boasted a 3,000-yard course and a clubhouse for members. Over the years, several buildings would be added to make up the club's facilities. By 2025, these facilities can be subdivided into two components located on either side of Lakeshore Drive. The first component, located at 4000 Lakeshore Drive, includes the eighteen-hole golf course with its driving range and practice putting green, the Gordie's pavilion with its restaurant and covered patio, pro shop and administrative offices. Service buildings (members golf equipment storage, golf cart storage, mechanic's shop and golf course maintenance equipment storage) are also part of this first component. This first component covers a surface area of approximately 150 acres (558,890.8 m²) on lots 4 994 667, 4 994 668, 5 302 302 and 5 302 307 of the renovated Rawdon township cadastre. The second component, located at 3999 Lakeshore Drive (the lake side), comprises the hotel and reception halls. This second component covers an area of approximately 3 acres (12,236.4 m²) on three lots of the renovated cadastre (4 994 645, 4 995 970 and 5 302 279). The following paragraphs identify, describe and recall the history of these facilities.

3.1 - The golf course

The plan entitled "Plan of Rawdon Heights – An extension of the Village of Rawdon" (also shown in subsection 2.1), produced by landscape architect R.A. Outhet, civil engineer A. S. Dickson and surveyors Hurtubise & Hurtubise on behalf of Rawdon Heights Realties Limited, shows the facilities planned for the golf club. This plan is reproduced on page 5 of this document and at the end of the following paragraph. The land leased to the Rawdon Heights Golf and Country Club is indicated by red lines. A nine-hole Golf Links course and the clubhouse are identified. However, the date on which this plan was prepared is not mentioned on the document. As Rawdon Heights Realties Limited went into liquidation in 1917, the base plan must have been prepared around 1914-1915, while the red lines were drawn at the signing of the lease with the Rawdon Heights Golf and Country Club in 1925.

It is important to point out that Rickson A. Outhet, the first Canadian-born professional landscape architect, prepared the plans for the Islesmere Golf and Country Club and the Montréal Country Club in Saint-Bruno. While it seems clear that the original nine-hole course at the Rawdon Golf Club did not fully respect Rickson Outhet's proposed design, it is quite plausible that this plan contributed significantly to the layout of the original nine-hole course. As several years elapsed between the preparation of the initial concept and its implementation, hypotheses (awaiting confirmation) attribute these adjustments either to Rickson Outhet himself, or to Albert Murray,

the designer of several golf clubs in Canada and a distinguished golfer (see Appendix 5 for additional information), or indeed to any recognized designer at the time. Either would have reviewed Rickson Outhet's design and played an important role in determining the configuration of the initial nine-hole course, as well as the future eighteen-hole course. This information (awaiting validation) is compiled in a separate document entitled "The designers of the Rawdon Golf Club."



Plan of Rawdon Heights – An extension of the Village of Rawdon

The course has evolved since its opening in 1926. The first newspaper articles referring to it mentioned that the club had eleven holes. An article in the *La Presse* newspaper dated July 10, 1930, described the golf course as follows:

"... it is interesting to know that at Rawdon there is an eleven-hole golf course, with a log clubhouse, overlooking a splendid lake. The golf course is pleasantly situated amidst the surrounding mountains. What charming memories one has of a day spent leisurely pacing a course set in such an enchanting and pleasant setting." [translated from the original document written in French]

LES CLUBS DE GOLF

. . .

Location	CLUB	Nombre de trous
Mont-Royal	Mount Royal Golf and Country Club	18
Cartierville	Marlborough Golf and Country Club	18
St-Dorothée	Islemere Golf and Country Club	18
Laval	Club Laval Sur le Lac	18
St. Andrews East	St. Andrews Golf Club	9
St-Jérôme	St. Jerome Golf Club	9
St-Sauveur	St. Sauveur Golf Club	9
Shawbridge	Shawbridge Golf and Country Club	9
Arundel	Barkmere Golf Club	9
Rawdon	Rawdon Heights Golf and Country Club	11
Lucerne-en-Québec	Lucerne-in-Quebec Golf Course	18
St-Agathe	Laurentian Golf and Country Club	9
St-Eustache	Belleview Golf Course	18
St-Jovite	Gray Rocks Golf Course	9
St-Marguerite	St. Margaret Country Club	9
Val Merin	Val Merin Golf Club	9

Golf clubs north of Montréal (excerpt from the newspaper Le Canada – August 2, 1934)

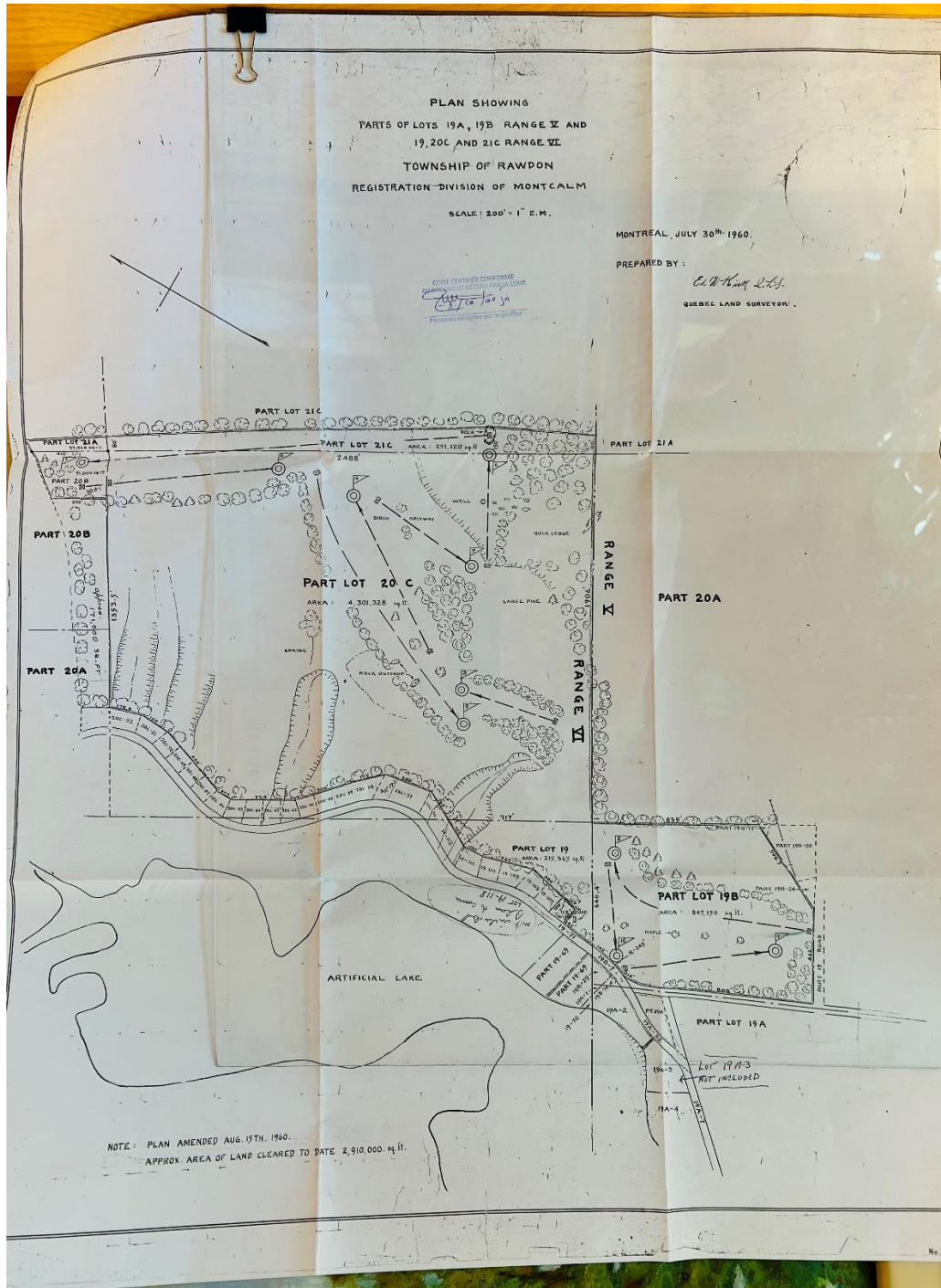
Course standardization and number of holes

The origin of golf is attributed to the St. Andrews course in Scotland. The first golfers were hitting their balls on a narrow strip of land along the sea. From this emerged the first eleven-hole course, which took them from the clubhouse to the property boundaries. These same holes were then played in reverse, for a total of twenty-two holes. In 1764, several of these holes, deemed too short, were combined to reduce the course to 18 holes, the standard since the recognition of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews as the governing body for the sport of golf towards the end of the 19th century.

No information has been found to show that the club had these eleven holes in its early days. It is therefore highly probable that the course's initial configuration was quite similar to the nine-hole course as it existed until 1980. In fact, most of the clubs created in Quebec at that time had only nine holes, as can be seen from the above list from *Le Canada* newspaper.

Rawdon nine-hole course

With the standardization of nine-hole and eighteen-hole courses, the Rawdon Golf Club appeared, towards the end of the 1930s, with a nine-hole course. In reality, it was a ten-hole course. If you pay close attention to the details, it's possible to find this ten-hole course on this surveyor's plan (below) drawn on July 30, 1960, by Ed. W. Kirk.

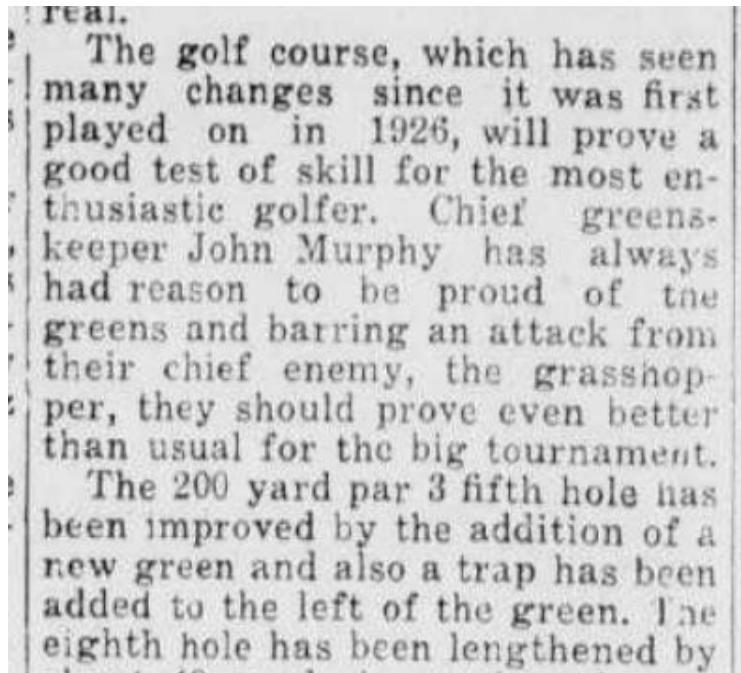


Survey drawn on July 30, 1960

The double circles with the small flags indicate the actual location of the greens on these ten holes. Hole #1 is located in the same place as the current hole #10, while hole #2 has become hole #11. We can also see the presence of hole #10 (not on the scorecard), which concluded the

nine-hole round with a short par-3, bringing golfers back to the current parking lot (near tee-off of hole #1).

The course shown on this surveyor's plan had already undergone a number of changes since the club opened in 1926.



The Sherbrooke Daily Record – July 14, 1949

In order to host major tournaments in the 1950s, the course had undergone some modifications. Hole #5, a 200-yard par 3, was improved by adding a new green and a bunker on the left side of the green. Hole #8 was lengthened by 40 yards by moving back the tee. With its green on a plateau, this hole became an interesting 334-yard par 4.

The nine "official" holes had descriptive names that could be found on a scorecard of the time (see below).

No.	yards	Par					Won by	Where Strokes are taken	NAME	No.	yards	Par					Won by	Where strokes are taken
			1	2	3	4							1	2	3	4		
1	260	4						13	Flying Start	10	260	4						14
2	395	4						5	Dog's Leg	11	395	4						6
3	160	3						17	Bridle Path	12	160	3						18
4	310	4						9	Horseshoe	13	310	4						10
5	200	3						15	The Birches	14	200	3						16
6	190	3						11	The Ravine	15	190	3						12
7	702	5						1	Twin Valleys	16	702	5						2
8	334	4						7	The Plateau	17	334	4						8
9	521	5						3	Rolling Home	18	521	5						4
Total	3072	35																
										in	3072	35						
										out	3072	35						
										Total	6144	70						
										Handicap								
										Net								
										_____ 19 _____								
										Signature								

										Countersigned								
										It is the Duty of Every Golfer to replace the turf and fill holes made in bunkers. After waving players through, never play till they have gone through and are out of range.								

Scorecard – Nine-hole course (used until 1981)

Hole #2 (now hole #11) was, and still is, shaped like a dog’s leg. Hole #4 (Horseshoe) owes its name to the particular shape of its green (now hole #16). The characteristic shape of this “green” has disappeared, however, as access is no longer from the same direction. Many of you will remember hole #5 (The Birches/Les bouleaux) with its birch trees in the middle of the fairway. These birches were home to numerous swallows’ nests that would welcome you in a memorable way if your ball disturbed their quietness. Hole #7 (Twin Valleys) has been the club’s trademark for many years. Considered the longest hole in North America, its 702-yard par 5 presented quite a challenge. Today, this same hole has become a 541-yard par 5 and a 139-yard par 3.

Hole #7 deserves more attention. Now replaced by holes 14 and 15, it’s possible to appreciate its level of difficulty if a golfer were to play from the tee-off of hole #14 and reach the “green” of hole #15. According to media reports of the time and the memories of long-time members, birdies (one under par) were made on this hole, but none of them could recall an eagle (two under par). In an article published in *Le Devoir* newspaper, club manager Weir Finlayson stated that all attempts to shorten the hole had gone nowhere.



*Photograph of William Scott, Gordon Scott's uncle, in front of the tee-off on hole #7
(photograph provided by John Scott)*

Other distinctive features of the nine-hole course included the well located between the tee-off and the green on hole #6 (now hole #13) with its rust-coloured water.



Photograph taken from the tee-off of hole #6 (The Ravine) around 1930-1940

It is relevant to point out that, in those years, the greens were watered manually. Automatic watering would only be installed prior to the completion of the eighteen-hole course. It was also possible to play the “flats” in a short friendly (less strenuous) competition. The English word “flats” was used to refer to the only three holes located on flat ground: holes #1, #2 and #10 (today holes #10 and #11, with the old informal hole #10 having been replaced by a parking lot). Other distinctive features include the horseshoe-shaped green on hole #4 (slightly modified today to serve as the green for hole #16). On another level, the “little shack,” also called the “beer shack,” located between the horseshoe-shaped green of hole #4 and the tee-off of hole #5 (it isn’t there anymore) and the one known as the “caddy shack” are worthy of mention. The first of these “shacks” was used to provide golfers with soft drinks, chocolate bars and other refreshments at the halfway point. In fact, the first shack was located in a very strategic spot, as it made the shack accessible to the golfers three times on the same nine-hole course (after the green on hole #4, after the tee shot on hole #7 and before the tee shot on hole #9). The second, located near the clubhouse, was used to store members’ golf bags and clubs. There was a bench where caddies could sit while waiting to be selected by a golfer who wanted a “caddy.”

Designing the eighteen-hole course

The design phase of the second nine-hole course and its integration into the existing course requires a good understanding of the site, its natural features, topography and environmental conditions. The course designer must develop an overall vision and layout that offers an attractive experience for golfers. Fairways, greens and bunkers must be designed to take into account factors such as drainage and environmental sensitivity. The design must provide unique challenges for each hole, offering a variety of shots and strategic positioning for golfers of different abilities.

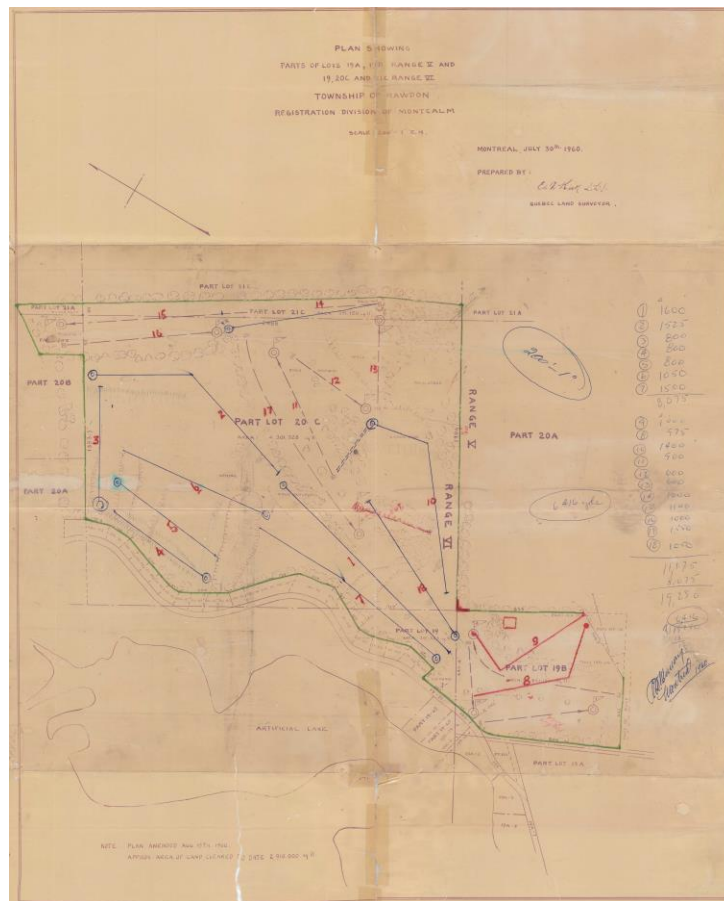
Modern golf course design focuses on minimizing environmental impact through sustainable practices, water conservation and preservation of natural habitats, all in the interest of profitability. To design and develop them, several areas of expertise, including engineers, environmental consultants and construction teams, must collaborate.

In May 1960, Weir Finlayson, head of the greens committee, announced that the course would be extended to eighteen holes, with the additional nine holes laid out under the supervision of golf architect Albert Murray.



The Gazette – May 27, 1960

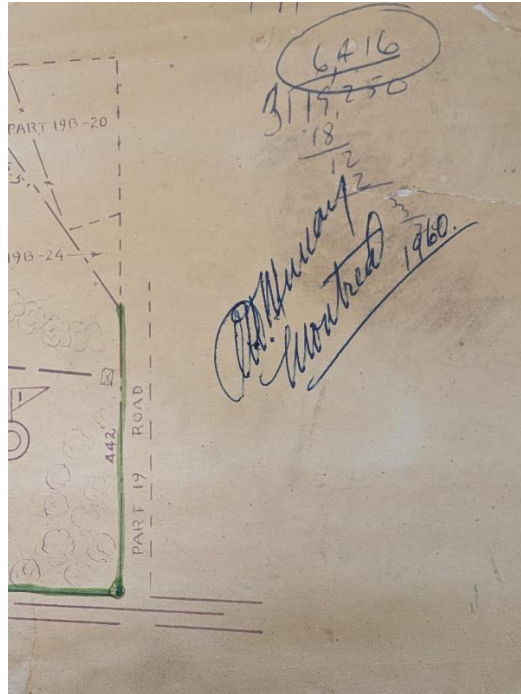
It is interesting to note that the surveyor’s plan drawn in 1960 and reproduced in previous paragraphs contains a proposal to modify the course from nine holes to eighteen.



Hand-drawn eighteen-hole course layout signed by Albert Murray

Gordon's son, Hugh Scott, mentions that the original plan followed by his father when building the second nine was framed in the main clubhouse. He points out that this plan showed a driving range at the location of what is hole #1 (now #10).

This proposal is signed by Albert H. Murray, as announced by Weir Finlayson.



Excerpt from surveyor's plan dated July 30, 1960 – Signature of Albert Murray

Albert Murray

Albert Murray was the youngest golfer ever to win the Canadian Open, winning it twice. Inducted into the Golf Québec and Golf Canada Halls of Fame, he was the head professional at the Country Club of Montreal and the Beaconsfield Golf Club. He is also renowned for his golf course designs, the best-known being those in Laval-sur-le-Lac, Grand-Mère, Val-Morin, Whitlock, Malone, Edmundston and Knowlton. Albert Murray died in in 1974. Other experts would have to be called in to carry out the site work on Rawdon's eighteen-hole course. Additional notes concerning Albert Murray are presented in Appendix 5.

Longer courses

As the quality of equipment (clubs and balls) improved, golf clubs were forced to lengthen their courses. From an average of around 5,000 yards at the beginning of the 20th century, the average length now exceeds 6,100 yards.

The eighteen-hole course

For many years, the Finlayson family had wanted to expand the golf course to eighteen holes. Following the layout proposed by Albert Murray, Weir Finlayson retained the services of Jack Vincelli Jr., a renowned Montréal golf architect, to complete the plans for this expansion. Unfortunately, the expansion did not take place under the Finlayson family. Although some clearing work was undertaken during the Sieprawski/Finlayson era, it was not until 1981 that the project could be completed.

In addition to ensuring that the design developed some 15 years earlier remained relevant, the club's new administration, under the leadership of Gordon Scott, had to make sure that sufficient space was available to accommodate the proposed concept and follow the trend towards longer holes. The purchase of small areas of land was therefore necessary, in particular to widen the new hole #5. Gordon Scott assumed responsibility for carrying out the various stages of the course development and construction. These included site preparation and clearing, profiling of fairways and greens, installation of the irrigation system, construction of bunkers and greens, seeding and landscaping. All of these stages can take up to three years to complete.

Site preparation was entrusted to Dawson Carroll, who owned a Caterpillar D8 bulldozer at the time. Dawson cleared the ground and laid out the initial contours of the course. Hugh Scott, Gordon's son, recalls that the clearing work presented no great challenge, since the course had already been cleared 20 years earlier. However, extensive grading and earthworks were necessary and were carried out to create the elevated tee boxes, fairways, greens and the strategic location of obstacles such as sand traps. Arnold Carroll took care of the earthworks. A sand quarry was available near hole #12. Arnold had the equipment to screen the material.

Preparing and seeding the greens

To design and lay out the greens, Gordon Scott called on the expertise of Otto Jangl, who had a company specializing in the sale of equipment and seeds for golf clubs and who put him in touch with Jacques Paris. Once the large stones had been removed, it was possible to obtain an acceptable mixture that could be used to prepare the surface of the greens. This mixture was not perfect, given the complex construction of greens and bunkers today, often using specialized techniques and materials. The greens were seeded with a mixture of "seaside bentgrass" and "colonial bentgrass," although it should be noted that this type of mixture is no longer used today.

Drainage and irrigation

Steve Carroll used a backhoe to carry out the drainage work and install the main water supply pipe. As far as watering the course was concerned, there was no real system in place initially, and

only the greens were watered by hand. There was a 4-foot-high swimming pool behind the old green on hole #9. It was filled during the day with municipal water. A 2-to-3-inch gasoline pump had difficulty watering the greens. Watering was done using black polyethylene hoses with connecting clamps that were always coming off. Small sprinklers bought at Canadian Tire were also used because the water pressure was insufficient. These hoses ended up in the undergrowth and were difficult to pull. The golf course was yellow in summer and white in winter. In those days, there wasn't much grass on the fairways. There were small tufts of grass that allowed you to move your ball and place it on a tee. Winter rules applied throughout the golf season. When the eighteen-hole course was built, the new holes were equipped with PVC piping and manual valves to control four or five sprinkler heads. For the fairways, quick-connect fittings were installed. A manual system was also purchased from the Royal Montreal Club. In 1987, Holmes Irrigation installed a pumping station in the lake, replacing the one that had been in place since the 1960s but had been destroyed by fire. This made it possible to automate irrigation. The fairways became greener in summer. Drainage systems were also installed to manage rainwater runoff.

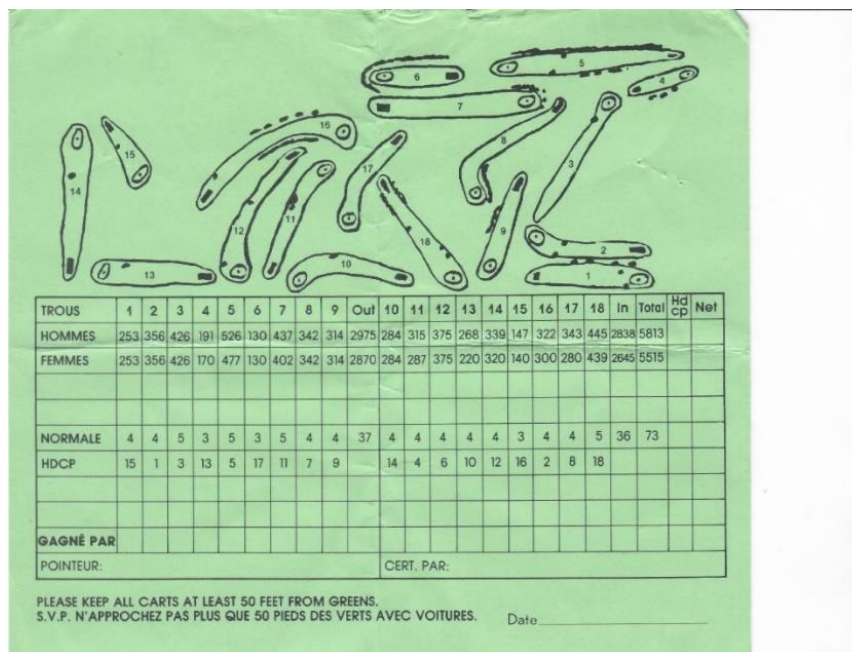
Hugh Scott also recalls that the 14th-hole green was covered for some time (to allow grass to grow and strengthen) before the conversion to eighteen holes. Finally, grass was planted in the fairways, and trees and other landscaping elements were added to enhance the aesthetics of the course and offer strategic challenges.

According to Dawson Carroll and Hugh Scott, Lindsay Brown acted as an “informal” advisor to Gordon Scott during the development and construction of the eighteen-hole course. Lindsay had retired following the closure of *The Montreal Star* newspaper in September 1979. Gordon would utilize as a base a plan displayed in a frame hanging on the wall of the main clubhouse.

After seeding, grass needs 12 to 18 months to grow and provide the necessary resistance for a golf course. Applying fertilizers at the right times of the year is very important. Work on the eighteen-hole course was therefore carried out between September 1979 and the start of the 1981 golf season.

The new Rawdon golf course, extended from nine to eighteen holes, opened in June 1981. The new layout did not retain the famous hole #7. Hugh Scott mentions having discussed this on several occasions with his father. Modifications could have been—and could still be—made, as hole #16 is very wide.

However, in the early days, the course kept holes #1 and #2 as they existed on the nine-hole course. With a par 73, the course was first extended to 5,813 yards for men and 5,515 for ladies. According to Hugh Scott, the first golfers to tee off on the eighteen-hole course hit their shot on hole #1 of the original course, as shown on this scorecard.



Eighteen-hole course – Initial scorecard (used from 1981)

According to Hugh Scott, the course has been reversed several times. So, after the first inversion and from then on, the tee-off of the first hole would be at the tee-off of what was the 10th, and conversely, the tee-off of hole #1 would become the tee-off of hole #10. This change was necessary to improve the flow of play on the course. As there was a significant slowdown between the 9th and 10th holes, it became easier to manage the flow of play by controlling the tee-offs on the 10th hole if it was located just off the starter position rather than several hundred metres away and invisible from the starter position.

The following table shows the concordance between the original nine-hole course (based on a survey by surveyor Ed. W. Kirk) and the eighteen-hole course.

Concordance between the holes of the first nine-hole course and the eighteen-hole course

Nine-hole	Name	Distance	Eighteen-hole	Distance	Comments
1	Flying Start	260	10	256	Identical
2	Dog's Leg	395	11	376	Identical
3	Bridle Path	160			Deleted Tee-off halfway through #12

					Green of #3 becomes green of #17
4	Horseshoe	310			Replaced Tee-off near #17 green Green of #16
5	The Birches	200			Deleted Tee-off between #16 green and #17 tee-off Green near #13 tee-off
6	The Ravine	190	13	194	Known as the well hole Identical except the well has been removed
7	Twin Valleys	702	14 + 15	541+139	Replaced with two holes Green of #14 added Green of #15 = green of #7
8	The Plateau	334	16	442	Extended Uses the green of #4
9	Rolling Home	521	9	484	Modified Tee-off after The Plateau New green added
10	Not officially recognized	Approx. 100			Tee-off near green of #11 Green = Gordie's parking lot

Note: Distance in yards

Hugh Scott provided details of the adjustments made during the transition from the nine-hole course to the eighteen-hole course and the course inversions between the first nine-hole section and the second nine-hole section. In particular, he mentioned the protection of new greens, such as the green on the 14th, and the use of tee shots to allow the grass to grow.

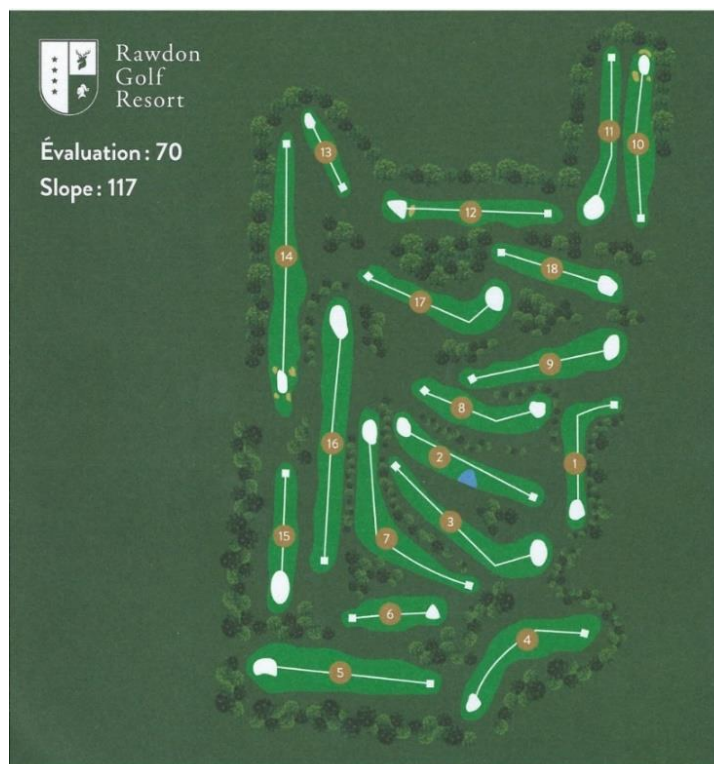
Course length

From a par 70 (double of a par 35) and a length of 3,072 yards for the old nine-hole course, the course was extended to 6,117 yards with a par 73 (with rating/evaluation at 70 and slope at 117). Several tee boxes were installed, allowing the length to be adjusted to suit the calibre of golfers.

TROU	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Aller	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Retour	Total	Hpc	Net
OR/GOLD	302	324	381	301	336	164	346	345	484	2983	256	376	441	194	541	139	442	364	381	3134	6117		
BLEU/BLEU	291	288	372	270	310	153	332	325	438	2779	249	345	419	175	475	124	431	332	351	2901	5680		
ARGENT/SILVER	281	232	314	228	300	139	303	283	353	2433	225	305	355	120	364	117	396	292	317	2491	4924		
JAUNE/YELLOW	209	184	284	222	253	126	245	210	347	2080	201	280	306	120	355	105	319	237	306	2229	4309		
ROUGE/RED	150	128	215	165	195	100	165	175	274	1567	179	169	230	59	234	72	227	203	196	1569	3136		
Handicap	11	5	7	9	15	13	1	3	17		16	4	8	6	14	18	12	2	10				

Excerpt from the scorecard showing distances and par for each hole (Rawdon Golf Resort, 2025)

Hole and course lengths are determined by Golf Québec, which measures and confirms distances.



Rawdon Golf Resort – 2025 scorecard – Course layout

Golf historian Alain Chaput does not hesitate to describe the mountainous course at the Rawdon Golf Club as picturesque. He points out that the quality of the turf is improving year after year with the installation of an automated sprinkler system.

Practice green and driving range

To complete the course facilities, a driving range was added in 2011 to the practice green that had been in place since the days of the nine-hole course. The driving range was dedicated to the memory of Guy Juteau at the opening of the 2012 season.

It should be noted that a very small parcel of land adjacent to the driving range was purchased from the municipality, which was looking to dispose of it.



Sign erected in memory of Guy Juteau in front of the driving range

Guy Juteau (1934-2011) passed away suddenly on May 15, 2011, at the age of 76. He was Gordon Scott's best friend. A construction worker, Guy had bought a farm near the Montcalm golf course in Saint-Liguori. He provided hay for the Scott family's horses. After selling his farm, he built his home on Lakeshore Drive, not far from the golf course. He was a great help to his friend Gordon Scott. In his rare spare time, Gordon enjoyed riding his motorcycle with Guy.



John Scott, Gordon Scott and Guy Juteau (photograph provided by John Scott)

3.2 - The clubhouse

In time for its opening in 1926, a clubhouse was built for the Rawdon Golf Club. The word “clubhouse” refers to the building used by a club to enable members to meet, hold social activities or offer services related to the operations of the club. A golf course clubhouse usually includes a pro shop, locker rooms and a dining room/restaurant. The following photograph shows the first