



This Week - Steve Coleman

Sawmill Creek Golf Resort and Spa will hold the 2010 Royale Cup Canadian Junior Girls' Golf Championship from Aug. 3-6. Host club general manager Matt Alexander, host club committee chair Margot Harrison, Matt McKay from the Royal Canadian Golf Association and Sawmill Creek's director of Golf Paul Dumont helped make the announcement.

Camlachie to host national golf tournament

BY STEVE COLEMAN
This Week

Camlachie will be home for 156 of Canada's best under-19 amateur lady golfers from Aug. 3-6.

After first getting noticed by the

Royal Canadian Golf Association as a runner-up for the 2007 Ontario Ladies Amateur event, Sawmill Creek Golf Resort and Spa announced March 24 that it will host the 2010 Royale Cup Canadian Junior Girls' Golf Championship.

The event marks the first time a national golf title will be decided in the Sarnia area.

"It's an honour and not one we take lightly," said Margot Harrison,

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National tournament coming to area

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tournament chair. "In order to provide a wonder experience here for the athletes...a lot of people will have to be involved. We're talking over 200 volunteers on the first day, alone, of this event."

The tournament will be open to

female golfers under-19 by Aug. 6. They'll also have to have a handicap of less than 17.4 to qualify by the tournament.

Since the event only has room for 156 golfers, the best handicaps will decide who makes it to the tee on opening day if the number of applicants is more than the number of available spaces.

One other event built into the tournament is inter-provincial play on the opening two days. Because of the sheer number of golfers in both provinces, B.C. and Ontario are usually considered the favourites going into the event.

Grounds staff don't plan to do anything extra to the course before the event tees off, but it will meet RCGA standards, said Matt Alexander, the club's general manager.

The first nine holes opened at Sawmill Creek in 1994 and expanded to 18 two years later.

A local golfer has already

set the bar high for the amateurs coming into the competition. While there wasn't any water on either the third or sixth holes at the time, the 10-under 61 shot by Chris Dixon is still considered the official record.

Spectators will be in for some good golf, said RCGA tournament director Matt MacKay.

"It is no coincidence that perhaps Canada's finest golfer ever, Mike Weir, and one of the world's best amateurs, Matt Hill, are both from the area," MacKay said. "That is what happens when a community embraces a sport and supports its promising athletes. Fans who come out to this event can expect to see impressive golf being played by the best young women golfers from across Canada, many of whom will go on to play high-level college golf and perhaps one day become professionals."

Previous Royale Cup Canadian Junior girls' Championship winners include Sandra Pose, Lisa Meldrum and Alena Sharp.