

# PQB GOLF

Golfing in Paradise by Bill Flower



Bill is a true lover of the game of golf and owner of Oceanside Golf Services in Parksville. He also is a professional golf course reviewer for www.canadiangolfer.com  
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## One heck of a golfing year



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The recent heavy rains, cooler mornings and early sunsets reminds us that the peak of the golf season is winding down and with that "Golfing in Paradise" comes to the end of another year covering four of our local golf courses.

This year was significant for the courses that participate in "Golfing in Paradise," in many ways and also on how they impacted golfers like me and my wife Myra.

Arrowsmith Golf and CC hosted many terrific events in 2018 and the course was in the best shape in many years. On a recent men's night, playing with three of my closest golf buddies, the shot I longed to make and often doubted I ever would, occurred.

Not an overly long or exceedingly difficult Par-3, the cup on Hole 6 at 119 yards away received my towering pitching wedge with one bounce and I joined that exclusive large group of golfers rejoicing in making a hole-in-one.

The men's night finale on Oct. 9 with its great fun atmosphere, abundance of prizes, awesome buffet with dessert will be a sellout, so enter a team today.

Brigadoon Golf Course our "friendly first" nine-holer celebrated its 10th anniversary. Although I enjoyed the serenity of evening rounds there with Myra, it was their annual customer appreciation summer party that stuck out in my mind. Sitting there enjoying some great food put on by owners Ross and Chris Rivers, one could really feel the closeness of the people who play Brigadoon. A hand-made bench memorializing former



Juan, Bill, Mark and Cliff at Arrowsmith Golf Course.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BILL FLOWER

patrons was placed for all to see which is another reminder that out at Brigadoon, your score, although often a part of playing golf, is not the most important part of it. The

start of its second decade in 2019 will be one you should take part in.

Qualicum Beach Memorial Golf Course, which I first played almost 50 years ago, is a true jewel, possi-

bly the finest setting for a nine-hole golf course in Canada. Evening rounds here emote a euphoric feel, the view out to the sea, the various shades of green and the pristine grasses the ball dances upon. Head professional Neil Bidwell and teammates are first-class folk. Playing for the first time with mayor Teunis Westbroek and our wonderful neighbour, Pat Weber, recently one evening was filled with great conversation, laughter and of course a variety of shots, not all good. The highlight for all most definitely was our dedicated mayor making a great birdie on hole number two.

The most significant aspect this year might have occurred out at Morningstar Golf Course, which not only made a return to my column in *The News*, but also through the hiring of new manager Randy LaRoche by the receiver G Force. It has rebounded and is headed back to its position as one of the top layouts on Vancouver Island and beyond. A significant monetary injection lifted the course out of the quagmire of despair and pointed it in the direction of returning to its former glory with a bright light once again shining aglow. Hats off to the whole team out there that hung on through the dark days, Gord, Ryan, Mark and Bundo.

Whether your winter involves a short golf getaway, being a snowbird, playing locally with your waterproofs on or just tuning into watch the best players on TV, be safe and secure and we will catch up next spring again, enjoying golfing in paradise.

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