

# GOLF

THE VANCOUVER SUN

● GUIDE 2006

## READY OR NOT?

**HIS COLLEGE DAYS ENDING,  
JAMES LEPP IS SET TO  
LAUNCH HIS PRO CAREER.  
OR IS HE?**

**BRAD ZIEMER TALKS TO CANADA'S  
NEXT GREAT GOLFER, PAGE 10.**

## FANTASTIC FOURSOME — PLUS ONE:

**A SNEAK PEEK AT FIVE  
NEW WORLD-CLASS GOLF  
COURSES SET TO OPEN IN  
B.C. NEXT YEAR, PAGE 38.**



Coming soon:  
Another fantastic  
**foursome**  
— plus one

Under the guidance of some of the world's top golf architects, construction is well under way on five new courses set to open next year.

By Brad Ziemer | VANCOUVER SUN

The Rise. Talking Rock. Tobiano. The Cliffs Over Maple Bay. Canoe Creek. These names may not mean much to B.C. golfers now, but soon they figure to be as familiar as Predator Ridge, Big Sky, Crown Isle and Greywolf. And hopefully they will be as good as that aforementioned foursome. The British Columbia golf landscape, already brimming with world-class courses, is getting some new additions in the



Australian golfer Greg Norman (left) looks at plans for a course he is designing near Duncan, called The Cliffs over Maple Bay. It is set to open in the summer of 2007.

next year or so. Three of them are located within an hour's drive of Kamloops. Tobiano, a Thomas McBroom design, is now taking shape on a spectacular piece of property on Kamloops Lake. It is part of a long-discussed residential project on the old Six Mile Ranch property, about 15 minutes west of Kamloops. Work on the course is well under way and McBroom, long regarded as one of Canada's top golf architects, is excited

about the project. "It's totally unique," McBroom says. "It's hard to describe the quality of that site. It is just stunning. In a North American context, it's hard to think of a landscape like that. Maybe some of those sites around Las Vegas come close. . . This one has winner written all over it." McBroom's other B.C. work includes Morgan Creek in Surrey and the redesigns of the Langara and Fraserview



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in Vancouver.

Talking Rock, a Graham Cooke-Wayne Carleton design, is taking shape on Little Shuswap Lake near Chase, about 45 minutes east of Kamloops. It is located on the Little Shuswap Indian Band reservation and will complement the band's existing 72-room Quaaout Lodge.

Carleton, who teamed with Cooke to do Sun Rivers in Kamloops, said work on the course is well under way. It should be seeded by late this summer or early fall and will open for play in 2007.

"Every hole is a tree-lined corridor," he says. "It's a mixture of pine and fir forest. We are looking at creating a more natural, minimalistic, rugged-style golf course through the forest."

"The site has a lot of sandy areas on it so there is going to be some natural waste areas. The goal is not to move a lot of earth. Given the fact it was a fairly barren area and the site was good for drainage, we don't have to move a lot of dirt or get too caught up in putting in a lot of drainage. One of the unique features is the fact the 18th hole finishes right on the lake."



**Thomas McBroom (left) and developer Michael Grenier at the course McBroom has designed near Kamloops Lake.**

One of Carleton's other Canadian creations, Dakota Dunes near Saskatoon, was recently selected by *Golf Digest* as the best new Canadian course for 2005.

Canoe Creek is a course currently under construction in Salmon Arm, about an hour east of Kamloops. It has been designed by longtime PGA Tour member Dave Barr of Westbank and is currently being marketed as an income trust investment opportunity.

Over in Vernon, a Fred Couples signature design called The Rise is nearing completion. The course, part of a huge

residential complex overlooking Okanagan Lake, hopes to have a "soft," invitation-only opening early this fall and will open to the public in 2007.

Twelve of the course's 18 holes offer views of the lake, says new general manager Rod Cochrane, the former golf boss at Chateau Whistler.

"I'm having real difficulty finding a weak hole," says Cochrane. "They are all unique holes. Even right now, before it's seeded, I can easily visualize and remember all 18 holes because they are all on separate parts of the property with different backdrops and the land is very well suited for a resort and a residential golf course."

The 750-acre development will eventually include 1,200 housing units, a winery and resort accommodation.

The Cliffs Over Maple Bay is another huge residential development with a golf course being built as its centerpiece. This one, located near Duncan on Vancouver Island, is being designed by Australian Greg Norman.

The course is scheduled to open in the summer of 2007.

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