

# 2025 Men's Mid-Amateur



July 15-17  
Sundre Golf Club

# Neil Thomas

2024 Alberta Men's Mid-Amateur  
Champion



**Q: When you reflect on your victory at the Alberta Men's Mid-Amateur Championship at Barrhead Golf Club, what memories are most vivid?**

**Thomas:** "First of all, it's always good to have a chat with you about winning a tournament. I've been close in this tournament a few times over the last few years and haven't been able to get it across the line, so it was nice to get the win. You hear it on the PGA Tour all the time — winning is hard. The Barrhead Golf Course, I hadn't played it before the practice rounds, but it was in excellent shape and it fit my eye. You have to hit it straight off the tee and the greens were so pure, and I putted well all week. To get to 14-under, I had to birdy. And I didn't make many mistakes. I kept the ball in front of me and plotted my way around. I was bogey-free on the second day and only one bogey on the third day. I kept it pretty clean. I tried to keep my game as simple as possible, to stay out of trouble, and it paid off."

**Q: Runner-up Barrett Jarosch tried to crank the heat during that final round. What was ultimately the difference?**

**Thomas:** "It was a good battle. I was five ahead to start the day, but Barrett is such a good player and he's won this tournament before, so I knew he was going to put a good charge on, and he did. He got pretty close midway through the back nine. He birdied No. 15, and he was just two back. We both birdied No. 16, so I still had a two-shot lead, and I remember hitting a really good drive on No. 17. That's not an easy driving hole. I hit a really good drive, put me in the middle of the fairway, and then I was 125 yards out and hit a wedge to three feet and made birdie. That was when I started thinking that, with a three-shot lead heading into the final hole, it was probably going to be enough. I had my parents out watching, which was awesome, and a bunch of friends there around the 18th green when I finished. So a lot of good memories."

**Q: When you're under the gun with two holes to go and you crank a drive and stuff a wedge, how gratifying is that?**

**Thomas:** "It's extremely gratifying, and that's why I remember it so distinctly. It's not easy. I've been in that situation before and I've let my mind wander and hit a couple squirrely shots, so that's what makes it even more special when you are able to bear down and hit the shots that you want and envision. I remember standing on the 17th tee and going back to my process. I made a point to stick to my process, and I did just that and I hit the exact shot that I wanted to. That tee-shot on No. 17, that's a shot that I'll never forget just because of the significance of it. It wasn't an easy shot, and under the pressure I was able to perform."

*Thomas, a member at Edmonton Country Club, fired three consecutive rounds in the 60s. He made only three bogeys over 54 holes en route to a tournament tally of 14-under 202 and a three-stroke victory.*

## Alberta Men's Mid-Amateur Past Champions

2024 – Neil Thomas

2023 – Barrett Jarosch

2022 – Jesse Galvon

2021 – Brandon Markiw

2020 – Alex Large

## Alberta Men's Mid-Amateur Interprovincial Team

2024 – Finished (4th)

Ryan Werre

Ryan DenBraber

Cody Adolph (T-5)

# Mid-Am in Mid-July at **Sundre Golf Club**

By Kevin Smith

*Sundre Golf Club, an hour Northwest of Calgary has become a staple on the Alberta Golf Championship calendar. The Alberta Open was contested there in 2022 with Ethan Choi taking the title, the season opening Alberta Best Ball Championship has been held there each May since 2023, and the Alberta Men's Mid-Amateur Championship will be held July 15-17, 2025. Hosting the Mid-Am in Mid-July is something Sundre Director of Golf Scott Shouldice is looking forward to, he says hosting all of these elite events has spread the word about the calibre of the golf club and the area.*



"I do think it has gotten our name out there and just made it a bit more well known," Shouldice said. "When the best players in the province want to play there, and they spread the word about how good it is, I think it definitely puts our course on the map, we're even hosting a Canadian Open qualifier this season"

As you drive into the picturesque town of Sundre, the golf course is the first thing you see.

"It's definitely a big part of the area and it's kind of the first thing you see when you first approach the town," Shouldice explained. "We do a lot of donations for the community at curling bonspiels and hockey tournaments, so yeah we're definitely a big part of the community."

Scott Shouldice is also a big part of the community having spent the past 9 years working at the golf club. Shouldice, from London Ontario, previously worked at Grey Wolf Golf Course and Fernie Golf Club in BC.

"It's such a great place to live and work, it's kind of a small town away from the city which is kind of nice," Shouldice said. "I've got an amazing girlfriend and 2 stepchildren and we enjoy the small town life with Calgary not too far away."

Most of the 125 members of the golf club aren't from Sundre, they travel in from Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton and stay at camp sites or use the stay and play packages at a local hotel.

"Yeah our members are really supportive when we have these events, it's usually not a problem at all for me to gather up a bunch of volunteers to help run the event," Shouldice admitted. "Our members love seeing all the top players come and play their course and see what the winning score will be. It's hard to say what this year's winning score will be depending on the weather but usually no one goes very low."

Alberta Golf is focused on pace of play and Sundre Golf Club is set up for efficient rounds. The course is not overly long, doesn't have a ton of elevation changes and while most of the holes are tight and tree lined, if you get off track you will usually find your ball in the pine straw.

"It's not a super long course, it's very playable with no tricks to it, what you see is what you get," Shouldice explained. "It's very strategic especially off the tee, you have to be smart playing this course, it's not always rip driver as far as you can, you have to be smart and keep the ball in play off the tee and the rest sets up well from there. You should definitely play this course before you compete on it."

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There's a good chance a lot of the competitors in this year's Alberta Mid-Amateur Championship have played the course before since this event is for players aged 25 and older and recent champions are the who's who on the Alberta Golf scene.

Neil Thomas won in Barrhead in 2024, Barrett Jarosch won in 2023 on his home course at Windermere, Jesse Galvon won in 2022 at Highwood Golf while Brandon Markiw took the title at the

Edmonton Country Club in 2021. Speaking of the town of Sundre who can forget New Zealand's Alex Large doing the "Haka" after winning the 2020 Championship at Coyotee Creek Golf and RV Resort.

5 different champions in the past 5 years shows the depth and competitiveness at the Alberta Mid-Amateur level in the province and this year's event at Sundre Golf Club should be a great test for all variety and styles of players. There will be a great amount of excitement for everyone as you drive from the country into the town and right away this great golf course is in full view. ■