

2026 Women's Senior



July 29-31

The Ranch Golf & Country Club

*Where Championships
Meet Hospitality:*

The Ranch Set to Shine

By Todd Saelhof

The Ranch knows how to put on a golf show. So it's no surprise the high-profile course has stepped up to host the 2026 Alberta Women's Senior Championship slated for July 29-31.

"It's an event that we haven't hosted before," said Murray McCourt, proud co-owner, GM and Executive Professional of The Ranch Golf and Country Club. "I love hosting Alberta Golf events. We've hosted the Alberta Women's Amateur, the Alberta Men's Amateur, the Men's Mid-Amateur and the Men's Senior.

While The Ranch bills itself as 'One of Alberta's Premier Public Golf Courses', it certainly can call itself a tourney track. Without a membership, that makes it easier for the 6,460-yard layout to host events.



"I view tournaments as marketing opportunities," McCourt said. "We're getting people to come and play the golf course that maybe normally wouldn't and then we make sure that we take care of them as good or better than they've ever been taken care of before — make them feel welcome and make sure they get fed an absolutely phenomenal meal that's included with the tournament."

"We upgrade that meal far beyond what we're given for money for it, because we just want the people to come here and feel like it's a special experience. Then they're going to go back to their golf courses and tell everyone about how great the experience they had here. And then next time they're in the area hopefully they'll think of us."

The Ranch has been thought of fondly over the years — not just by Alberta Golf but by those ranking the many courses across the nation.

"We've been highly regarded with SCOREGolf magazine for forever," McCourt said. "At one time, we were ranked in the top-100 courses in the country. This past year, we were number 68 on the top public golf courses in Canada. And a few years ago, they did public courses by value, and we were number two in Alberta, number one in the Edmonton area and number 30 in all of Canada."

"So, we do a lot of things right here and have been honoured by some incredible rankings through the years," continued McCourt. "It's a big feather in our cap and helps justify decisions that we make and how and why we do what we do here."

What McCourt has done during his years at The Ranch is tweak the course to help promote the game, especially for women. Over the last decade, new tee-boxes have been installed to make the layout more playable and enjoyable for all golfers, especially females. Even with adjustments however, The Ranch should give these elite athletes quite the test.

For instance, the par-four ninth hole is both picturesque and challenging. And then there's the finishing stretch of tests, including the par-4 16th with its elevated tee and brilliant look.

"The course has a lot of variety to it," McCourt said. "There are some open holes, especially more so on the front nine. The last five- or six-holes wind through trees and have some more water that comes into play."

Just who will win it, though? Among the probable contenders are the likes of defending senior champ Daniela Pacheco and fellow Calgarian Kim Carrington, a five-time provincial winner. McCourt hopes both — among other Alberta stars — are on the tee-sheet for this year's edition.

"The last five of holes are very, very challenging. And when it comes down to the final day of this tournament, I would say with almost 100 per-cent confidence that those five holes are going to decide the championship."

"Personally, for me, it's exciting," McCourt said. "A couple my good friends, Erin and Allison McMillan, recently turned 50 and they're going to be playing in this tournament. Their mom, Cathy McMillan, is a legend in Alberta Golf and won this tournament (in 2006)."

"They play here from time to time — two or three times a year. And so, the McMillans know the course, and I really looking forward to seeing them get back into competitive golf especially here at The Ranch."

"It's an honour to host this event and to have this new group of high-end golfers come to our facility and play," added McCourt. "It'll be an opportunity to expose our property and our hospitality to a new group of competitive golfers in the province."

"We're all really looking forward to it." ■