

90th Alberta Open



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Priddis Greens G&CC

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another Page:*

The Alberta Open

By Taylor Tracey

Few golf facilities in Alberta carry the reputation and history of Priddis Greens Golf & Country Club. Tucked just outside of Calgary, the club has long been a fixture in the province's golf landscape—home to two championship courses and the host of some of the game's biggest events.

This summer, the club will add another chapter to that history when it welcomes the 90th Alberta Open Championship. For Head Professional John Wilson, the opportunity to host the province's only true open championship carries special meaning.



Despite being a relatively modern facility compared with some historic clubs, Priddis Greens has quickly established itself as one of Alberta's premier golf destinations. With two 18-hole championship layouts and a unique membership structure that allows members to book tee times freely rather than through traditional restrictions, the club has developed a strong reputation among players throughout the province. Its standing has been reinforced through decades of championship golf. The club has hosted competitions at nearly every level of the game, including three editions (1999, 2009, 2016) of the Canadian Women's Open—now known as the CPKC Women's Open—along with numerous provincial championships.

This summer's Alberta Open will add yet another milestone to that list. "The Alberta Open is unique," Wilson said. "It's a true open where the best amateurs and the best professionals—both male and female—have the chance to compete on the same playing field. There's really no other event quite like it." With that kind of competitive format, Wilson believes Priddis Greens is an ideal venue.

"We're experienced in delivering a high level product on a day-to-day basis to members and guests," he said. "We want to make sure the competitors receive the same experience when they arrive." Preparation for an event like this extends far beyond the first tee. Wilson notes that the club's turf care team eagerly anticipates championship weeks.

"They really mark their calendars for these sorts of things and want to make sure the course is in the best playing condition it can be," he said. Hosting elite tournaments over the years has also shaped the club's everyday operations. Just as important as the course conditions will be the support from the club's membership. Wilson expects strong involvement from members eager to showcase their home course.

"I think we'll have lots of members out here volunteering and watching the golf," he said. "The membership has that Calgary spirit, and when we're looking for volunteers there's never a shortage of people willing to step up."

Wilson admits he is particularly interested to see how the field handles the Raven Course, which will serve as the championship layout. Many competitors may not have played the course recently—or perhaps at all. Even for experienced players, the Raven presents several stretches that can quickly shape a round.

Early in the round, the opening three holes can produce both opportunity and trouble. "The first is a reachable par five, but there's trouble on both sides," Wilson explained. "The second is a bear of a par four and a very difficult driving hole. Then the third is a long par three that can stretch out to 220 yards, and depending on the pin position it can be hard to even get a birdie look."

Later in the round, another demanding stretch awaits between holes 11 and 15. "Eleven is our signature par three," Wilson said. "Twelve is a reachable par five, but it has a big green that you don't want to be on the wrong side of. Thirteen is a fun dogleg left par four with bunkers protecting the green, fourteen is a tough driving hole, and fifteen is another par three with bunkers in front of the green and a full carry over water."

With a layout that demands both precision and patience, Wilson believes success will require a complete performance from the eventual champions. "It will take the full bag," he said. "The longest player probably isn't going to win," Wilson said. "It gives an opportunity for players who are strong iron players and really good putters to compete." The Alberta Open itself continues to evolve as well. In 2025, the championship introduced a women's division for the first time, won by Sydney Bisgrove of Canyon Meadows Golf & Country Club.

Wilson sees that addition as an important step forward for the event. "The women's side of the game is growing so much right now, and there are so many talented players coming out and competing," he said.

Looking ahead, he believes continued growth on the women's side is the next goal for the championship. "I think getting a full female field—120 players—is the next step," Wilson said. "It would also be great to see more qualifying sites and continue securing top venues for the championship to keep the Alberta Open on the pedestal it sits on as the province's only true open." For now, however, the focus remains on preparing for the milestone 90th edition of the tournament. As players, employees, and members ready the course for championship week, another chapter in Priddis Greens' long tournament history is about to be written.

And when the final putts fall, two names—one male and one female—will join the growing list of champions crowned at one of Alberta's most respected golf venues. ■

"I think the experiences we've gained from hosting high-level championships have become part of our daily routine," Wilson explained. "We paint the cups every day, hand out pin sheets every day, and have a professional starter on the first tee every day."