



Alberta Golf Hall of Fame – Distinguished Service (Media)

John Down

Inducted: 2026

Club Affiliation: Nanton Golf Club

John Down began his newspaper career in 1960 in Saskatchewan, before moving to Manitoba in 1965, and then returning home to Alberta in 1972. When he returned, he was the sports editor for the Edmonton Journal, and this is where he would begin to make his impact on the game of golf that would make his name synonymous with the game in Alberta's amateur circles.

He's best known for his coverage of golf and chuckwagon racing but has covered an extensive list of sports including hockey, lacrosse, speed skating, curling, and football. He covered the 1978 Commonwealth Games, the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary including breaking the news regarding the city's bid for the Olympics.

John's golf coverage was extensive including city, provincial, national amateur tournaments, and many professionals including the Canadian Open.

Down moved home to Calgary in 1978, and this move may have led to what he became most known for in the world of golf. After working at the Herald producing many weekly golf sections for the paper, he moved to the Calgary Sun in 1982 and launched BackSwing. This weekly column provided extensive insight to the growing game during the heydays of the 80's and 90's. During his time at the Sun, he was known for providing extensive coverage of both amateur and professional provincial events, but not just the favourites at the event, everyone. He even provided light on the recreational golfers in the province.



His list of accomplishments in his career include five media awards from the World Pro and Canadian Pro Chuckwagon Associations, Chuckwagon Racing Sportswriter of the Year in 1989, 1994, and 1997, and induction into the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame in 2026.

Alberta Golf is excited to add John as one of the first two media personalities to be added into the Alberta Golf Hall of Fame in 2026.